Commissioners
Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Kurt Doroh, District 2
Richard Godfrey, District 3
Mike Chappell, District 4
Randall Peat, District 5
Donald Hanson, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7

MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

July 27, 2021 3:00 PM

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. Call to Order

   The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Richard Godfrey, Chairman of the Board. Present in person: Doroh, Godfrey, Chappell, Peat, and Hanson. Present remotely: Patterson-Gladney (South Haven, MI) and Schincariol (Lawton, MI).

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

   None.

3. Approval of Agenda

   Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
   Motion by Donald Hanson, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

   A. 7/13/2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

      Motion to approve the July 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole minutes as presented.
      Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Donald Hanson, Carried

5. Presentation

   A. Michigan Laborers Union - Palisades

      State Representative Beth Griffin introduced John Byrd and Arlandar Washington of Michigan Laborers District Council. They presented information on the organization and Local 355 will be involved in the decommissioning of Palisades.

   B. Southwest Michigan Solar Project

      Tim Conboy and Richard Vander Veen of Southwest Michigan Solar Project introduced their company and are currently working with Decatur and Hamilton Townships on a project.

   C. Historical Society - Sandy Merchant

      Sandy Merchant of the Van Buren County Historical Society invited the Board to an Ice Cream Social on August 22nd for Local Government Officials and provided a 2021 Calendar of Events.

   D. Palisades Decommissioning Update

      John Faul gave his Palisades Decommissioning Report.

6. Administrative Affairs Committee

A. Firehouse Subs Grant

Lt. Jim Charon is requesting approval to submit a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Grant for 30 AEDs.

Motion to approve by resolution at todays regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the application for a Firehouse Subs Grant in an amount not to exceed $50,000 for the purchase of 30 AEDs for law enforcement and for the Board Chair to execute the appropriate documents.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Randall Peat, Carried

B. Intergovernmental Agreement with Berrien County for PRE Audit Services

County Treasurer Trisha Nesbitt is requesting to terminate the intergovernmental agreement with Berrien County for PRE Audit Services which will automatically renew on September 20, 2021 and requires a 60 day notice.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the request to terminate the IGA with Berrien County for PRE Audit Services and authorize the Treasurer to submit written notice to Berrien County.

Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Donald Hanson, Carried

C. Area Agency on Aging

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Region IV Area Agency on Aging FY2022 Annual Implementation Plan.

Motion by Donald Hanson, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

D. Application for Appointment of Luke Barber to Kinexus Workforce Development Board

There is a vacancy on the Kinexus Workforce Development Board.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of Luke Barber to the Kinexus Group Workforce Development Board of Directors.

Motion by Donald Hanson, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

E. Application for Reappointment of Christopher Randall to Kinexus Workforce Development Board

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Christopher Randall to the Kinexus Group Workforce Group Board of Directors.

Motion by Donald Hanson, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

F. 9/28/21 Board Meetings Rescheduling

The regular scheduled meetings to be held on September 28, 2021 will conflict with the Commissioners MAC conference and the meetings are necessary prior the end of the fiscal year.

Motion to reschedule the board and committee meetings from Tuesday, September 28, 2021 to Wednesday, September 29, 2021 due to a schedule conflict.

Motion by Donald Hanson, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

7. Buildings & Grounds Committee

A. Facilities Tour (reminder - 8/6/2021 at 9:00 a.m. - meet at the Administration Building)

The Board will meet at 9:00 a.m. on August 6, 2021 at the Administration Building to depart for a Facilities Tour of county owned buildings.

B. 5K Walk / Run during Wine and Harvest

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the annual request to allow Wine and Harvest Festival - Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk organizers to use the Human Services East restrooms and the parking lot as a staging area for the race on Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Donald Hanson, Carried

8. Finance Committee

A. 2021-2022 Draft Budget

The Board has received the Draft Budget and the mandated Public Hearing needs to be set.

Motion to schedule the mandated Public Hearing on FY2021-2022 County Budget for Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 2:50 p.m. in the Board Chambers.

Motion by Kurt Doroh, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

9. Labor, Negotiations and Contracts Committee

A. Resume Normal Financial Operations

A request has been made to rescind the financial controls adopted on April 14, 2020 and return to normal finance operations. The action would end the hiring freeze, restriction of purchases and prohibition of non-essential travel which would remove obstacles placed on department heads and elected officials for day to day operations.

Motion to approve by resolution at today's regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the removal of finance controls adopted on April 14, 2020 for a hiring freeze, purchase restrictions and non-essential travel.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Donald Hanson, Carried

10. Public Transit Committee

A. MDOT Agreement

Motion to approve by resolution and the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the revision to MDOT agreement FY2021 Section 5311 Operating Formula Grant for an additional $369,104 and authorize the Board Chair to sign necessary documents.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

B. Van Buren Public Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy Revision

The Drug & Alcohol Policy for Public Transit has been revised to include stronger zero tolerance language.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the revised Drug &Alcohol Policy for Public Transit.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

11. Veterans Services Committee

A. Veterans' Services Positions

Request to create a Veteran's Services Director position at the R30 Non-Union Wage Scale and set the Veteran's Services Officer position at the R24 Non-Union Wage Scale. The newly created Director position's role will include seeking grants and other funds to expand the programs available. Discussion regarding Wage Scale for Director Position.

Motion to authorize the creation of the Veteran's Services Director position at the R29 Non-Union Wage Scale, set the Veteran's Services Office position at the R24 Non-Union Wage Scale and the posting of both positions.

Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Donald Hanson, Carried

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 04:43 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk