MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. 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
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout	
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens	

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lievens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the January 23, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (01/09/2024 Organizational Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the minutes as presented for the January 9, 2024 Organizational 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. Payment of the 01/17/2024 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,456,851.70

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Moore to confirm the 01/17/2024 Accounts Payable Current Claims payment as presented on the agenda for $1,456,851.70.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 01/12/2024 in the amount of $247,315.30
   b. Check Register dated 01/19/2024 in the amount of $555,905.70

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Asper 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
David Hoffman	Jay Heinzerling	David Swartout			
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	Greg Moore, Jr.			
Dawn Asper	David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens			

   Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

Board Action:

1. Letter dated January 23, 2024 from Mr. Mark Brant, Chairman, Board of Commissioners providing the 2024 Board of Commissioners Committee appointments.

   Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the Chairman's communication and place it on file as a permanent record of the 2024 Committee appointments.

   Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

1. Presentation of Monroe County Link Plan 2.0, an economic development strategic plan. Link to Draft Link Plan 2.0.

Presenters:

Michael Bosanac—County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer
Aaron Domini—OHM Advisors
Tim Lake—Former Chief Executive Officer, Monroe County Business Alliance
Barry Buschmann—Vice-President, Mannik & Smith
Greg Pitoniak—Chief Executive Officer, SE Michigan Community Alliance/Michigan Works!
Fathi Abdelsalam--Entrepreneur in Residence
TC Clements—Chief Executive Officer, Monroe County Business Alliance

Pillar Teams:

Michigan's Cornerstone—Michael Bosanac & Doug Chaffin (Co-captains)
Mission: Market and enhance the image, brand and opportunities in the County
Vision: Residents and visitors experience Monroe County communities as a great place to live and visit
Prepare for Investment—Barry Buschmann (Captain)
Mission: Prepare for investment that aligns with market demands and business needs throughout the County
Vision: Investment-ready communities with a shared vision and plan
Talent Development—Greg Pitoniak & Stephen McNew (Co-captains)
Mission: Create a dynamic sustainable talent development ecosystem
Vision: A prepared workforce that meets the needs of the community
Launch 734—Fathi Abdelsalam (Captain)
Mission: Create an environment for successful new business formation and growth
Vision: A connected ecosystem that facilitates business growth

Link 2.0 Project Overview

- This Plan sets the stage and gives guidance for key economic strategies and developments in the County. A user friendly, digestible guide that communicates opportunity to the private sector.
- Updates carried from Link 1.0
- **Grounded by 5 key inputs:**
    - Insights from Pillar Teams
    - Market Study-Housing, General Development
    - Analysis of Existing Conditions
    - Input from DTE
    - Best Practices
- **Plan By The Numbers**
    - 4 Pillars (Areas of Focus)
    - 25 Actions
    - 4 Priority Actions
    - 13 Priority Development Areas
- **Link Plan 2.0 in Summary**
    - MI Cornerstone—Investment dollars will directly impact quality of life in Monroe County by facilitating an exciting opportunity to leverage our natural resources into a destination for recreation, exercise and relaxation via a non-motorized pathway and in supporting unparalleled information sharing for both residents and guests.
    - Prepare for Investment—Investment dollars will fund the remaining research and development of a plan that will allow existing ARPA dollars to be spent on large-scale

public infrastructure projects where the best most impactful outcomes will be leveraged for the greatest return on investment.
  - Talent—Investment dollars will be spent directly on labor pool development, training, and education with emphasis on career technical education and adult learning in order to match our existing labor force most seamlessly with current market demands and trends.
  - Launch 734—Investment dollars will be spent in support and development of existing small business in the county in order to assist in maximizing opportunity to scale while also focusing on new business development and smaller scale economic development.
- **Implementation and Next Steps**

Total Five-Year Cost:	$1,513,148
MI Grant (Received):	-511,000
Grants Sought in Next 5 Yrs	-100,000
Link 1.0 Carryover Funds	-141,974
Total Five-Year Investment	$760,174

- **Annual Allocation Request:**

Y1	$291,130	Y2	$202,430	Y3	$118,630
Y4	$82,130	Y5	$65,854		

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve to authorize instruct the Administrator/CFO to prepare an action item for our next meeting of February 6, 2024, to move forward with the recommended steps to implement the Monroe Link Plan 2.0 as outlined by TC Clements.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the January 9, 2024 meeting: None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME*

Commissioner Moore—Thank you to everyone for coming tonight and for the presentation from the Pillar Team Members. As a Board Member of the Business Alliance there are many things that we do fund and this is probably the one that gives us the highest return on investment. As a lifelong Monroe County resident, I've seen a lot of things come and go but this is by far the most exciting thing I've seen in the last 10 years. Kudos to those who are involved with this. There are so many volunteers who are involved and have put in hours and hours of time to see our community move forward and I appreciate all of you.

Commissioner Swartout—I agree with Commissioner Moore and I thought all the presentations were really eye opening.

Commissioner Asper—I really appreciate all that was explained tonight. I'm just so thankful for this County and people that put their time into everything that's going on here. It's just so exciting to be a Commissioner in this County.

Commissioner Lievens—I echo my fellow Commissioners' comments.

Commissioner Heinzerling—Go Lions!

Commissioner Vensel—I echo the same sentiments as my colleagues. Thanks for the presentation and for all the work that everyone has put into this. I've lived in this County my whole life and I'm really blessed that I live here. I'm very appreciative of the work and time that you have all put in.

Commissioner Hoffman—I echo what everyone else is saying. I do remember that about a decade ago, I was involved, along with Commissioner Lievens when we were handing out pink slips to County employees. This County was running in the negative and now look at us today because of brains and the incoming businesses. With the engineers and all the people that we have here tonight, I think anything is possible in Monroe County.

Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO—I want to thank the National Battlefield and the Foundation for hosting this meeting tonight. We could not fit you all into the Board Chambers. I think this room added to the professionalism of the presentation. Staff here helped us do the setup and we appreciate that very much.

Commissioner Richardville—I can't say much more than what has already been said. Great job and great community effort. We have a number of people who came here tonight and I'd like to thank you for being here. I guess the proof will be in the pudding over the next 5 years to see if we can accomplish the things that were put on paper but I think we will be able to do that.
(Asking Mr. Michael Bosanac) We talked about ARPA funding a little tonight and we also have opioid funding that we talked about a year ago that we were going to revisit sometime in the month of February. I've had a couple of people approach me asking about the programs that are in place. Do we have a methodology for people requesting that funding after the first year? Do we have a protocol for some of those people that are interested in that money?
Mr. Bosanac responded—We have received the year end reports from our current service providers. We can get a handle on everything that they have done, where they are at, what are their challenges, what are their opportunities and whether or not they hitting their marks. We are shipping that information off to our partners at Wayne State University who are helping create with our model that is an evaluation model that will be used across the state for program evaluation of funds that are being deployed. We have the Opioid Advisory Task Force evaluating from their perspective, what is working, what is not, what is the unmet need, how do we fill that and who's going to fill that, how are they going to do it, how much money are they going to need, what does that look like as far as an objective. We are trying to pull all those things together so that when we come to the Board late February or early March, we can say this is where we've been and this is where we want to go. This is based on our own experience and that of the Opioid Advisory Task Force. If anyone has any questions, you can direct them to me and I'll direct them back to Jason (Berry) or Sarah Derigo.
Commissioner Richardville commented that the EMA is meeting tomorrow and they will be talking about the contract between the EMA and MCA. Discussion commenced. There's a lot of collaboration and discussion on how to make the contract better since it's been 17 years without an update. Thank you to everybody who put so much effort on this plan (Link 2.0); it's pretty exciting.

Commissioner Brant—Thank you to all who attended and presented tonight. A key component to the success of this Link 2.0 Plan is the cooperation of all the affected local partners' ability to understand how the Plan will benefit you and the County as a whole. Please encourage your Boards to have an open mind and work together with us on this Plan. We look forward to working together to accomplish all that we can together because it's in everybody's best interest for Economic Development. If you ever have any questions or concerns you can contact any of the Board members and if we don't have the answers we can direct you to where the answers are. Thank you everybody for attending this evening. It's nice to see so many people turn out to our Board meeting.

*Due to being in a different location without microphones for the Board of Commissioners, some comments were inaudible and therefore, unable to transcribe.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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