

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Chairman Mark Brant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Chief Deputy County Clerk, Robin Miller, 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 Heinzerling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Commissioner Dawn Asper led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Richardville, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the August 1, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (07/18/2023 Regular Meeting)

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

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION—None

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Approval of the 08/02/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,118,676.49.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the 08/02/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$1,118,676.49 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 July 24, 2023 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer submitting the Cash and Investment Report for the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

Mr. Stanford explained the Report.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept and place on file the June 30, 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 07/21/2023 in the amount of \$640,769.43
- b. Check Register dated 07/28/2023 in the amount of \$167,757.75

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling 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 July 18, 2023 from Ms. Jessica Paladino, Managing Attorney, Indigent Defense Department, requesting approval to accept a grant from the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission for \$2,778,828.91. The County's local share match cost is \$217,687.41 for a total program cost of

\$2,996,516.32. The County match is included in the 2023 budget for the period October 1-December 31, 2023. The balance of the state fiscal year match January 1-September 30, 2024 will be included in the 2024 County budget.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record. Ms. Paladino further explained the request. Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to accept the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission grant of \$2,778,828.91 with a County match of \$217,687.41 for a total program cost of \$2,996,516.32 with the County match included in the 2023 budget for the period October 1-December 31, 2023 and the state fiscal year match January 1-September 30, 2024 will be included in the 2024 County budget.

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 July 27, 2023 from Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer, requesting approval to apply and submit the Child Care Fund budget to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The total budget request to MDHHS is \$4,166,335 with a County match of \$2,083,167.50.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file and approve applying and submitting the FY2024 Child Care Fund budget in the total amount of \$4,166,335 to MDHHS with a County match of \$2,083,167.50. The County local match amount is included in 2023 budget and the state fiscal year match will be included in the 2024 County budget.

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—None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the July 18, 2023 meeting: None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME

Commissioner Heinzerling—Passed

Commissioner Asper—Thank you to Jessica for giving us a good explanation of what's going on there. I want everyone to get out to the Fair this week.

Commissioner Moore—Passed

Commissioner Lievens—Our Retiree Health Care Fund is now over 100% funded. It's a nice place to be. My thanks to the staff for that.

Commissioner Vensel—I too, appreciated Jessica's overview of the office and the good things that they are doing. I've had some interest in looking into a Public Defender's Office just because when you are dealing with indigent folks they need all the help they can get. Would there be a better partnership with a Public Defender's Office with those that are working with mental health and addiction? Assuming a high percentage of cases are related to those 2 things, are they afforded the resources that they can with communication between your office and the "air traffic" controller that's running the mental health. Do they have those kind of opportunities? So that's the reason I inquire about looking at a Public Defender's Office model just to make sure that we're leveling the playing field for those that can't afford attorneys.

Commissioner Swartout—Passed.

Commissioner Hoffman—Excused

Mr. Bosanac—I think Commissioner Vensel makes a good point and we've had some conversations about this. Jessica's office provides counsel with information connecting clients to resources in our community so that we're recognizing where there may be a need from clients who are being served through the Indigent Defense Office. Those attorneys have that information available if they see that need. Even Jessica and Melanie have those connections to our outside partners in the community. It is an important element and we are connecting our citizens to the resources that are out there when they come in to this organization. What else are we doing to put them in a better place and help them out?

Jessica Paladino commented. We are absolutely providing those resources to our attorneys through our office. There's opportunities to request experts to get evaluations done if they need evaluations to get services when they are going through the system. Additionally, we have a wonderful Mental Health Court here in Monroe County that many of our attorneys make referrals to. Those are not through our system once they are accepted to that Court. That is something our attorneys routinely do. Yes, that is absolutely something that's of concern of our office and we do provide our attorneys with the resources so they can provide them to their clients. I don't see that that would change with a Public Defender's Office. I think that would be exactly the same.

Commissioner Richardville—Passed.

Commissioner Brant—Passed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 6:21 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