



MINUTES

**Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street**

June 9, 2026

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

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 03:03 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, Kurt Doroh, David DiStefano, Mike Toth, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol. Commissioner Chappell 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 Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by David DiStefano, Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

A. **May 26th, 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

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

7. Public Comment

8. Administrative Affairs

A. **Opioid Committee - Speciality Court Grant Approval

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A38/6-9-2026

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee reviewed and recommended funding for the Specialty Courts Opioid Recovery Support Program utilizing National Opioid Settlement Funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Specialty Courts program serves non-violent individuals struggling with substance use and mental health challenges by providing treatment, accountability, recovery support, and community-based services designed to reduce recidivism and improve long-term stability. During FY2024, Specialty Courts served 213 participants

across multiple court programs; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed agreement provides reimbursement-based funding for services and supports that help participants successfully engage in treatment and recovery; and,
WHEREAS, approved expenditures include staff education and training, housing supports, transportation assistance through the purchase of a transportation van, and GED educational opportunities. The transportation component is intended to address one of the largest barriers for participants by helping individuals attend treatment appointments, court appearances, employment opportunities, and other recovery-related services; and,
WHEREAS, the agreement provides for reimbursement-based opioid settlement funding in an amount not to exceed \$155,000 utilizing National Opioid Settlement Funds. Funding allocations include \$30,000 for staff education and training, \$50,000 for housing-related support, \$65,000 for transportation van purchase, and \$10,000 for GED and educational opportunities; and,
WHEREAS, the proposal was reviewed through the County's opioid settlement grant process, which references the 2024 Community Assessment, local data, evidence-based strategies, and Exhibit E allowable uses. The final contract agreement has been reviewed and approved by the County's legal counsel; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the Opioid Settlement Funding Agreement with Van Buren County Specialty Courts for \$155,000 in opioid settlement funds.

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

B. ****Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Reappointments- Hillenbrand (Strohauer) and Morris**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A39/6-9-2026

WHEREAS, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority is tasked with facilitating the rehabilitation and redevelopment of environmentally distressed, blighted, or functionally obsolete properties within Van Buren County; and,
WHEREAS, Katie Hillenbrand (Strohauer) and Zachary Morris have both served on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority board dutifully and bring unique talents, experiences, and perspectives that help keep the board a broad-based group; and,
WHEREAS, they have expressed their willingness to continue to serve the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and have submitted their applications for reappointment; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve to reappoint Katie Hillenbrand (Strohauer) and Zachary Morris to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for three-year terms to expire May 31, 2029.

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

C. **Specialty Court - Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Grant Application: EXPEDITED**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A40/6-9-2026

WHEREAS, Van Buren County's Specialty Courts are requesting to submit the annual grant application to Southwest Behavioral Health (SWMBH) for continued funding of Pretrial, Drug Treatment Court, and Sobriety Court; and,
WHEREAS, This application would cover ignition interlock for Sobriety Court participants, drug testing supplies for Drug Treatment Court, and Sobriety Court, with the addition of covering 30% of our peer support specialist to assist our pretrial defendants navigate through the criminal process and the connection with treatment services.; and,
WHEREAS, This investment reflects a strong commitment to evidence-based interventions that promote accountability, reduce recidivism, and strengthen community well-being across the count; and,
WHEREAS, The request to SWMBH is \$72,292.48 (last year \$71,466) with expenses to be reimburse on a quarterly basis.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of

Commissioners, approve the request to submit the annual grant application to Southwest Behavioral Health (SWMBH) for continued funding of Pretrial, Drug Treatment Court, and Sobriety Court.

Motion to approve.

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

9. Buildings and Grounds

A. **Disposal of Sheriff's Office Property and Unclaimed Property

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS RESOLUTION B5/6-9-2026

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has accumulated various items of surplus and unclaimed property that are no longer needed or have exceeded their useful life; and,

WHEREAS, certain items retain value and are appropriate for public auction in accordance with applicable Michigan law; and,

WHEREAS, a request has been received for the Board of Commissioners to authorize the disposition of these items through the Sheriff's approved auction process; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve to authorize the disposal of unclaimed, obsolete, and unusable Sheriff's Office property, and to permit the auction of these items.

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

10. Finance

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

A. **MERS Health Care Savings Agreement Amendment - Command Removal

LABOR RESOLUTION L17/6-9-2026

WHEREAS, the Command Group requested to discontinue participation in the MERS Health Care Savings Program (HCSP) after implementation of associated program fees; and,

WHEREAS, a Letter of Understanding (LOU) was executed on April 23, 2026, between Van Buren County, the Sheriff, and the Police Officers Labor Council (Command Unit), allowing the Command Unit to opt out of the HCSP; and,

WHEREAS, the amendment is administrative in nature and reflects the mutually agreed upon change in participation status for the Command Unit; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the amended MERS Health Care Savings Program participation agreement.

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

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Undersheriff Casey Davis response to accident

- Van Buren District Library
- PA 233
- Supervisors Meeting
- VBC Community Mental Health
- Village of Decatur project

Administrator Faul:

- Facilities Master Plan meeting, Tuesday, July 7th, 1 p.m.

15. Chairman's Update

- NACo

16. Board Correspondence

A. Ingham County Resolution

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Paul Schincariol, Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 03:35 PM.

Kurt Doroh, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk