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

July 28, 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 01:58 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, Mike Toth, Tina Leary, Paul Schincariol.

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 Mike Toth, Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

   A. **July 14th, 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
   Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

7. Public Comment

8. Administrative Affairs

   A. **Bankson Lake Sewer Authority - Bankson Lake Sewer Extension Project
   ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A47/7-28-2026
   WHEREAS, a proposed Cass County Sewage Disposal System (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section – Extension No. 2) Bond Contract (the “Bond Contract”) by and between the County of Van Buren, Michigan, (“Van Buren County”) acting by and through its Board of Public Works (the “Board of Public Works”) pursuant to Act 185 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1957, as amended (“Act 185”), the County of Cass, Michigan, acting by and through its Board of Public Works pursuant to Act 185 (“Cass County”), the Township of Porter, a general law township located in Van Buren County (the “Township” or “Porter”),

and the Lakes Area Sewer Authority, a public corporation (the "Authority") established under the provisions of Act 233 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1955, as amended, has been presented to and considered by this County Board of Commissioners in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Contract includes a description of System Extension No. 2, District Extension No. 2 and the Project (as said terms are defined in the Bond Contract), and estimates of cost and provides for the acquisition, construction, and financing of the Project by Cass County pursuant to Act 185; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Contract provides for the issuance of bonds in one or more series by Cass County to defray all or part of the cost of the Project, said bonds to be limited tax full faith and credit general obligations of Cass County if approved by a three-fifths majority of the members-elect of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, secured by the Bond Contract and the full faith credit limited tax general obligation of the Township thereunder to pay to Cass County amounts sufficient in the aggregate to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds when due and to pay such fees and other expenses as may be incurred on account of said bonds; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 18 of the Bond Contract states the following:

18. Consent by Van Buren. Van Buren is a party to this Contract because a portion of System Extension No. 2 is proposed to be located in the Local Unit, a township wholly located within Van Buren and a portion of the Local Unit will be served by System Extension No. 2. Van Buren hereby determines that it is in the best interest of Van Buren and its residents and taxpayers that the Project be acquired, constructed and financed by Cass and operated and maintained by the Authority in the manner provided in this Contract. Accordingly, Van Buren consents (i) to the location, acquisition and construction of System Extension No. 2 in Van Buren and the Local Unit, (ii) to the acquisition, construction and financing of System Extension No. 2 by Cass in the manner provided by this Contract, (iii) to the administration, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of System Extension No. 2 by the Authority in the manner provided by this Contract, and (iv) to the contractual obligations of the Local Unit to Cass set forth in this Contract. Finally, Van Buren agrees to provide such additional written consents and assurances as Cass shall deem necessary to enable Cass to perform Cass's obligations under this Contract to finance by the issuance of bonds, acquire and construct the Project.

WHEREAS, the Township, the Authority, and Cass County previously anticipated applying to the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency ("Rural Development") for loan and/or grant assistance to pay all or a portion of the cost of the Project; and

WHEREAS, because of the urgent need for the Project and to promote the health and welfare of the residents of the Township and the Authority concluded that the Project can be provided and financed most economically and efficiently by Cass County through the exercise of the powers conferred by Act 185 without the assistance of Rural Development; and

WHEREAS, in order to finance the acquisition and construction of the Project and to have Cass County issue bonds therefor, and to provide for the operation and maintenance of System Extension No. 2 and the use thereof to serve residents and customers of the Township, it is necessary that Cass County, Van Buren County, the Township and the Authority enter into the Bond Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Public Works has reviewed and approved the description, estimate of cost and the estimated period of usefulness of the Project and the Bond Contract, and has recommended that the County Board of Commissioners adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Board of Commissioners of the County, by a majority vote of its members-elect, hereby approves the description of the Project (as defined in the Bond Contract) and the areas to be served by System Extension No. 2, the estimate of cost of the Project, the estimated period of usefulness of the Project and the Bond Contract and expressly

authorizes the consent of the County of Van Buren as set forth in Paragraph 18 of the Bond Contract.
2. The Chairman and Secretary of the Van Buren County Board of Public Works are authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Bond Contract for and on behalf of this County in the form approved by this Resolution together with such additions and deletions as said officers deem to be appropriate and in the best interests of the County (in such number of counterparts as may be desirable).
3. The Bond Contract, as presented to the County Board of Commissioners on this date, shall be kept on file at the office of the Board of Public Works for public inspection, together with a certified copy of this resolution.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

B. **Michigan Agricultural Preservation Program Grant Agreement – Acceptance and Authorization

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION A48/7-28-2026

WHEREAS, The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has awarded Van Buren County a Michigan Agricultural Preservation Program Grant in the amount of $312,600 to assist with the purchase of development rights through a permanent agricultural conservation easement on approximately 219.36 acres owned by Druskovich Farms LLC, Carl Druskovich, and Amy Druskovich in Decatur Township. The grant agreement is effective June 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027; and,
WHEREAS, The purpose of the grant is to permanently preserve productive farmland by restricting future non-agricultural development while ensuring the property remains available for agricultural use. Under the agreement, Van Buren County will co-hold the conservation easement with the State of Michigan and will be responsible for ongoing monitoring and enforcement of the easement following its recording; and,
WHEREAS, Approval of this request authorizes the County to execute the grant agreement and complete all activities necessary to preserve this agricultural property in accordance with the requirements of the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Program.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, accept the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Michigan Agricultural Preservation Program Grant Agreement (Grant No. 26-2897), authorize the Board Chair to execute all grant documents and related closing documents, and authorize the County to fulfill all grant obligations necessary to complete the agricultural conservation easement acquisition.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

9. Buildings and Grounds

10. Finance

A. **Claims

CLAIMS RESOLUTION C8/7-28-2026

WHEREAS, claims in the amount of $7,286,096.33 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 $7,286,096.33 for the month of June 2026.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

B. **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant (CPLR) Grant 2027

FINANCE RESOLUTION F42/7-28-2026

WHEREAS, the Child & Parent Legal Representation Grant provides partial reimbursement for the costs of court-appointed attorneys and a social worker who delivers essential ancillary services to parents involved in child protective proceedings; and,
WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), Van Buren County received $81,250.00 in reimbursement from this grant, significantly aiding the County in managing these critical services; and,
WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the acceptance of the grant contract for continued funding and support of these legal representation services; and,
WHEREAS, the approval of the Board Chair, or an authorized designee, to submit the grant contract will allow the County to secure the grant funds and continue providing essential legal services to parents in need; and,
WHEREAS, the department has followed all applicable policies in preparing this travel request and is seeking Board approval to proceed with arrangements; and,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, authorize the Board Chair, or their designee, to submit the Child & Parent Legal Representation Grant contract.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Mike Toth, Carried

C. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Quality Legal Representation (QLR) Grant 2027 EXPEDITED

FINANCE RESOLUTION F43/7-28-2026

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Court seeks approval to apply for the Quality Legal Representation Grant through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in the amount of $81,250; and,
WHEREAS, this grant provides partial reimbursement for costs associated with court appointed attorneys and a social worker who offer ancillary services to parents involved in child protective proceedings; and,
WHEREAS, the purpose of the grant is to improve the quality of legal representation and support provided to families, thereby strengthening outcomes in child protection cases; and,
WHEREAS, the application process for the Quality Legal Representation Grant is conducted through the EGrAMS (Electronic Grants Administration and Management System); and,
WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Family Division Administrator of the 36th Circuit Court-Juvenile Court and/or Friend of the Court Director be authorized to sign the Quality Legal Representation Grant application in the EGrAMS system on behalf of the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve the Juvenile Court's application for the Quality Legal Representation Grant and authorize the Family Division Administrator of the 36th Circuit Court-Juvenile Court and/or Friend of the Court Director to sign the application in the EGrAMS system on behalf of the Board.

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

D. Amendment One to State Land Bank Authority Grant Agreement (SLBA 00412) - Bergen Building Rehabilitation Project, Village of Decatur - EXPEDITED

FINANCE RESOLUTION F44/7-28-2026

WHEREAS, The request is to approve Amendment One to Grant Agreement SLBA 00412,

on an expedited basis at the July 28, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting, that increases the maximum SLBA grant amount from $3,000,000 to $3,250,000, and authorize the Treasurer, as Chair of the VBCLBA, to execute the Amendment on behalf of the Authority; and,
WHEREAS, Grant Agreement SLBA-00412, effective February 22, 2024, provides Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through the SLBA's Blight Elimination Program (BEP) for rehabilitation of the Bergen Building, a publicly-owned structure located at 312 School Street, Decatur, Michigan; and,
WHEREAS, The original Agreement authorized grant funding of up to $3,000,000. Amendment One, dated July 20, 2026, increases the maximum grant amount to $3,250,000; all other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain unchanged; and,
WHEREAS, The Contract End Date remains December 31, 2026, with a Reimbursement Submission Date of no later than September 30, 2026.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, approve Amendment One to Grant Agreement SLBA 00412, on an expedited basis at the July 28, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting, that increases the maximum SLBA grant amount from $3,000,000 to $3,250,000, and authorize the Treasurer, as Chair of the VBCLBA, to execute the Amendment on behalf of the Authority.

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

11. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts

12. Public Transit

13. Veterans Services

14. Commissioner's Roundtable

- Facilities Master Plan
- New York Times-Palisades

15. Chairman's Update

- Kinexus
- Market One

16. Board Correspondence

17. Closed Session

18. Public Comment

19. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 02:16 PM.

Kurt Doroh, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk