

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 2, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Chairman Mark Brant called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Brant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF *AMENDED* AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Asper to approve the May 2, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda as amended to add item #7 to Section XI.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (04/18/2023 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the minutes as presented for the April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Mary Bohling, MSU Extension District 12 Director and Detroit Beach resident, announced that over 450 kids attended the Agriculture Day at the fairgrounds last Friday. She invited the Board to attend the Public Meeting at Point Mouillee State Game Area on May 24, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION

1. Presentation of the 2022 Monroe County Commission on Aging Annual [Report](#) by Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director.
 - a. Letter dated April 25, 2023 from Mr. Jeff McBee, requesting that the 2022 Monroe County Commission on Aging Annual Report be accepted and placed on file.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the 2022 Monroe County Commission on Aging Annual Report and place it on file.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

2. Monroe County Board of Commissioners Resolution to Declare its Support for the “Second Amendment in Monroe County, Michigan”.

Chairman Brant explained that this was a Resolution that was adopted in 2020 but has been slightly edited. It is being presented again because there was a request to present it again with new members on the Board.

Commissioner Vensel asked questions and discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Lievens to approve and adopt the edited Monroe County Board of Commissioners Resolution to Declare its Support for the “Second Amendment in Monroe County, Michigan”.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Approval of the 05/03/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$626,488.38

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the 05/03/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$626,488.38 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 April 25, 2023 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director, providing the Commission on Aging’s recommendation on millage rates for the Senior Millage.

Mr. McBee explained the millage rates for the Senior Millage.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Vensel to accept the communication, place on file and approve the recommendation on millage rates for the Senior Millage.

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.

- Letter dated April 21, 2023 from Mr. Michael Woolford, Equalization Director, submitting the 2023 County Government Millage Rates for summer and winter tax bills and recommending the Board’s approval of the millage rates.

Chairman Brant read the recommendation into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the 2023 County Millage Rates as submitted and authorize the Chairman to sign the Michigan Treasury Form L-4029:

County General	4.7952	Summer Tax Bill
Senior Citizen	.5430	Winter Tax Bill
Fairview	.1250	Winter Tax Bill
Museum	.1500	Winter Tax Bill
Veterans	.0060	Winter Tax Bill

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.

- Letter dated April 26, 2023 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer submitting the Cash and Investment Report for the quarter ending March 31, 2023.

Mr. Stanford explained the Report.

Motion by Commissioner Richardville, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the Report and place on file the March 31, 2023 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.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 04/21/2023 in the amount of \$424,814.04
 - b. Check Register dated 04/28/2023 in the amount of \$443,156.84

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, 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 April 20, 2023 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director, recommending the Board approve the draft letter of support for a Planning Assistance Grant for the LaPlaisance Road Corridor, Monroe Charter Township.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the letter of support for a Planning Assistance Grant through SEMCOG to fund the LaPlaisance Road Corridor Project.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

2. Letter dated April 25, 2023 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting proposed updates to Berlin Charter Township’s Master Plan for review and approval of the County Planner’s recommendations. [Link](#) to Plan.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the recommendations of the County Planner and transmit the recommendations to Berlin Charter Township.

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.

- Letter dated April 25, 2023 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting a Summary of a Farmland/Open Space review/recommendation from the County Planner and to approve the application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) for property in Ida Township.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to accept the communication along with the Summary of Farmland review/recommendation to approve the application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for property in Ida Township, place it on file and approve the recommendation of the County Planner.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

- Letter dated April 26, 2023 from Ms. Aundrea Armstrong, Deputy Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, recommending the Board approve the draft letter of support on behalf of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) for \$1.0 Million of federal funding through the United States Environmental Protection Agency to develop a regional Climate Plan for Southeast Michigan.

Ms. Armstrong explained the request.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the letter of support on behalf of SEMCOG for \$1.0 million of federal funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to develop a regional Climate 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.

- Letter dated April 27, 2023 from Ms. Miklyn Halcomb, Investor Relationship Manager, Monroe County Business Alliance, recommending the Board approve the appointment of Ms. Ashleigh Glass, Senior Human Resources Generalist, TWB Company, LLC, to the Southeast Michigan Community

Alliance (SEMCA) Workforce Development Board to a term beginning May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the recommendation to appoint Ms. Ashleigh Glass, TWB Company, LLC to the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) Workforce Development Board for a term beginning May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

6. Letter dated April 28, 2023 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Community Planning & Engagement Director, recommending the Board approve the draft letter of support on behalf of Monroe County Community College's application for funding through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Planning Assistance Program for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning.

Chairman Brant explained the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the letter of support on behalf of Monroe County Community College's application for funding through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Planning Assistance Program for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning.

Discussion commenced.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Asper voted nay and Commissioner Hoffman was excused.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the potential sale of surplus County real estate.

The County has been approached by Bedford Township and they are interested in purchasing property that they have been renting for 40 years. We would like to have Mr. Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer and possibly the Drain Commissioner have discussions with the Bedford Township Board of Trustees to see if they are interested in buying it at the level we are interested in selling it. If it comes to anything, we will bring it back to the Board. Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Swartout to have Mr. Bosanac enter into discussions with the Bedford Township Board of Trustees regarding the sale of surplus County real estate.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Erika Brodie, Frenchtown Township would like \$3,000 of testing to be done to verify that her concerns that she has been talking about multiple times, at Public Comment are true. If so, she would like a Resolution from the Board of Commissioners regarding microwave/radiation poisoning.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the April 18, 2023 meeting: May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

XVII. MEMBERS TIME

Commissioner Vensel—I know my colleagues can tell I am frustrated regarding the Second Amendment Resolution. I learned tonight that the Resolution is already in place and the purpose was to bring new members into the fold. I asked for more information at the Agenda Meeting and I did not get any. I assumed I would get more information tonight. If you already have this Resolution on file and the purpose is to bring the new members, Commissioner Richardville, Heinzerling and myself into the fold then why wouldn't we be given more information. Then we would have an understanding of the purpose of the Resolution, the objectives of the Resolution, the intent of the Resolution, so we can have those kind of questions ahead of time. It would be no different if I were bringing forth a Resolution on some other matter, I would want my colleagues to know exactly what my intent was for bring the Resolution forward. When I see something like this I get the sense that there is not a lot of teeth in it and that it's more political than it is practical. I think that's an example of us getting out of our lane. We've been counseled recently to stay in our lane. So that's the source of my frustration.

Commissioner Swartout—I'd like to congratulate and introduce our new Prosecuting Attorney, Jeff Yorkey.

Commissioner Heinzerling—Pass

Commissioner Lievens—I did want mention how awesome it is that all of our elected officials and department heads attend our meetings and works with us like a team. I did want to mention that May is Motorcycle Awareness Month and I'd like to tell everyone, Look Twice, Save a Life. There's so much distracted driving and it's important that we pay appropriate heed to our fellow travelers.

Commissioner Asper—I always love Jeff (McBee's) reports and how he squeezes a dime to make things work. Speaking to Erika Brodie about the radiation, that's on me (Commissioner Asper) because I need to meet with Congressman Walberg and I have not done that yet. The electric cars item is a fool's errand because it's still on the grid. It doesn't make any difference and it's kind of ridiculous so that's why I voted no on that. As far as the Second Amendment Resolution, it is in our lane. Our people expect us to follow the Constitution. We say a Pledge/Oath to the Constitution. Our County Sheriff is the highest law enforcement agent. He is actually higher than the State Police. He can protect our County from anyone who tries to come and take away guns. Our County Sheriff is a constitutionally defined job whereas State Police are not. We want to protect him and protect our County in case other parts of law enforcement decide to go in another direction.

Commissioner Moore—I would say congratulations to Prosecutor Yorkey as well. I have a question about Sue's reading of the finances about the Tasers and receiving donations. The Sheriff replied that we do negotiate with them and we have tablets for the inmates to use. The funding comes from inmate telephone calling revenue.

Commissioner Richardville—Asked Commissioner Vensel a question of clarification. He asked the Commissioner if he does support the Constitution and the 2nd Amendment but just did not like the procedure by which we passed that Resolution tonight. Commissioner Vensel agreed that he does support the 2nd Amendment. He asked for a round of applause for Prosecutor Yorkey. Want to thank Jeff McBee because it seems that you do a lot of things under the radar screen and I know that there was some contention about some of the things that you presented tonight. You worked through that in a masterful kind of way and very quietly. I just wanted to publically acknowledge that and thank you for your efforts.

Commissioner Hoffman—Excused

Mr. Bosanac—We have 9 department heads and 4 elected officials here tonight. They like to attend these meetings and like to know what is going on. They are also here in case the Board has any questions and to help guide you if needed. Last week I was able to present at the MAC Legislative Conference in Lansing. I presented on Trial Court funding. We are waiting for a Michigan Supreme Court decision in Johnson vs. Alpena as to whether the courts can continue to assess court costs to criminally convicted individuals. I don't see Supreme Court keeping that as a Constitutional practice within the courts. Once that decision comes down it will probably mean annually a reduction of \$600,000 of revenue that goes into the District Court budget and ends up in the General Fund, will go away and will end immediately. We are working with legislature to try to get that money supplementarily appropriated by legislature to fill that hole in County General Funds across the state. I think we will be successful there. It's really just a stopgap solution to moving towards a new model to fund the Trial Courts here in Michigan. I'm just giving you a head's up that there will be an impact here if that decision goes as I predict it will. We will work with the courts and adjust accordingly. I'm not really concerned because this organization is financially sound and we have reserves. We can withstand these kinds of things.

Commissioner Brant--Pass

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 7:01 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