

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, March 19, 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	Greg Moore, Jr.
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens	
Dawn Asper	David Vensel		

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Heinzerling 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 Swartout to approve the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (03/05/2024 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the March 5, 2024 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION

1. [Presentation](#) on Extending Pavement Service Life by Mr. Dave Leach, Managing Director, Road Commission.

2. Presentation by the Every 9th American Committee concerning Senior Services millage and request to place renewal millage on August 6, 2024 primary ballot by Kate Weber, Treasurer and Sandie Pierce, Chairperson.
 - a. Consideration of Resolution to Approve Ballot Proposal
 - i. Millage up to 0.75 mills (\$0.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The millage would be for ten (10) years 2025-2034. The estimated revenue for the first year of the levy is approximately \$5,305,541.00.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Richardville to approve the Resolution to Approve Ballot Proposal for the Senior Millage to be on the August 6, 2024 primary ballot.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 03/20/2024 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$939,451.49.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Swartout, to accept the 03/20/2024 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$939,451.49 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 03/08/2024 in the amount of \$550,039.74
 - b. Check Register dated 03/15/2024 in the amount of \$803,947.99

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

Board Action:

1. Letter dated March 14, 2024 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, requesting a letter of support for SEMCOG's application for the Building Decarbonization Program Climate Pollution Reduction Grant-Implementation Grant.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record. Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Richardville, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file and authorize Chairman Brant to sign the letter of support for the SEMCOG Grant application.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated March 7, 2024 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting a review/recommendation from the County Planner of an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) for property in Erie Township.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication along with the review/recommendation for an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for property in Erie Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Erie Township Board.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

3. Letter dated March 12, 2024 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting a review/recommendation from the County Planner of an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) for a property in Ida Township.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication along with the review/recommendation for an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for a property in Ida Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Ida Township Board.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

4. Letter dated March 12, 2024 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting a review/recommendation from the County Planner of an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) for a property in Ida Township.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record and confirmed that it was a separate property than the property in #3 above.

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

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

5. Letter dated March 6, 2024 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer requesting the Board to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement with Monroe Charter Township and Sheriff's Office for one (1) additional Sheriff Deputy. Further, to authorize the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to effect the requisite budget amendment to fund the County's 20% cost sharing under this agreement based on the starting date of the Deputy Sheriff assigned to the local unit.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement with Monroe Charter Township and the Sheriff's Office and authorize the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to effect the requisite budget amendment needed to fund the County's 20% cost sharing.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

6. Letter dated March 13, 2024 from Mr. Mark Brant, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, submitting the recommended appointments of individuals with corresponding terms of office to the Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority Board.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record and confirmed that he did interview all applicants with the exception of John Cullen who did not return his call.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file and confirm the Chairman's recommended appointments of individuals with corresponding terms of office to the Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority Board.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

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 March 5, 2024 meeting: None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME

Commissioner Hoffman—Thank you to everyone for coming. Thank you to Dave Leach for the Road Commission presentation. I'm glad to see the roads turning around.

Commissioner Asper—I don't mean to be adversarial sometimes, but I have to vote my conscience. I'm not voting against people getting money but I think that this keeps going on and on and it makes no sense. I am glad to be a part of this Board and that we have a solid County and a solid budget and that we do not need to be worried about our senior citizens. I thank all these people who work on these various committees and boards that really help the citizens of our County to thrive.

Commissioner Vensel—I appreciate the presentations. I've seen firsthand the work that is done by these agencies that are dependent on the millage. I support it 100%. Also, I'd like to say great job to Dave Leach who is always extremely responsive to the citizens in the County. As an example, my constituents in District 6 had many questions about flooding and the work being done in ditches and he's been 100% responsive, thoughtful, respectful, and always does follow up. I appreciate your work.

Commissioner Lievens—I echo everyone with their accolades for the presentations. I want to qualify my vote for the letter of support to SEMCOG. I don't want to vote against money for helping seniors and others in the community who get those services for house weatherization. I also recognize this could be a slippery slope and a potential threat to something we have become accustomed to which is cheap, reliable energy. One day we are going to have to take the position and we are going to have to say, NO.

Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO—On behalf of all the comments that we hear from Commissioners, you are always positive. They see the working relationship that you have amongst yourselves and you set a good example. Sometimes we disagree, but your positivity sets a tone for other boards and commissions.

Commissioner Richardville—I echo the same kind of accolades for Dave Leach and the folks who came to present about the senior millage. Also, I wanted to recognize Lamar Frederick who is here this evening who served for a number of years on this Board and continues to give to the community as a member of the Mental Health Authority. Thank you for being here. I also wanted to note that a gentleman was found dead under the Roessler Street bridge yesterday morning. He was someone who was homeless and suffered from mental illness. I think some of us have been trying to lift up the voice of those who are in our County who are struggling as much as this gentleman. I hope that we can gather and then work together to look for the solutions to the problem because they are very real and I see them every day. When you see things like this when somebody has actually died in this situation, it should move all of us to some kind of action.

Commissioner Moore—Excused

Commissioner Swartout, Commissioner Heinzerling, and Commissioner Brant all passed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 6:57 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