



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

September 14, 2021 2:00 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

Administrative Affairs Committee Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
Committee Members Present: Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney (from home office in South Haven); Commissioner Paul Schincariol (from home office in Lawton); Commissioner Randy Peat

Others Present: Administrator Frank Hardester, Ken Speicher, Commissioner Kurt Doroh, Commissioner Richard Godfrey, Commissioner Don Hanson, Suzie Roehm, Trisha Nesbitt, Wayne Nelson
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
None
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Peat; Supported by Commissioner Schincariol; Motion: Carried.
4. **Public Comment**
None
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **8/10/2021 Administrative Affairs Meeting Minutes**
Motion to approve the 8/10/2021 Administrative Affairs Meeting Minutes as presented by Commissioner Peat; Supported by Commissioner Schincariol; Motion: Carried.
6. **Agenda Items**
 - A. **Board of Canvassers Appointment**
County Clerk Suzie Roehm presented the Board of Canvassers nominations. She asked the Commissioners to review the attached information about the nominees. The commissioners will cast a vote for one candidate from each party at the Committee of the Whole meeting today, then it will be brought before the BOC in two weeks.

Motion to move the vote to the Committee of the Whole today then bring it to the BOC on 9/29/21 by Commissioner Schincariol; Supported by Commissioner Peat; Motion: Carried.
 - B. **Transfer of Property to Columbia Township**
Ken Speicher of Columbia Township presented the request to transfer county-owned parcels to Columbia Township that are frequently going through tax

foreclosure. Columbia Township would like to use these parcels to create buildable lots to attract more permanent owners. Wayne Nelson confirmed that the county has had issues with these properties for quite some time. Discussions ensued.

Motion to approve the transfer of the property to Columbia Township and bring it to the COW on 9/29/21, and the BOC on 10/12/21 by Commissioner Schincariol; Support by Commissioner Peat; Motion: Carried

- C. Re-Appointment of William Van Tassell to the Land Preservation Board**
Administrator Hardester presented the application for the re-appointment of William VanTassell to the Land Preservation Board, with a term to expire on 5/1/2023.

Motion to approve the application and move it to the 9/29/21 COW and 10/12/21 BOC by Commissioner Schincariol; Supported by Commissioner Peat; Motion: Carried.

- D. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and State-Licensed Marijuana Businesses**

Administrator Hardester presented the topic of state licensed marijuana businesses requesting assistance from the BRA and if a county policy needs to be created to address this issue. Discussion ensued. Administrator Hardester recommends not creating a policy regarding marijuana businesses. There currently are no policies regarding any other legal businesses within the county.

Motion to follow the recommendation and not create a policy regarding this or other legal businesses by Commissioner Peat; Supported by Commissioner Schincariol; Motion: Carried.

- E. Domestic Violence Coalition 2021 - 2022 Services Agreement**

Melanie Hooker presented the annual contract to be renewed, and reviewed the annual report. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Schincariol recommended a resolution of recognition for Ann Gruber who left her retirement money and memorial funds to the DVC when she passed.

Motion to approve the annual contract, the Commission chairperson to sign on it's behalf and to bring this before the 9/29/21 COW and the 10/12/21 BOC by Commissioner Schincariol; Supported by Commissioner Peat; Motion: Carried.

- F. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Appointment - Lisa Imus**

Administrator Hardester presented the request to appoint Lisa Imus to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Motion to approve the appointment and move it to the 9/29/21 COW and the 10/12/21 BOC by Commissioner Schincariol; Supported by Commissioner Peat; Motion: Carried.

- G. Parks Department for Van Buren County**

Commissioner Chappell presented some of the advantages to having a County Parks Department. Discussions about grants and millage being available to counties were had. Administrator Hardester responded that many surrounding counties have a Parks Department and it is something worth looking into, but keep in mind the amount of man-hours it will take. Commissioner Schincariol suggested taking a hard look at this and how much work and money this may take.

Motion to look further into the costs, scope and vision of having a County Parks Department and move it to the 9/29/21 COW and 10/12/21 BOC by Commissioner Peat; Supported by Commissioner Schincariol; Motion: Carried.

7. **Public Comment**

Commissioner Hanson stated that John Young and his wife Robin had some controversy with the Domestic Violence Coalition and should be allowed to present before the DVC contract is approved.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Schincariol; Supported by Commissioner Peat; Motion: Carried.

Meeting adjourned: 3:00 PM