



MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Chambers
219 East Paw Paw Street

October 12, 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 04:09 PM by Richard Godfrey, Chairman of the Board.

The roll was called by County Clerk Suzie Roehm with the following commissioners answering to their name and district: Gail Patterson-Gladney (from South Haven, MI), Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Mike Chappell, Randall Peat (from Paw Paw, MI), and Donald Hanson. Paul Schincariol absent and excused.

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. 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 Kurt Doroh, Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

A. **9/29/2021 BOC Minutes

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

5. Public Comment

- Melanie Hooker reminded the Board that the Veteran's Standdown is Friday, October 15th, at the Decatur VFW from 10 am to 2 pm.
- Fay Dorr, Waverly Township resident, commented on tree removal by the Road Commission.

6. Presentation

7. Administrative Affairs Committee

A. Domestic Violence Coalition 2021 - 2022 Services Agreement

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA47/10-12-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to receive the Domestic Violence Coalition 2021 Annual Report and to approve the 2021 – 2022 Service Agreement (Contract), and;
WHEREAS, the contract is to be renewed for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. The DVC will assist eligible clients with initial personal protection order filings and subsequent filings for hearings as required. Other services to be provided include crisis intervention, supportive counseling, group counseling/support, criminal justice advocacy, hospital response, and prevention/community education, and;
WHEREAS, the budgeted amount of the contract is \$25,000 to be paid from account 101.0-965.00-999.004, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the 2021- 2022 Domestic Violence Coalition Services Agreement.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

B. Transfer of Property to Columbia Township

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA48/10-12-2021

WHEREAS, the request for the Board of Commission to transfer the Columbia Township Parcels (Tax ID # 80- 06-282-113-00 & 80-06-282-111-00) to Columbia Township, and;
WHEREAS, Columbia Township is trying to combine some of the smaller parcels in the township that are frequently going through the tax foreclosure process so they can create buildable lots to attract more permanent owners, and;
WHEREAS, the parcels had not sold at prior year auctions and recorded deeds to them, with the township paying the recording fees. The 2 attached deeds had actually been transferred to the County. Therefore, the treasurer is requesting these deeds be transferred to Columbia Township, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of parcels (Tax ID # 80-06-282-113-00 and 80-06-282-111-00) to Columbia Township and for the Board Chair to sign on the board's behalf.

Motion by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

C. **Resolution Re: OMA and Remote Participation

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA49/10-12-2021

WHEREAS, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in both drastic interruption to and drastic and beneficial innovation in the daily business operations of the County; and
WHEREAS, in recognition of these facts, the Legislature of the State of Michigan amended the Open Meetings Act, Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended (the "Act") to expand the circumstances under which (1) a member of a public body may participate remotely and (2) a public body may conduct its open meetings electronically; and
WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that the citizens of the County have been well-served by and are more engaged through the expansion of access to watch and participate in public meetings of the public bodies of and located in the County; and
WHEREAS, the provisions of the Act which permit the expanded remote participation of its members and the conduct of meetings electronically in their entirety expire on December 31, 2021; and
WHEREAS, after December 31, 2021, members of a public body will be allowed to

participate in a meeting electronically only in the circumstances requiring accommodation of members absent due to military duty; and
WHEREAS, this substantive change eliminates a public body's previous flexibility to expand public access to the functioning of public bodies of and located within the County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Van Buren requests that the Act be amended to remove the sunset of December 31, 2021 to authorize (1) a member of a public body to participate remotely for the reasons stated in the Act and (2) a public body to electronically conduct its public meetings.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Van Buren submits this resolution to all Michigan Senators, all Michigan Representatives, all Michigan counties, Michigan Township Association, all cities and townships located within the County of Van Buren, the Van Buren Intermediate School District and all school districts located within the County of Van Buren.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA50/10-12-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to appoint Lisa Imus to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and;

WHEREAS, Lisa Imus has exceptional qualifications and has expressed interest in serving on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Currently there is a vacancy on the board, and;

WHEREAS, all Brownfield Redevelopment Authority terms expire on June 1 and are for 3-year terms, this term will expire on 6/1/2024, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of Lisa Imus to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

E. ****911 Service Plan**

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS RESOLUTION AA51/10-12-2021

WHEREAS, Current 911 Service Plan & 911 Advisory Board By-Laws were last revised in 2011, and;

WHEREAS, the 911 Advisory Board at its quarterly meeting on 14 April 2021 voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to begin the process of adopting the amended 911 Service Plan and By-Laws as presented, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act, 1986 PA 32 as amended; including the adoption by resolution on July 13, 2021 a "Tentative" 911 Service Plan, notification of local units of government by the clerk, and a public hearing on the "Final 911 Service Plan" was held on October 12, 2021, and;

WHEREAS, the Final 911 Service Plan enhances 911 services to the inhabitants of Van Buren County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners adopts the Final 911 Service Plan and By-Laws as presented.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

8. **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

A. ****Hazen Street Janitorial Agreement**

BUILDING AND GROUNDS RESOLUTION BG6/10-12-2021

WHEREAS, the request is to approve the agreement with Community Mental Health's Employment Services for janitorial services at the 801 Hazen Street facility, and;
WHEREAS, the county moved the Public Defender's Office and MSU extension offices over to the Hazen Street location without a plan for janitorial services, and;
WHEREAS, the county has a janitorial staffing shortage and utilizing the services already being used in that facility by Community Mental Health is the best option, and;
WHEREAS, the agreement is for a cost of \$1,225.00 per month with a total of \$14,700.00 per year, to be covered under our existing budget using account # 101.0-265.00-801.905;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves the agreement with Community Mental Health's Employment Services for janitorial services at 801 Hazen Street.

Motion by Mike Chappell, Second by Kurt Doroh, Carried

9. Finance Committee

10. Labor, Negotiations, and Contracts Committee

11. Public Transit Committee

12. Veterans Services Committee

13. Closed Session

A. Settlement Agreement

Motion to enter into Executive Session under Section 8e of the Open Meetings Act to discuss litigation regarding the Pruenete action.

Motion by Mike Chappel, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried.

Roll Call Vote: All Yes

Board went into closed session at 4:25 p.m.

Board returned from closed session at 4:44 p.m.

Motion to proceed with settlement as recommended by attorney.

Motion by Randall Peat, Second by Gail Patterson-Gladney, Carried

14. Public Comment

15. Board Correspondence

A. Delta County Board Resolution

- B. Gratiot County Resolution
 - C. Ingham County Resolution
 - D. City of South Haven Notice
16. Committee/Out-Board Assignments
17. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 04:47 PM.

Richard Godfrey, Chairperson

Suzie Roehm, County Clerk