MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

Commissioners
Gail Patterson-Gladney, District 1
Mike Chappell, District 2
Kurt Doroh, District 3
David DiStefano, District 4
Mike Toth, District 5
Tina Leary, District 6
Paul Schincariol, District 7

April 14, 2026

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. Call to Order

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 01:02 PM by Kurt Doroh, Chairman of the Board. Present: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Mike Toth, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol.

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

A. March 24th, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting as presented.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

5. Public Comment

6. Presentation

A. 2026 Equalization Report

Equalization Director Tony Meyaard presented the required 2026 Equalization Report. The combined total of Real and Personal Property for Van Buren County for 2026 is $7,325,389,367.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the 2026 Van Buren County Equalization Report.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

B. Contract Extension - Assessing Solutions, Tony Meyaard

Administrator Faul presented the request to renew the contract with Assessing Solutions, Tony Meyaard, for Equalization services in the amount of $246,100 for 2026 and adjusted January 1st annually according to the rate of inflation as determined by the State Tax Commission.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the contract renewal with Assessing Solutions in the amount of $246,100

for 2026.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

7. Administrative Affairs

A. Materials Management Planning Report

Bekah Schrag, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, presented an update on the Materials Management Plan.

B. Materials Management Planning Grant Amendment 1

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler presented the request to approve the Materials Management Planning Grant Amendment 1. The amendment would extend the grant through July 31, 2027.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Materials Management Planning Grant Amendment 1 extending the grant through July 31, 2027.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

C. Materials Management Planning Grant Administration Agreement – Van Buren Conservation District

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler presented the request to approve the Materials Management Planning Grant Administration Agreement with the Van Buren Conservation District for grant administration and programming services through July 31, 2027. Compensation will not exceed $25,000 for up to 300 hours of service.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Materials Management Planning Grant Administration Agreement in an amount not to exceed $25,000 for up to 300 hours.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

D. Set a Public Hearing to review the SoHa Drift Lofts Brownfield Plan in South Haven Charter Township

Community Services Director Lisa Ransler presented the request to hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 30th at 12:50 p.m. to consider the adoption of the SoHa Drift Lofts Brownfield Plan for the property located on 73rd Street in South Haven Charter Township.

Motion to set a public hearing on Thursday, April 30th at 12:50 p.m. to consider the adoption of the SoHa Drift Lofts Brownfield Plan for the property located on 73rd Street in South Haven Charter Township.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

E. Specialty Court Grant Application — Mental Health Court + Family Reunification

Specialty Court Administrator Courtney Michalka presented the request to approve the submission of a federal grant application in the amount of $1,000,000 for the Mental Health Court Program and $850,000 for Family Reunification.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the submission of a federal grant application for the Mental Health Court Program for $1,000,000 and Family Reunification for $850,000.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

F. Reppointments to the Van Buren County Planning Commission

Administrator Faul presented the request to reappoint Alyssa Hosbein, Jan Petersen, and Barbara Rose to the Van Buren County Planning Commission for a three-year term ending

March 31, 2029 and Scott Cedarquist for a two-year term ending March 31, 2028.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the reappointment of Alyssa Hosbein, Jan Petersen, Barbara Rose and Scott Cedarquist to the Van Buren County Planning Commission.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

G. Appointment to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC)

Administrator Faul presented the request for an appointment to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term ending December 31, 2027. There are two applicants for the appointment, Mary Hosely and David Havice.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the appointment of David Havice to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term ending December 31, 2027.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

8. Buildings and Grounds

9. Finance

A. Travel Expenditures

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the monthly Commissioner's travel expenditures for review.

Motion to approve payment of monthly travel expenditures as presented.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

B. Claims

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented monthly claims for review.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, payment of monthly claims in the amount of $3,294,308.10.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

C. Monthly Financial Statement

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the Monthly Financial Statement for review.

Motion to accept the Monthly Financial Statement as presented.
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Tina Leary, Carried

D. Strategic Facilities Fund Transfer

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the request to transfer $400,000 from the General Fund to the Strategic Facilities Fund. A 30% fund balance in the General Fund will be maintained.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the transfer of $400,000 from the General Fund to the Strategic Facilites Fund.
Motion by Paul Schincariol, Second by Mike Toth, Carried
Roll Call Vote: All Yes

E. Budget Stabilization Fund Transfer

Finance Director Becky Grabemeyer presented the request to transfer $40,000 from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund. The transfer will keep the County in the 7.5%-8% of the General Fund expenditures range.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
Roll Call Vote: All Yes

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement - Amendment

H.R. Director Anna Blankenship presented the request to amend the mandatory employee contribution to the MERS Health Care Savings Program from $5 to $10 per pay period. MERS has implemented a $10 monthly administrative fee which would mean employees would have little to no account growth after fees are applied if they do not also have a 457 plan.

Motion to approve by resolution at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, amending the mandatory employee contribution to the MERS Health Care Savings Program from $5 to $10 per pay period.
Motion by David DiStefano, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

11. Public Transit

12. Veterans Services

Mike Fossitt informed the Board that the Veterans Services grant has been approved as a reimbursement grant. Casey Somers will be certified as a VSO within a month.

13. Public Comment

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:37 PM.

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk