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 30, 2026

Board of Commissioners Meeting

1. Call to Order
   On the above date the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 01:45 PM by Kurt Doroh, Chairman of the Board.
2. Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer
   Invocation given by Commissioner Doroh.
3. Roll Call
   The roll was called by County Clerk Suzie Roehm with the following commissioners answering to their name and district: Gail Patterson-Gladney, Mike Chappell, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano. Commissioners Toth, Leary and Schincariol absent and excused.
4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
5. Approval of Agenda
   All items on the agenda marked with '**' are part of the consent agenda. Commissioners or the public can request that items be removed from the consent agenda.

   Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
   Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
   It was determined that 2/3 majority of the board was not present to allow a vote on agenda Items 10B and 10C.
   Motion to remove Items 10B and 10C from the agenda and move to the May 12, 2026 meeting.
   Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
6. Approval of Minutes

   A. **April 14th, 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
   Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried
7. Public Comment
8. Administrative Affairs

   A. **Materials Management Planning Grant Amendment 1
   ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A29/4-30-2026
   WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy has provided a proposed grant amendment to extend the Materials Management Planning Grant through July 31, 2027 and provide additional funding to continue development and

implementation of the Materials Management Plan; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed budget update includes $10,000.00 for personnel and indirect costs to continue work on developing the MMP, $88,333.33 for contractual services, and $9,459.72 for supplies related to education and outreach; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed timeline includes regional recycling rate analysis, enforceable mechanism and siting work, and engagement with county and local government officials in spring and summer 2026; MMPC approval of the draft MMP in early fall 2026; public comment and hearing in fall 2026; county approval in winter 2026-2027; and local municipality approval in spring or early summer 2027; and,
WHEREAS, the financial impact of Grant Amendment 1 is that it adds $107,793.05 in EGLE funding, with the updated grant financial form reflecting a total project budget of $215,586.09; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the Materials Management Planning Grant Amendment 1 with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, extending the grant through July 31, 2027 and accepting an additional $107,793.05 in funding to continue development and implementation of the Materials Management Plan.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A30/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, the Van Buren Conservation District has performed the grant administration for the County materials management planning effort for the past year, and the proposed Materials Management Planning Grant Administration Agreement will serve as an extension of that work; and,
WHEREAS, under this agreement, the Van Buren Conservation District will administer and manage the MMP Grant with EGLE, serve as the grant contact, complete and submit quarterly reporting, act as liaison between county personnel and EGLE grant administration, coordinate with the county on financial documentation for reimbursement, collaborate with county personnel on MMP education and outreach, and support local government and stakeholder engagement; and,
WHEREAS, the agreement term begins upon execution of the EGLE grant agreement and continues through July 31, 2027; and,
WHEREAS, the agreement provides compensation in an amount not to exceed $25,000.00 for up to 300 hours of service, and the hourly rate range is $34.00 to $49.00, with invoices submitted on a quarterly basis; and,
WHEREAS, the funding is 100% reimbursable through our Materials Management Planning Grant with EGLE; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the Materials Management Planning Grant Administration Agreement between Van Buren County and the Van Buren Conservation District for grant administration and Materials Management Planning programming services through July 31, 2027.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

C. **Adoption of Brownfield Plan – SoHa Drift Lofts

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A31/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, Van Buren County, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended (the “Act”), has established the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of Van Buren County (the “Authority”) and have designated that all related activities shall proceed through the Authority; and,
WHEREAS, the Authority, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 13 of the Act, has

reviewed, and recommended for adoption by the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, the Brownfield Plan (the "Plan") attached hereto, to be carried out within South Haven Charter Township, relating to the development of property located at 73 rd Street, South Haven, Michigan, (the "Site"), as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the Plan and more particularly described in the legal description of the property contained within the attached Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the Plan, and have been provided with a reasonable opportunity to express their views and recommendations regarding the Plan and in accordance with Section 14(5) of the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners have noticed and held a public hearing in accordance with Section 14 (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) of the Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the South Haven Charter Township Board of Trustees have passed a resolution supporting the adoption of the Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners have made the following determinations and findings:

1. The Plan constitutes a public purpose under the Act;
2. The Plan meets all of the requirements for a Brownfield plan set forth in Section 13 of the Act;
3. The proposed method of financing the costs of the eligible activities, as described in the Plan, was feasible and the Authority has the ability to arrange the financing;
4. The costs of the eligible activities proposed in the Plan are reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act;
5. The amount of captured taxable value estimated to result from the adoption of the Plan is reasonable; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the review of the Plan the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners concur with the adoption of the individual Plan; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Plan Support. Pursuant to the authority vested in the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, by the Act, the Plan is hereby supported in the form attached to this Resolution.
2. Severability. Should any section, clause, or phrase of this Resolution be declared by the courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Resolution as a whole nor any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.
3. Repeals. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

D. **Specialty Court Grant Application — Mental Health Court + Family Reunification

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A32/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, Van Buren County Specialty Courts respectfully requests approval to submit applications for funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to support and strengthen the Mental Health Court and Family Reunification Programs. The applications are due May 4, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed funding will support key personnel essential to program implementation and fidelity. These roles are essential to the programs' daily operations and alignment with OJJDP and BJA best practice standards for community supervision and intervention; and,

WHEREAS, staff are responsible for ongoing compliance monitoring, data collection and reporting, and maintaining meaningful engagement with participants to support behavior change; and,

WHEREAS, this work is grounded in a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach that strengthens partnerships with law enforcement to ensure public safety and wellbeing of those we serve, plus those within the community; and,

WHEREAS, equally critical is the ability to connect participants to evidence-based treatment services and stabilizing supports, including safe and sustainable housing, which are key factors in reducing recidivism; and,
WHEREAS, maintaining adequate staffing levels ensures consistent participant contact, timely intervention, and fidelity to the program model. This capacity allows for responsive supervision, effective service coordination, and adherence to accountability-based frameworks that drive long-term success for participants and the community; and,
WHEREAS, the grant application is for $1,000,000 for MHC and $850,000 for FRC. The Specialty Court Program operates on a reimbursement basis, meaning that program costs are initially incurred by the county and reimbursed following the submission and approval of eligible expenses. As such, the county’s support in providing upfront funding is essential to ensure the program’s continuity and effectiveness while awaiting reimbursement; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve Van Buren County Specialty Courts to submit federal grant applications in the amount of $1,000,000 to support operations for the Mental Health Court Program, and $850,000 to support the Family Reunification Program.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

E. **Appointments to the Van Buren County Planning Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A33/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Planning Commission plays a vital role in guiding land use decisions, development policy, and planning initiatives in accordance with the County's master plan and zoning ordinances; and,
WHEREAS, the continued involvement of knowledgeable and experienced members is essential to the successful implementation of strategic growth and land use objectives within the County; and,
WHEREAS, Alyssa Hosbein, Jan Petersen, Barbara Rose, and Scott Cedarquist have served as members of the Van Buren County Planning Commission and have demonstrated a strong commitment to responsible planning practices and community development; and,
WHEREAS, their service has contributed to the stability and institutional knowledge of the Commission, and all individuals have expressed a willingness to continue their service to the County in this capacity; and,
WHEREAS, the current terms of Alyssa Hosbein, Jan Petersen, Barbara Rose, and Scott Cedarquist have expired, and their reappointment will ensure continuity and support the effectiveness of the Planning Commission's ongoing work; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the reappointment of the following individuals to the Van Buren County Planning Commission with terms as indicated: Alyssa Hosbein, Jan Petersen, and Barbara Rose (terms until March 31, 2029); and Scott Cedarquist (term until March 31, 2028).

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

F. **Appointment to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC)-David Havice

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A34/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) serves as a regional planning body that supports coordinated planning, transportation development, and resource management efforts for the region; and,
WHEREAS, there is an opening for one two-year term set to expire on December 31, 2027, to replace Sandy Hanson; and,
WHEREAS, David Havice, from the Mattawan area, has submitted his application for the SWMPC and has been actively involved in the community. Mr. Havice has a background that includes service in the U.S. Army and the Michigan Air National Guard, as well as

operating a construction business and managing residential rental properties; and,
WHEREAS, Mr. Havice's experiences have provided leadership, teamwork, and practical knowledge related to property development and land use; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve to appoint David Havice to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term to expire December 31, 2027.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

G. Reappointment to the Jury Board- Thomas Palenick - EXPEDITED

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A35/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, the Jury Board is a three-member panel established pursuant to state law, responsible for maintaining and reviewing the list of qualified jurors for Van Buren County, with members serving staggered six-year terms; and,
WHEREAS, appointments to the Jury Board are made by the Board of Commissioners upon recommendation from the Circuit Court Judges of the County; and,
WHEREAS, Thomas Palenick has served dutifully as a member of the Jury Board and has expressed his willingness to be reappointed for another term; and,
WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Circuit Court Judges have reviewed Mr. Palenick's performance and have recommended his reappointment to the Board of Commissioners; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve to reappoint Thomas Palenick to the Jury Board for a six-year term to expire April 30, 2032.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C5/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of $3,294,308.10 were submitted and reviewed; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve of the total claims in the amount of $3,294,308.10 for the month of March 2026.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

B. Strategic Facilities Fund Transfer

Item removed from agenda.

C. Budget Stabilization Fund Transfer

Item removed from agenda.

D. **2026 Equalization Report

FINANCE RESOLUTION F25/4-30-2026

WHEREAS, MCL 211.34(1) requires the county board of commissioners to meet in April each year to determine county equalized valuations; which equalization shall be completed and submitted along with the tabular statement required by Section 5 of Act No. 44 of the Public Acts of 1911, as amended no later than May 1 of each year; and,
WHEREAS, the assessment rolls of the various assessment jurisdictions have been reviewed by the various local Boards of Review throughout the County of Van Buren and submitted to your Equalization Department in the appropriate timely manner; and,

WHEREAS, those assessment rolls have been audited and balanced by your Equalization Department in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the guidelines of the State Tax Commission; the results of such being listed on the attached equalization report and on the prescribed Michigan Department of Treasury Form L-4024 (County Equalization Directors Report of County Equalization); and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the County Equalized Valuations as indicated within the attached equalization report a cumulative total for Real Property of $6,498,211,714 (Six Billion, Four Hundred Ninety Eight Million, Two Hundred Eleven Thousand, Seven Hundred Fourteen Dollars) and a cumulative total for Personal Property of $827,177,653 (Eight Hundred Twenty Seven Million, One Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Three Dollars). The combined total of Real and Personal Property of the Cities and Townships in Van Buren County is $7,325,389,367 (Seven Billion, Three Hundred Twenty Five Million, Three Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty Seven Dollars).

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

E. **Contract Extension - Assessing Solutions, Tony Meyaard

FINANCE RESOLUTION F26/4-30-2026
WHEREAS, the request is to approve the renewal contract with Tony Meyaard with Assessing Solutions to provide equalization services effective May 1, 2026; and,
WHEREAS, this is a renewal contract for services that are expiring. Basic services are the duties associated with the Equalization Department, including land value studies, economic condition studies, equalization report, apportionment report, as well as all documents and statements required or requested by the State Tax Commission in accordance with generally accepted equalization department practices in the State of Michigan; and,
WHEREAS, for 2026 there is no increase in cost. $246,100 is to be paid per calendar year on a monthly basis from the General Fund: 101.0-257.00-801.000. This will be adjusted January 1st annually by the rate of inflation as determined by the State Tax Commission; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the renewal contract with Assessing Solutions (Tony Meyaard) effective May 1, 2026.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. **MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement - Amendment

LABOR RESOLUTION L14/4-30-2026
WHEREAS, Van Buren County participates in the MERS Health Care Savings Program (HCSP), a tax-advantaged account designed to assist employees with post-employment healthcare expenses. Participation in the HCSP is mandatory for eligible employees under current collective bargaining agreements; and,
WHEREAS, currently, employees contribute a minimum of $5.00 per pay period. However, MERS has implemented a $10.00 monthly administrative fee for HCSP accounts (also applicable to 457 plans). Because most County employees do not participate in the 457 plan, the administrative fee is typically applied solely to their HCSP accounts; and,
WHEREAS, as a result, employees contributing only $5.00 per pay period may see little to no net account growth after administrative fees are applied—particularly newer employees or those with shorter service durations; and,
WHEREAS, the applicable collective bargaining language allows for flexibility in contribution levels, stating that contributions may range from $5.00 per pay period up to IRS limits and that mandatory contribution amounts may be increased but not decreased;

and,
WHEREAS, this amendment does not create a direct financial impact to the County, as contributions to the HCSP are fully employee-funded. For employees, increasing the contribution to $10.00 per pay period will:
• Offset the $10.00 monthly administrative fee
• Allow for modest account growth over time
• Improve the long-term value and effectiveness of the HCSP benefit; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve to amend the mandatory employee contribution to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Health Care Savings Program (HCSP).

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- MAC Legislative Conference
- NACo-Peer Exchange
- Holtec
- Road Funding
- Supervisors Meeting

15. Chairman's Update

- MAC Legislative Conference Roundtable
- Academy Certificates-DiStefano and Leary

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.
Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 02:13 PM.

Kurt Doroh, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk