



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

August 10, 2021 4:00 PM

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

County Board of Commissioners Meeting
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1. **Call to Order**
On the above date the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 04:18 PM by Richard Godfrey, Chairman of the Board.
2. **Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer**
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 (remotely from South Haven, MI), Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Mike Chappell, Randall Peat, Donald Hanson, Paul Schincariol
4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
None.
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 Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
6. **Approval of Minutes**

A. ****7/27/21 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**
Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Presentation**
9. **Administrative Affairs Committee**

A. ****Intergovernmental Agreement with Berrien County for PRE Audit Services**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA31/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to terminate the intergovernmental agreement with Berrien County for Pre-Audit Services, and;
WHEREAS, since 2012, the Berrien County Treasurer's Office has conducted a review and audit of real property within Van Buren County to ensure proper application or allowance of principal residence exemptions (PREs) pursuant to MCL 211.7cc, and;
WHEREAS, the State of Michigan chose to audit PREs in Van Buren County in 2018, 2019, and 2021. Each audit the state has conducted has resulted in a high volume of PRE denials for which the Van Buren County Treasurer is responsible for billing and collecting. In 2018, over 500 denials were issued, and;
WHEREAS, the agreement is scheduled to automatically renew on September 20, 2021. We must provide 60 days' notice to Berrien County per the IGA, and;
WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is happy to continue conducting PRE audits in Van Buren County, thus eliminating the need to for the agreement between Berrien and Van Buren counties for PRE audits, and;
WHEREAS, this path forward will ensure proper review and audit is completed each year in compliance with MCL 211.7cc, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves termination of the pre-audit services agreement with Berrien County.

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

B. ****Area Agency on Aging**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA32/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the Region IV Area Agency on Aging is requesting a resolution of approval for the FY 2022 Annual Implementation Plan, and;
WHEREAS, this plan covers aging services for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties, and;
WHEREAS, there is no financial impact to the county. The plan is funded by the federal Older Americans Act and state Older Michiganians Act for residents of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the Region IV Area Agency on Aging FY 2022 Annual Implementation Plan.

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA33/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the recommendation is to accept the appointment of Luke Barber to the Kinexus Group Workforce Development Board of Directors on a 3-year term to expire 7/31/2024, and;
WHEREAS, Mr. Barber will fill the vacancy for David Glynn, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Luke Barber to the Kinexus Group Workforce Development Board of directors.

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA34/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the recommendation is to accept the re-appointment of Christopher Randall to the Kinexus Group Workforce Development Board of directors, and;
WHEREAS, Mr. Randall's term on the Kinexus Workforce Development Board has expired, the new 3-year term to expire on 6/30/2024, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Luke Barber to the Kinexus Group Workforce Development Board of directors.

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

E. **MEDC - Community Development Block Grant - Set Public Hearing**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA35/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to schedule a public hearing related to the submission of an application to the MEDC for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and;
WHEREAS, Van Buren County, with the support of its Economic Development Corporation Board and its Economic Development Organization – Market Van Buren, proposes to submit an application to the MEDC for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$570,000, and;
WHEREAS, this grant would be used to support the expansion of the Welch's Lawton, MI plant. Including 57 new jobs and over \$ 26,234,000 in new investment, and;
WHEREAS, the company has asked the County to expedite their process to accommodate their internal decision-making process, which is scheduled to take place in October, and;
WHEREAS, once the County has approved the application, the information will be organized and presented to company executives in September for project approval. If this is approved, a public hearing is required, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves a public hearing for 8/24/2021 at 2:50 p.m. regarding the MEDC for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

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

10. **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

A. ****5K Walk / Run during Wine and Harvest**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION BG5/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to allow Wine and Harvest Festival - Grape Lake 5K Run / Walk organizers to use the Human Services East restrooms and parking lot as a staging area for the Grape Lake 5k race scheduled on Saturday, September 11, 2021, and;
WHEREAS, the race has been part of the Festival for many years and organizers have utilized County property for this event, and;
WHEREAS, organizers have submitted the appropriate paperwork including proof of event insurance, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the use of county property.

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

11. Finance Committee

A. Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C8/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of \$1,840,278.92 for July 2021 were submitted and reviewed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves total claims in the amount of \$1,840,278.92.

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

12. Labor Negotiations and Contracts Committee

A. Chief Deputy Treasurer - Salary Exception

LABOR AND CONTRACTS RESOLUTION L14/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to approve a starting salary exception for the Chief Deputy Treasurer, at R27D, 2-year step, of the AFSCME unified pay scale at an annual rate of \$54,034.50, and;

WHEREAS, AFSCME's Supervisory unit was engaged and had no objections to the request., and;

WHEREAS, the Chief Deputy Treasurer position has been vacant since July 16, 2021., and;

WHEREAS, the previous incumbent left at a higher pay range and this position is included in the budget, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the salary exception request for the Chief Deputy Treasurer at R27D, \$54,034.50 annually.

Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Mike Chappell, Carried

13. Transit Committee

A. **MDOT Agreement

TRANSIT RESOLUTION T5/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the revised contract with MDOT, and;

WHEREAS, an additional \$369,104.00 Federal Section 5311 Operating/CARES Act funding is being added to the contract for a total of \$738,208.00, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the revised contract with MDOT.

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

14. Veteran's Services Committee

A. **Veterans' Services Positions

VETERANS' SERVICES RESOLUTION V2/8-10-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to authorize the creation of the Veterans' Services Director position and to authorize the posting of this position and the Veterans' Services Officer position, and;

WHEREAS, an objective of the Veterans' millage was to improve the services provided by our Veterans' Services Department. One of the methods to do that is to create an office that allows for a Director level position along with a supporting Officer level position, and;

WHEREAS, the Director's role will be to seek grants and other funds to expand the programs available to veterans in Van Buren County. For a complete job description for the Director and Officer positions, feel free to review the attached job descriptions, and;

WHEREAS, the recommended salaries for the positions are as follows: Veterans' Services Director (R29 Non-Union Scale) \$51,753.00 - \$70,044.00 Veterans' Services Officer (R24 Non-Union Scale) \$38,590.50 - \$52,767.00, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners authorizes the creation of the Veterans' Services Director position and to authorize the posting of this position and the Veterans' Services Officer position at the recommended salaries.

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

15. Public Comment

16. Closed Session

17. Board Correspondence

A. City of South Haven Public Hearing Notice

B. Missaukee County ARPA Resolution

18. Committee/Out-Board Assignments

- Municipalities
- SW Michigan Action Agency
- Area Agency on Aging
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Holtech
- Van Buren County Facilities Tour
- ARPA
- Administrative Affairs
- Market Van Buren
- Economic Development
- Finance Committee
- County Museum
- Road Commission
- PFAS
- Conservation District

- Sheriff's National Night Out
- Transit Committee
- Veterans Committee
- Solid Waste Consortium

Administrator Hardester:

- Public Defender
- Facility Tour
- Soldier & Sailor
- Governor's Office
- Holtech

19. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 04:46 PM.

Richard Godfrey, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk