

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Chairman Mark Brant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, as follows:

PRESENT			ABSENT
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens	
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout		

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to conduct business.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Swartout led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (02/07/2023 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the minutes as presented for the February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Pastor Heather Boone, Oaks of Righteousness Christian Ministries—This is her third straight Board of Commissioners meeting and tomorrow they are meeting with Community Mental Health. We will be making a decision about our shelter. She invited the Commissioners to come out and see what they do. One agency sent a peer recovery person and a tablet. She is disgusted.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION—None

IX. FINANCE MATTERS—None

1. Approval of the 02/22/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$998,758.28.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the 02/22/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$998,758.28 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

- 2. Letter dated February 8, 2023 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, County Treasurer enclosing the 41st Annual Report of monies on deposit in the Monroe County Probate Court Escheat Account.

Mr. Stanford explained the Report.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the Treasurer’s 41st Annual Report of moneys on deposit in the Monroe County Probate Court Escheat Account and place on file as a permanent record.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

- 3. Letter dated February 8, 2023 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer transmitting the Cash and Investment Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2022.

Mr. Stanford explained the Report.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept and place on file the December 31, 2022 Cash and Investment Report from the Monroe County Treasurer.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated February 13, 2023 from Mr. Robert Neely, Chairman, Monroe County Retiree Health Care Trust Board and Mr. Brian Green, Investment Consultant, AndCo. Consulting, recommending approval of the amended Investment Policy Statement for the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Trust.

Chairman Brant read the recommendation into the record. Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, answered questions from Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the amended Investment Policy Statement for the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Trust.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 02/10/2023 in the amount of \$601,608.39
 - b. Check Register dated 02/17/2023 in the amount of \$465,037.37

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Moore to confirm the Non-Claims payments as presented on the agenda for the dates and amounts listed.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

Board Action:

1. Letter dated February 15, 2023 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer recommending a funding plan to develop the next Economic Development strategic plan for the County in the amount of \$250,000.

Chairman Brant read the recommendation into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept and place on file the letter and recommendation and approve the recommendation to fund the next Economic Development strategic plan for the County in the amount of \$250,000 and authorize the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to appropriate the funding as outlined in his recommendation.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

2. Presentation on the Plan of Implementation-National Opioid Settlement.

Mr. Michael Bosanac, Ms. Kim Comerzan, Public Health Officer, Mr. Jason Berry, Salvation Army Harbor Light Site Administrator and Sheriff Troy Goodnough participated in the presentation and answered multiple questions from Commissioners.

Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Vensel, supported by Commissioner Lievens to table this matter regarding the Plan of Implementation-National Opioid Settlement until the next meeting on March 7, 2023 to give the Board more time to review the plan.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.		David Hoffman	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			
Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Draft Revision Summary of Amendments to Board of Commissioners Bylaws

Chairman Brant commented that the changes made by Mr. Graham, Legal Advisor will be made available to the Commissioners in time for a vote at either the next meeting or the meeting after that.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Pastor Heather Boone—Expressed her disgust with the situation.
2. Erika Brodie—Wants to know how the environment is affecting the opioid crisis.
3. Sandy Libstorff—Wants to know what is going to happen to the 10 men who are currently at Oaks Shelter when it closes on Thursday.
4. Jordana Latozas—Started the Recovery Mobile Clinic and would be happy to present to the Board at some time in the future.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the February 7, 2023 meeting: None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME

Commissioner Vensel—I would like to say a few words in support of the Monroe County Substance Abuse Coalition. In my role as a high school principal, they did outstanding work. Vicki Loveland is a very good leader. They do more than just taking on hard issues like heroin addiction; they take on issues so students can learn to make better decisions. They may have campaigns that talk about tobacco use, vaping, alcohol use or marijuana. With regard to prevention, I think the Substance Abuse Coalition, especially as it relates to young people, does an admirable job. The only other thing I would say is that this is such a complicated and difficult issue for all of us to understand. People have to be willing to accept the help before we can help them. I will tell you that the people who are working in the trenches know that is not the case all the time. It might take multiple failures before they hit rock bottom. Then you have to start over again. I think we have to keep that in mind as we move forward on this and be willing to be flexible. Sheriff Goodnough talked about the Air Traffic Controller and I think that is a good analogy. It is going to take me a couple of weeks to digest this to see if this really makes sense for almost 1/3 of the funding going to the Air Traffic Controller. If you pay the Air Traffic Controller good money but what is the percentage of Air Traffic Controllers to pilots and airplane mechanics. Is the percentage out of whack a little bit? I wish we could have an Air Traffic Controller that was going to cost less money to make these programs work and put more money to the people that are actually working in the trenches to make this operate. There again, after I really digest this a little more and ask more questions, I may come back two weeks from now, and say it does make sense to me. I'm very grateful that we are being afforded that opportunity.

Commissioner Asper—The Air Traffic Controller does not die if the airplane goes down. She quoted a passage from the Bible, 2 Timothy 1:7. We need to recognize that this is a sinful world and when you take a drug away from somebody, there's a hole there that has to be filled and it's not with another drug ultimately. So I just think we have to keep that in mind.

Commissioner Lievens—Congrats on our expanded Economic Development. I'm happy to see that the plan does identify U.S. 23 as well as I-75. I want to commend everyone for the hard work and dedication on the Opioid Settlement Plan. I'd like to see a little bit more for prevention in the plan. I was encouraged by the Sheriff referencing the mobile outreach and the under-served people in Whiteford and Milan. This reaches all four corners of the county with the theme of us all working together so we can reach those that need the most help.

Commissioner Moore—Regarding the Economic Development strategy approved earlier, there are hundreds of people that take part in the Link program and the Business Alliance. Tim Lake is here in face but it's an all-encompassing program including Board members with representation on the Business Alliance and Link 2.0. I found this very interesting—a \$100,000 investment by the Board of Commissioners in 2016, over \$663 million in economic activity has flowed from the efforts under the Monroe County Link plan. For every dollar invested \$1,270 was returned. That's \$1.27 billion of return on one \$100,000 investment in 2016. As a member of the BDC, I see what goes on at those meetings and I see how much we're impacted in the positive for economic development. I would not be opposed to looking at that \$250,000 number to increase if needed in the future. These are creating well-paying jobs. We are bringing in companies and developing properties that are increasing our tax base. Secondly, I want to take exception with one thing said during public comment. I'm in my 7th year as a County Commissioner on this Board and with all respect to Pastor Boone, I have never seen her at one of these meetings except for the last two or three. I take exception to someone who says we are acting as if this is a new thing. She hasn't been here when the Sheriff has offered anyone to tour his facility

in the jail with mental health. She wasn't here when Commissioners were going out with State Representatives, Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney when we were holding Town Halls on the Opioid epidemic. She wasn't here for the thousands of hours we spent debating this. This is \$365,000 times 18 years and you saw how long we spent on that tonight. We do that with every single tax dollar that comes through this Board. We don't act like it's a magic pill. We don't act like we're doing this great, grand plan. Anytime we're using taxpayer money that comes through here, especially through a judgment, we take it very seriously. There's criteria that has to be met, we debate it, we talk about it, and sometimes we table it then come back and debate it more. We do a very good job of making sure that money is spent wisely. So I take a little exception to people coming in here in the eleventh hour and saying, well you don't think this and that. I haven't seen those people here for the last seven years and there's much longer serving Commissioners than me than just seven. There are some who are closing in on 20 years. So I'd like to even that image out that we don't come here and say, Oh we've got \$365,000 let's solve everyone's ails. No, we take \$1,000 seriously just like we took an \$8 million investment in first responders seriously. I have noticed since I've been on this Board that it doesn't matter the amount, everyone here takes those things very seriously.

Commissioner Swartout—Pass

Commissioner Heinzerling—Pass

Commissioner Hoffman—Excused

Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO—Our plan is \$338,000, not \$365,000. We do watch the money.

Commissioner Richardville—Thanks to all the efforts that went into the proposal tonight. Jason Berry, tomorrow at the Opioid Task Force meeting I will talk about opioid addiction prevention, and going after the money that is still available at the state level. Oaks may or may not close the next day. We had 60 people and roughly one-half of the people found somewhere else to live. Then more left and have 30 days in local hotels. I have a concern about that with some of them being mentally ill and being dispersed to hotels throughout the county. Most residents at Oaks shelter are gone within 90 days. There is a constant flow of homeless folks. Oaks Shelter is one of several entities under Oaks Village. Oaks of Righteousness is a church next door. There is also a grocery store, health care center, clothing distribution, food distribution that distributes 50,000 meals a year, food pantry and childcare center that is free. So Oaks Village and/or Oaks of Righteousness Church is not going to be closing on Thursday. It's possible that we can take some time and do some renovations with some grants and make it a nicer place for people to stay. I do not believe that Oaks Shelter is going to be closed long term. Pastor Boone was passionate two weeks ago but maybe a different kind of passion than tonight. She invited everyone to visit and take a tour and maybe start to bridge that gap of misunderstanding or lack of knowledge of what each other does. I will be contacting all of you to invite you to take a tour. Jason you know that people want to know and understand what other agencies do and how they do it. We are talking about rotating that meeting from one facility to another. This community has a lot of caring organizations but not all of them know what the other ones are doing. We hope the rotating will help with that.

Commissioner Brant—I appreciate the proposal tonight. It is an extremely detailed and well thought out plan. There was a lot of information there so there were questions from Board members. I hope in the next couple of weeks we can get those answered. I think rightfully, it's heavily concentrated on prevention. If I understand correctly, we have several programs in place now for the felons that are in the jail. You don't have any or not enough programs for the misdemeanors. It probably is pretty important that we that we prevent them from getting worse. An ounce of prevention is a worth a pound of cure. We have a lot of treatment programs now, but we are light on prevention. So I applaud that it's heavily weighted on prevention. Secondly, Sandy Libstorff has served on the Community Mental Health Board for 16 years. So on behalf of the County of Monroe I

would like to thank you for your service for those 16 years. It's been a little rough this last year but you did do your part on behalf of the citizens of Monroe County and serve on that Board and I applaud you for that and I thank you for that.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. with no further business to conduct.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa E. Sanders

Lisa E. Sanders

Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Monroe County Board of Commissioners