MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. 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	
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 Vensel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Vensel to approve the November 12, 2024 Rescheduled Meeting Agenda.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (10/15/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting and then waived the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steve Meyer: Shared his questions about the Ad-Hoc Committee and his concerns with commissioners Gmail accounts.

   Chairman Richardville stated that he believes most of Mr. Myer's questions will be answered throughout the meeting.

2. Kevin Raymo: Shared concerns about the insurance rates for retirees.

   Chairman Richardville asked Michael Bosanac if we could talk to him individually.

   Michael Bosanac said to make an appointment and he will be happy to go through the information.

3. Debra Fortune: Shared information regarding Mark Brant's legal situation and stated her concerns. Ms. Fortune then stated that she was unsure about the prayer and she believes there should be a separation between church and state.

4. Bill Lavoy: Stated he was recording his remarks. Mr. Lavoy stated he believes the Board violated state law by not filling the District 2 vacancy within thirty (30) days ~~a~~nd that he believed a disservice was done to the citizens in said district.

   Chairman Richardville stated per legal counsel that the thirty (30) day clock to fill a vacant seat started on the day Mark Brant signed his plea in March, according to State Law. The Board did not find out until the middle of September, so there was not an opportunity to fill the seat by the time the Board found out.

   Bill Lavoy then stated his concerns with decisions made by the board from the time he plead. Mr. Lavoy then said he appreciates the commissioners and the time they are now putting into this once they found out what was happening, so thank you.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION— None.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 11/6/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report in the amount of $1,147,522.08.

   Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the 11/6/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report for $1,147,522.08 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

2. Letter dated October 21, 2024 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer, submitting the Cash and Investment Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2024.

   Mr. Stanford discussed the report.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the quarter-ended September 30, 2024 Cash and Investment Report, and place it on file.

3. Update on status and development of 2025-2026 Budget from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer.

   Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO, discussed the preliminary status of the 2025-2026 Budget and the development via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from Commissioners. At the November 19, 2024 meeting, there will be a Final Presentation (short Executive Summary on Recommended Budget) as part of the Hearing, Budget Hearing, and Adoption of the Resolution during the Regular Meeting.

Link to Power Point presentation: HERE

Discussion was held with no action taken. Vice-Chairman Lievens addressed public comment concerning District 2 not having representation by stating the full board serves the four corners of the county, the budget is not done by districts. Chairman Richardville stated he appreciates Michaels Bosanac's and his department's hard work.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims.
   a. Check Register dated 10/18/2024 in the amount of $ 270,935.50
   b. Check Register dated 10/25/2024 in the amount of $ 356,343.46
   c. Check Register dated 11/01/2024 in the amount of $ 325,707.78
   d. Check Register dated 11/08/2024 in the amount of $ 396,423.93

Chairman Richardville read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens 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			
David Vensel	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.				

2. Operations Committee- Report of Committee Chairman from 10/22/2024 meeting. Link to Operations Committee 10/22/2024 Agenda Packet: HERE
   a. MIDC Discussion
   b. Opioid Funding Discussion
   c. Board of Commissioners By-laws and Ethics Discussion

Vice-Chairman Lievens stated the MIDC presented an informational PowerPoint, as well as answered all the commissioner's questions. There was also discussion of the goals and missions for the opioid funding. Finally, Vice-Chairman Lievens explained how this meeting was mainly discussion excluding the vote to create an Ad Hoc Committee which was discussed more at the November 7, 2024 Meeting. No action was taken.

3. Operation Committee- Report of Committee Chairman from 11/07/2024 meeting. Link to Operations Committee 11/07/2024 Agenda Packet: HERE
   a. Ethics Committee Discussion

Vice-Chairman Lievens informed the Board and public who the members of the Ad Hoc Committee are: David Vensel as Chairman, Bob Neely, Mike Roehrig, Bill Sisk, and

Randy Richardville. Vice-Chairman Lievens then stated that the scope of this is better practices and this committee is not an investigation. This is how we can look back to what happened and better practices going forward.

Vice-Chairman Lievens hereby moved to adopt the recommendation of the Operations Committee Meeting on November 7, 2024, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee which shall be composed of 5 members, they being Commissioner David Vensel, as Chairman, Bob Neely, Mike Roehrig, and Bill Sisk, as outside members, and Chairman Randy Richardville completing the five member Ad Hoc Committee, and such Ad Hoc Committee is to investigate matters concerning governing rules of Ethics and Codes of Conduct of the County Board of Commissioners and the Operations Committee, related to the recent resignation of the past Chairman of the Board, subject to the following:

The Ad Hoc Committee shall have no power to exercise any governmental or proprietary authority or to perform a governmental or proprietary function.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall not deliberate toward or render any decision on a public policy.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall not make any determination, action, vote, or disposition with effectuates or formulates public policy.

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be to investigate and provide information to the Board of Commissioners, or to provide information to the Operations Committee, and to research and report on Codes of Conduct, Ethics, and the process relating to such matters, and then report to either the Board of Commissioners or the Operations Committee as appropriate.

This Ad Hoc Committee is strictly a temporary Committee to act as quickly as possible, but in any event, to have no further authority after December 31, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Vensel, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to adopt the recommendation of the Operations Committee Meeting on November 7, 2024, to establish an Ad Hoc Committee.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Moore shared his concerns with this Committee's members on behalf of the citizens. He stated he did not believe it was independent and he believes it needs to be made up of no commissioners.

Chairman Richardville stated that the Ad Hoc Committee is put in place to focus on by-laws and ethics going forward. He then shared that the members chosen have lengthy experience in code of conduct, ethics, compliance, etc.

Commissioner Moore stated that in order to be fully transparent, you cannot have the members being investigated, be in the investigating committee.

Commissioner Asper shared that she believes the main focus should be finishing the budget and moving forward. Commissioner Brant wanted to make sure the community was involved and she stated this should be open to the community and have more neutral citizen party. She then stated that she thinks the new Board in January should move forward with this.

Commissioner Hoffman stated that we are talking about by-laws and code of conduct which we need since we don't have the correct ones right now.

Commissioner Asper shared she wants to have the meeting on video, so more citizens can watch in order to be transparent.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated October 28, 2024 from Chief Deputy Mike Preadmore, requesting acceptance of the Community Engagement (Policing) Program Grant Award in the amount of $30,000 for expenses incurred in fiscal years 2025 and 2026 under the program. There is no match required for this grant.

   Chairman Richardville read the request into the record.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and accept the Community Engagement (Policing) Program Grant Award in the amount of $30,000 for FY2025 and 2026 with no match required.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

2. Letter dated October 28, 2024 from Chief Deputy Mike Preadmore, requesting acceptance of the fiscal year 2025 MCOLES Justice Training Grant Award in the amount of $29,119.55 with a minimum local match of 25% or $7,279.89. The match amount will be funded from the Sheriff's Office 2025 budget.

   Chairman Richardville read the request into the record.

   Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file and accept the FY2025 MCOLES Justice Training Grant Award in the amount of $29,119.55 with a minimum local match of 25% or $7,279.89. The match amount will be funded from the Sheriff's Office 2025 budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated Letter dated November 5, 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 Ash Township.

   Chairman Richardville read the request into the record.

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

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

4. Letter dated November 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 property in Milan Township.

   Chairman Richardville 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 a property in Milan Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Milan Township Board.

   Roll call by Clerk as follow

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Letter dated October 17, 2024 from Chairman Richardville appointing Commissioner Heinzerling to the Operations Committee.

2. Letter dated October 17, 2024 from Chairman Richardville appointing Commissioner Heinzerling to the Monroe County Land Bank Authority.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steve Meyer: Shared concerns for the vacant seat on the Board and who takes responsibility for not filling it. He then stated his questions were not answered during this meeting. Mr. Meyer questioned land Mr. Brant gave to the county.

2. Bill Lavoy: Stated he has a lot more questions now. He inquired what legal opinion was used that Mark Brant's term ended in March when he signed his plea. He then asked if one could obtain the audio recording of these meetings through FOIA. He also asked if the Ad Hoc Meetings are going to be open to the public. Questioned if the election had been certified. Mr. Lavoy also stated when you have an Administrator and their second not coming forth with this stuff; he believes it opens the County up to a liability. He finally stated that he thinks termination of these administrators would start to restore the public trust.

3. Dwayne Dobbs: Stated that once a commissioner is sworn in the taxpayers pay their insurance and salary, is that correct? Is it fair that people in District 2 are paying him to do a job that he cannot do for eighteen (18) months.

4. Debra Fortune: Stated she agrees with everything Commissioner Moore said. Shared a past experience with the board where she was voted against and explained that Mark Brant was a commissioner voting against her and she stated she doesn't think it is right. She then stated that she is sure many citizens were harmed during this situation. She said that anyone that knew about Mark Brant's situation should be gone. Ms. Fortune finished her comment by inquiring about Mark Brant paying his salary back and the decisions made during the timespan that he wasn't a commissioner.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the October 15, 2024 meeting: None

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Moore – Stated he is deeply disappointed in the missed opportunity from this Board. He then said, we had a real opportunity to be 100% transparent and it should have been truly independent.

Commissioner Lievens – Stated that there was little participation by Moore as well as solutions to the Operations Committee where the Ad Hoc Committee was discussed. He finished his comment by thanking everyone for coming tonight.

Commissioner Hoffman –Stated were working on our by-laws, we have to get a code of ethics. He then stated the State Police will be involved with this and then there will be a clean investigation and everyone will know everything.

Commissioner Asper – Ditto Commissioner Moore. Stated she looks forward to getting the meetings on video and that our audio is archived so she assumes that it is able to be accessed through FOIA. She then encouraged people to stop posting certain things on social media.

Commissioner Vensel – As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, I pledge to move with a sense of urgency and a spirit of transparency. The work of the committee will not be in a public forum. But the findings will be brought to the Operations Committee and then to the Board of Commissioners. He asks to give them a chance and have a little faith in them.

Commissioner Heinzerling –I just want to commend the efforts of the Michigan State Police and First Responders today for how fast they reacted to the accident on I-75 and I-275.

Chairman Richardville – Stated that he has been meeting with legal agencies, lawyers, etc. and he has learned a lot. This is a very complex thing we are going through with the past chairman. We are trying to clarify things as much as we can. There are questions that have to be answered by January 1, but that is not for this board or Ad Hoc Committee. The top priority for this board is to finish the budget. This committee has no power, all they can do is investigate by-laws and ethics and bring their finding to the Operations Committee. He also said that there is no precedent for this particular situation since it has never happened before. There is no precedent where a sitting Charmin plead to a felony and did not tell anyone about it. He shared about looking into void and voidable items in the timeframe from March to September due to Mark Brant signing his plea. This committee will be looking to improve polices and by-laws for the future; this committee is not empowered to investigate who knew what when. The last thing he shared was that the Board did not appoint a Commissioner for District 2 because they did not have time once they found out, the 30 days already passed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Richardville adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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