

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024. Vice-Chairman Randy Richardville called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior, as follows:

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

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Asper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (09/17/2024 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the September 17, 2024 Regular Meeting and waived the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer – Shared concerns about Mark Brant.
2. Katie Beth-Davis – Shared concerns about safety in the school systems as well as concerns about Mark Brant.
3. Bill Lavoy – Shared concerns about Mark Brant’s legal matter.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION— None.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Confirmation of the 10/02/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report in the amount of \$775,821.82

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the 10/01/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report for \$775,821.82 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		Mark Brant	
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated September 13, 2024 from Mr. David Thompson, Monroe County Drain Commissioner submitting and requesting approval of the 2024 Annual Report for Special Drainage Assessments in the amount of \$2,480,838.77 and placement on the Grand Levy for spreading of assessments.

David Thompson came to the podium and a discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to approve the 2024 Annual Report for Special Drainage Assessments in the amount of \$2,480,838.77 and move the model resolution be adopted.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the apportionment of 50% of the County of Monroe's at large assessment for Special Drainage Assessments of \$139,594.55 to the Monroe County Board of Road Commissioners by moving the model resolution be adopted.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 09/20/2024 in the amount of \$214,925.38
 - b. Check Register dated 09/27/2024 in the amount of \$254,417.94

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated September 25, 2024 from Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer requesting approval to accept the FY 2025 (October 1, 2024- September 30, 2025) Child Care Fund budget from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The total budget approved by MDHHS is \$4,683,933.00 with a county local share amount of \$1,981,353.25 with funding through December 31, 2024 included in the budget and the balance as part of the 2025 budget development.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling supported by Commissioner Lievens to accept the communication and accept the FY2025 Child Care Fund budget in the total amount of \$4,683,933.00 from MDHHS with a County local share of \$1,981,353.25. The County local match amount is included in 2024 budget and the balance as part of the 2025 County budget development.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated September 20, 2024 from Judge Amanda Eicher, 1st District Court requesting approval to accept a grant award from the State Court Administrative Office for the grant period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for funding of the Mental Health Recovery Court in the amount of \$194,052, with a local contribution of \$1,735 to provide for payroll processing costs and travel costs that cannot be provided by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to \$258 would be required in 2024, with the balance of \$1,477 requested to be included in the 2025 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Swartout, to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the acceptance of the grant award from the State Court Administrative Office for the grant period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for funding of the Mental Health Recovery Court in the amount of \$194,052, with a local contribution of \$1,735. Further, authorize the County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to provide an additional appropriation of up to \$258 in 2024 and authorize funding \$1,477 in the 2025 budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- Letter dated September 17, 2024 from Judge Michael Brown, 1st District Court requesting approval to accept a grant award from the State Court Administrative Office for the grant period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for funding of the Veterans Treatment Court in the Amount of \$35,000, with a local contribution of \$770 to provide for payroll processing costs and travel costs that cannot be provided by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to \$88 would be required in 2024, with the balance of \$682 requested to be included in the 2025 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the acceptance of the grant award from the State Court Administrative Office for the grant period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 for funding of the Veterans Treatment Court in the amount of \$35,000, with a local contribution of \$770. Further, authorize the County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to provide an additional appropriation of up to \$88 to the Veterans Treatment Court in 2024 and authorize funding \$682 in the 2025 budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- Letter dated September 16, 2024 from D/Lt. James Jarrett, Michigan State Police MANTIS, requesting approval to accept the Byrne Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$82,036 from the Michigan State Police. No matching funds are required for this grant.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to approve the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$82,036 from the Michigan State Police with no matching funds required.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

5. Letter dated September 13, 2024 from Mrs. Holly Flint, Community Corrections Coordinator requesting approval to accept a FY 2025 grant award and approve the \$300,000 contract from the State of Michigan Department of Corrections for the Monroe County Community Corrections. The grant requires a county match of \$102,557. The 2024 budget includes \$25,639.25 and \$76,917.75 is requested to be included in the 2025 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Swartout, to confirm the communication place it on file and approve/not approve the request to accept the FY2025 grant award and approve the \$300,000 contract from the State of Michigan Department of Corrections for the Monroe County Community Corrections for the FY 2025 with a County match of 102,557 of which \$25,639 is included in the current 2024 and authorize \$76,917.75 to be included in the 2025 budget.

Roll call by clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

6. Letter dated September 25, 2024 from Mr. Michael Woolford, Monroe County Equalization Director submitting the County Apportionment Report with the Grand Levy for 2024 in the total amount of \$263,658,170.84 and recommending the Board accept and adopt the report.

Michael Woolford informed the Board of last year's amount versus this year. Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the 2024 Monroe County Apportionment Report and the Grand Levy in the amount of \$263,658,170.84.

Roll call by Clerk as follow

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

Motion carried.

7. Letter dated September 20, 2024 from Mr. Randy Richardville, Vice Chairman, recommending reappointment of Mr. Stephan Goodman to the Retiree Health Care

Board of Trustees at a 3 year term of office commencing July 31, 2024 and ending July 31, 2027.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Asper, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Stephan Goodman to the Retiree Health Care Board of Trustees at a 3 year term of office commencing July 31, 2024 and ending July 31, 2027.

Discussion was held.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- Letter dated October 1, 2024 from Mr. Chad Zeunen, Interim Director, Emergency Management Division requesting approval to apply for the FY2025 Emergency Performance Grant (EMPG) from the Michigan State Police Emergency Management, Homeland Security Division for funding up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefits of the Monroe County Emergency Management Director.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to apply for the FY2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) from the Michigan State Police Emergency Management, Homeland Security Division for funding up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefits of the Monroe County Emergency Management Director.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- Letter dated October 1, 2024 from Mr. Chad Zeunen, Interim Director, Emergency Management Division requesting approval to accept up to \$50,000 of additional grant funds from the Southeastern Michigan Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Planning Board to support funding for Planning Solution Area Analyst personnel in Monroe County from the UASI 2021 award performance period with no County matching funds.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Moore, to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the acceptance of additional funding up to \$50,000, from the Southeastern Michigan Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

Planning Board for Monroe County for FY2021 with no County matching funds.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

10. Letter dated September 26, 2024 from Mr. Mark Brant submitting his resignation effective October 1, 2024 as the District 2 County Commissioner.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman, to acknowledge the communication, place it on file, and accept Mark Brant's resignation.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

11. Election of Board of Commissioners Chairperson

Ms. Annamarie Osment came to the podium to open the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Hoffman nominated Commissioner Randy Richardville. Commissioner Richardville then accepted this nomination. Ms. Osment asked two more times before closing the floor for nominations.

Ms. Osment then closed the floor for nominations and asked for a motion to elect Commissioner Richardville as Chairman of the Monroe County Board Commissioners with a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Vensel, to accept Commissioner Richardville as Chairman of the Monroe County Board Commissioners with a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion Carries.

Chairman Richardville thanked the Board and said he will do the best he can to steer this ship through the rest of the calendar year.

12. Election of Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairperson, if needed.

Chairman Richardville opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Heinzerling nominated Commissioner J. Henry Lievens. Commissioner Hoffman supported this motion. Chairman Richardville asked two more times before closing the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Mary Bowling, Frenchtown Township, informing the Board of a trailer donated to the Sheriff's department in August to help with any incidents involving livestock. On Thursday October 3rd from 1pm-3pm there is a training class for any first responders.

Discussion was held.

2. Katy Beth-Davis, Monroe Charter Township, stated that for students in Monroe County that there are a lot of people who support them. She asked if Mark Brant were to get elected that the fellow County Commissioners would encourage him to resign again.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the September 17, 2024 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Mike Bosannac – Stated he wrote in the administrative report about the recognition that was given to Linda Bets from the Michigan Works Monroe Office. She was recognized at the Michigan Works! Conference that was attended by 900 people for her amazing work at the Monroe Office of Michigan Works! Great job to Stacey McCoy and her team.

Commissioner Moore – Passed.

Commissioner Sawrtout – Passed.

Commissioner Vensel – Passed.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Go Tigers!

Commissioner Asper – Go Tigers, go Lions! Also noted to Katy Beth that the Board of Commissioners is no longer supervisory to Community Mental Health. The County makes CMH board appointments but have no role with their budget. She also stated as a Board, the Commissioners have had a very solid board as far as what they've done for this community.

Commissioner Hoffman – It was a sad day for Monroe County and if we had any idea, we would have taken care of the problem. He said Monroe County is strong and we're going to stay strong. Now it's done and we have a new chair and a new vice-chair and we will work forward and keep this board strong.

Commissioner Lievens – Thank you to all his fellow colleagues for their confidence in asking him to assist in leadership to the balance this year. He is humbled and privileged and he won't let us down. Secondly, the Sobriety Court is now taking initiative here in Monroe County to serve one of our underserved communities battling with addiction and substance abuse.

Chairman Richardville – Thank you everyone for the confidence in him to get us through the rest of the year. Everyone has worked very hard this year on a number of matters, including the budget. Thank you Commissioner Lievens for stepping up. Finally, he stated on behalf of this board for any transparency issues or any lack of confidence in the government, I apologize on behalf of this board for the behavior of the board; not anyone in particular here. It just needed to be addressed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Richardville adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Grace Drewior
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
Monroe County Board of Commissioner