MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, December 17, 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 Hoffman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting with an amendment to move item sixteen (16), Special Tributes, above the next agenda item, item six (6).

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Chairman Richardville presented the Saint Mary Catholic Central Varsity Volleyball Team with a Special Tribute to celebrate their terrific season.

Commissioner Hoffman presented the Eighth (8th) Grade Saint Mary Catholic Central Football Team with a Special Tribute to celebrate their incredible season.

Chairman Richardville presented the Saint Mary Catholic Central Varsity Football Team with a Special Tribute to celebrate their amazing season.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (11/19/2024 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Vensel, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting and then waived the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

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.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer: Mr. Meyer spoke about observations he had from the Ad-Hoc Committee Report. Mr. Meyer talked about a Detroit Free Press news article and quoted Mark Brant when he said his fellow board members volunteered to handle all his constitutes concerns. Mr. Meyer inquired what this means and who is responsible for handling Mark Brant's messages.

2. Gail Keane: Ms. Keane explained she came to the Board asking about the rules, guidelines, and ethics in 2019. Stated she was told by the legal team that they were working on the rules and ethics, but she believes they did not. Ms. Keane said that the Board is human and everybody makes mistakes, no one is perfect. Ms. Keane then spoke about the Sherriff's department being held to a statutory job and also discussed the two schools shootings that happened recently. She asked if the County can do anything to help all the schools and townships.

3. Mike Gayiner: Mr. Gayiner told everyone Merry Christmas and explained that whoever does the minutes, he can keep up and understand what is going on, and thanked the Board for that. Mr. Gayiner stated the Commissioners and Administrative team have done a marvelous job at looking at the succession plan for Mr. Bosanac. Explains he is at a loss to understand why at the last meeting the Board decided to discontinue the succession plan that was in place with Ms. Armstrong and her position. Mr. Gayiner has spent a lot of time and money preparing for people to retire and states he thought it was a wonderful plan and he is curious why it happened.

4. Dwayne Dobbs: Mr. Dobbs explained his biggest problem with District 2 is if anybody does not show up for their regular job, then don't get paid. They get fired. Mr. Dobbs said, but were going to pay this man for next twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months to sit in a federal prison in another state and do nothing for Monroe County. Mr. Dobbs then elaborated on a letter he emailed to almost every Elected Official in Michigan that has anything to do with Monroe.

5. Shawna Farley: Ms. Farley stated she believes Mark Brant receiving his regular income is a disservice. She then recognized Commissioner Heinzerling for sitting down and explaining things to her. Ms. Farley explained that maintaining integrity and trust in public office is crucial to maintain the confidence of the community they represent. Mr. Farley then asked, for our public, that Public Officials be held to the same standard of transparency and honesty that are expected from the members of our community.

6. Joe Bellino: Mr. Bellino states he is sure the Administrators regret writing a

letter for Mark Brant and that the Administration has most likely made statements and decisions in the past that have upset members of this Board. Mr. Bellino stated that what he is asking for is to steady the ship and keep the same leadership we have had for fifteen (15) years.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION—

1. Resolution of Support and Funding for River Raisin Heritage Trail Rehabilitation Project

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the Resolution of Support and Funding for River Raisin Heritage Trail Project.

   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. Resolution to Amend the Monroe County 2024 General Fund Budget

   Michael Bosanac, Administrator, CFO, explained that all local units of government as they approach their yearend, tidy up financial statements.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the Resolution to Amend the Monroe County 2024 General Fund Budget.

   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.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 12/18/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report in the amount of $899,717.66.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Vensel to confirm the 12/18/2024 Accounts Payable Claims Report in the amount of $899,717.66 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Discussion was held.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:
Motion carried.

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

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims.
   a. Check Register dated 12/06/2024 in the amount of $557,877.62
   b. Check Register dated 12/13/2024 in the amount of $405,747.88

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

Motion carried.

2. Operations Committee – Report of Committee Chairman from 12/10/2024 Meeting. Link to Operations Committee 12/10/2024 Agenda Packet: HERE

   a. Update of Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations/Ethics

Vice-Chairman Lievens read the Ad-Hoc Committee Findings Report aloud to the Board and the public.

Chairman Richardville recognized the Ad-Hoc Committee for all their hard work, early mornings, late nights, etc. Chairman Richardville then explained that the Ad-Hoc Committee doesn't have the power to make any suggestions or recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Dawn asked if the motion could be changed to accept the communication rather than a recommendation. She also explained how she felt parts of the report were too nebulous but then others parts were way too specific.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and place on file the Ad-Hoc Committee Findings as reported and presented.

Discussion was held.

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.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated November 25, 2024 from Ms. Jamie Dean requesting approval to apply for and accept a Medical Marijuana and Oversight Grant from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in the amount of $53,768 with no match required.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the application for and acceptance of a Medical Marijuana and Oversight Grant from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in the amount of $53,768 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 December 10, 2024 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Director, Human Resources, recommending approval of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe and the Technical, Professional & Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM) Public Health Nurses with a term expiring December 31, 2027.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Asper to approve the recommendation and ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe and the Technical, Professional & Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM) with a term expiring December 31, 2027 and authorize the Chairman to execute the same on behalf of the County.

   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.

Discussion was held.

3. Letter dated December 11, 2024 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Director, Human Resources, recommending approval of the tentative collective bargaining

agreement between the County of Monroe, the 38th Circuit Court- Family Division, and the Technical, Professional & Officeworkers of Michigan (TPOAM) with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Vensel to approve the recommendation and ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe, the 38th Circuit Court- Family Division, and the Technical, Professional & Officeworkers of Michigan (TPOAM) with a term expiring December 31, 2026 and authorize the Chairman to execute the same on behalf of the County.

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.

4. Letter dated December 10, 2024 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Director, Human Resources, recommending approval of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe, the Monroe County 9-1-1 District Board and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (911 Dispatchers) with a term expiring December 31, 2027.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the recommendation and ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe, the Monroe County 9-1-1 District Board and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (911 Dispatchers) with a term expiring December 31, 2027 and authorize the Chairman to execute the same on behalf of the County.

   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.

5. Letter dated December 10, 2024 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/ Chief Financial Officer requesting the Board to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement with Bedford Public Schools and Sheriff's Office for two (2) additional Sheriff Deputies. Further, to authorize the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to effect the requisite budget amendment to fund the County's 33.4% cost sharing under this agreement based on the starting date of each Deputy Sheriff assigned to the local unit.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Moore to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement with Bedford Public Schools and Sheriff's Office and authorize the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to effect the requisite budget amendment needed to fund the County's 33.4% cost sharing.

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.

Vice-Chairman Lievens thanked everyone for attending and sharing their comments. He wished everyone a happy holiday and explained his boys have solos in their Christmas concert so he has to make his exit.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Letter dated November 26, 2024 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer recommending the compensation for elected County Board of Commissioners for 2025 and 2026 along with adopting the resolution.

   Commissioner Moore inquired if the Board was allowed to zero out district twos compensation and then revisit it each year for the four year term.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place on file and approve and adopt the Resolution approving compensation amounts for elected County Board of Commissioners for 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steve Meyer: Mr. Meyer explained that Michigan State Law is two and a half (2.5) ounces as long as it is between adults and there is no money exchange. If there is a money exchange, they have to be a vendor, which Mark Brant was not. Michigan State Law also states being in possession of more than 45

kilograms, is a felony charge with a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. Mr. Meyer explained that Mark Brant was responsible for more than twice this amount.

2. Bill Lavoy: Thanked Chairman Richardville for his four years of service and gave him a round of applause. Mr. Lavoy stated he agreed with Commissioner Moore about defunding the District two (2) salary. He also suggested there be a legislative piece to this report as well as a judicial one. Mr. Lavoy explained that everything he has been asking for since October 1st, was included in this report. States that he believes this Committee did a good job trying to help restore public trust. Thank you very much, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody.

3. Gail Keane: Ms. Keane asked about the money spent on signs for bikes. States she believes these signs are unneeded and she is objecting to the amount of money put into the program. Ms. Keane is requesting that some ARPA money go back to the drain commissioner so he can buy a mower and keep his drains mowed. Ms. Keane begins to discuss Mark Brant and explains she believes it is a mistake to keep anyone in office for four (4) years. Ms. Keane said she appreciates the Board's service and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

4. Shawna Farley: Ms. Farley defined cronyism as the appointment of friends and associates to positions of authority, without proper regard to their qualifications. Ms. Farley explained that she believes Bellino writing a letter of character is an example of this. States her confidence in legislative has wavered.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the December 3, 2024 meeting:
    a. Special Tribute recognizing the Saint Mary Catholic Central Varsity Volleyball Team for a terrific season.
    b. Special Tribute recognizing the Saint Mary Catholic Central Varsity Football Team for an amazing season.
    c. Special Tribute recognizing the Eighth (8th) Grade Saint Mary Catholic Central Football Team for an incredible season.

    Vice-Chairman Lievens made a motion to move this agenda item above item six (6) at the beginning of the meeting.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore –Explains he didn't volunteer but he believes it is quite unfair that District two (2) constitutes don't have representation right now. States that if there are any issues in District two (2), obviously one of the Commissioner will take care of it. Commissioner Moore then explained that the bike signs are not posted for the biker, but for the driver to be aware to look for bikes. He also stated that we spend millions and millions on Lake Erie. Told Commissioner Richardville it has been a pleasure serving with him the last four (4) years.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Vensel – Echoed what Commissioner Moore said regarding the quote in the paper. He stated he serves every citizen in Monroe County. Elaborates that if there is a citizen in District two (2) that needs help resolving an issue or answering a question, he is going to do it. For clarity, he stated that it is not on behalf of Mark Brant it is because they care about the citizens of Monroe County. Commissioner Vensel finished his comment by recognizing and thanking the Ad-Hoc Committee members.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and have a safe New Year.

Commissioner Asper – Explained that some things are unchangeable about Lake Erie. Explains her solution 8 years ago and that they are still working on it. She then stated that when it comes to Mark Brant she only went by the letter he gave. She explains the news is ether inaccurate or have been summarized. She then explained her District is close to District two (2) and she would be happy to help. States she appreciates the comments made tonight. She then said, if anyone has questions, call your commissioner or any of us.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated everyone knows how he feels about it. Thanked everyone for coming out tonight and then reminded everyone the real reason for this season is Jesus. Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Lievens – Excused.

Chairman Richardville – Thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Explains how covid changed things and how elected officials lost connection with the community over those years. Dropping the computers down and streaming the meetings online would be very helpful in restoring that connection. Thank you to Jacob Perry for ordering a sample computer after hearing commissioners talk about it. Chairman Richardville thanked Mike and the legal team. He explained the last few months were quite chaotic, but they completed everything necessary and more. Explains that all commissioners have been reelected and Brian Lamour will be sitting in his place. He hopes the Board can be more transparent, listen more, and talk less. Thanked everyone for working with him for the last four (4) years.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Richardville adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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