MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT			ABSENT
David Hoffman	David Vensel	David Swartout	Jay Heinzerling
J Henry Lievens	Brian Lamour		
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.		

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Vensel 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 Lamour to approve the February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda with an amendment to add an update on the investigation under Old Business.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (02/04/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the February 4, 2025 Regular Meeting and then waived the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer: Mr. Meyer shared his concerns with the District two (2) seat as well as the special election mentioned at the last meeting. Mr. Meyer also

discussed a FOIA Request he filled out regarding the same topic.

2. Al VanWashenova: Mr. VanWashenova asked who the correct contact would be for ARPA money. Mr. VanWashenova explained he needs help with the direction of what to do to make sure he does it correctly.

3. Rick Kull: Mr. Kull thanked the Commissioners for serving on the board. Mr. Kull then stated he heard that the courthouse might stop allowing outside parties to meet in the Board Chambers and shared his concerns regarding that.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Resolution offered by Commissioner Asper for adoption of the National Association of Counties Code of Ethics for County Officials.

   Commissioner Asper elaborated on this Resolution and explained her reasoning behind it.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to adopt the Resolution for the National Association of Counties Code of Ethics for County Officials.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 2/19/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $940,603.90

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the 2/19/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $940,603.90 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		Jay Heinzerling	
Greg Moore, Jr.	Brian Lamour				
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				

   Motion carried.

2. Letter dated February 6, 2025 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer, submitting the Cash and Investment Report for the quarter that ended December 31, 2024.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept and place on file the quarter-ended December 31, 2024 Cash and

Investment Report.

Jesse Stanford explained the report and elaborated on some differences from last year compared to this year.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims.
   a. Check Register dated 02/07/2025 in the amount of $ 274,998.82
   b. Check Register dated 02/14/2025 in the amount of $ 651,298.13

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour 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		Jay Heinzerling	
Greg Moore, Jr.	Brian Lamour				
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated February 3, 2025 from Honorable Cheryl E. Lohmeyer, Chief Probate Judge, requesting approval to submit a Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant (CPLR) application to the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Melissa Strong, Probate Court Administrator, answered questions regarding this Grant and explained the Grant further.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the submission of the CPLR application to the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated January 31, 2025 from Mr. Michael Preadmore, Chief Deputy, requesting approval to apply for the Fiscal Year 2025 Marine Safety Grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the amount up to $63,535; the potential local match is included in the 2025 adopted budget.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place on file, and approve the application for the Fiscal Year 2025 Marine Safety Grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the amount up to $63,535; the potential local match is included in the 2025 adopted budget.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

3. Letter of Intent related to proposed lease of the dental clinic space at the Monroe Public Safety facility.

   Michael Bosanac, CFO/Administrator, explained this letter of intent as well as the history of the dental clinics in Monroe.

   Jamie Dean, Health Director, explained that there is a dental access issue in our community. Ms. Dean also answered the Commissioner's questions.

   Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place on file, and approve the Letter of Intent and authorize the Administrator/CFO, Health Officer and Legal Advisor to prepare a lease agreement for dental clinic space at the Public Health facility and submit it to the Board for final approval.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

4. Letter dated February 13, 2025 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer regarding the Government Finance Officers Association Award of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Asper explained this is something no else gets and thanked the Administrator for how he makes the County look good all the time.

Michael Bosanac gave credit to Sue Maier and Crystal Comers for all the work they do in the Finance Department. They have received this award 28 times out of the last 30 years and have also won the award 24 years consecutively.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and place it and the certificate on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. February 18, 2025, Final Date for Commissioners to submit to the County Legal Advisor any Proposed Changes to the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure; March 4, 2025, Review and Approval of Proposed Changes to the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure from the County Legal Advisor.

   Tom Graham, Legal Advisor, explained he is working on these and will have a copy ready for the March 4, 2025 meeting. Mr. Graham stated today was the last day for any changes to be turned in.

2. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission/Department update

   Mary Gantzos, MIDC Managing Attorney, updated the Board on new tactics attorneys are going to start using as well as the state doing quarterly audits.

   Discussion was held.

3. Update of American Rescue Plan Act final phase funding plan and remaining infrastructure investments for economic development projects.

   Michael Bosanac, CFO/Administrator, explained where these funds are sitting and what they're being used on. He also discussed some projects going on throughout the County.

   Discussion was held.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

1. Investigation Update

   Chairman Vensel updated the Board on where the Vice-Chairman and himself are at regarding this investigation. He explained they have been calling the recommended law firms and they have another call appointment tomorrow.

Commissioner Asper asked if there was a criteria.

Chairman Vensel stated he uses the criteria that was established among other things.

Vice-Chairman Lievens explained coordinating schedules is quite difficult and that is why it is taking a little longer than hoped.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer: Mr. Meyer explained his concerns with the legal letter that was released. He explained that he believes the County Commissioner came out of their Closed Session at the last meeting with more decided than what was included in said session. He stated the legal letter said nothing about a special election. Mr. Meyer also discussed a few quotes from a news article.

2. Bill Lavoy: Mr. Lavoy thanked Commissioner Asper for bringing the Code of Ethics to the Board. He then explained Mark Brant would have violated most of these. Mr. Lavoy also discussed the poster outside the courthouse. Mr. Lavoy then brought up the $600,000 going to one attorney and stated an audit should be done.

   Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Asper asked if the member's time and announcements could be moved so that the closed session is at the end.

   Chairman Vensel said he was fine with that and they started member's time.

XVI. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Commissioner Moore thanked IT for getting the Monroe Emails set up so quickly and then asked about the approximate time that streaming our meetings will be available.

Jacob Perry explained the PO was approved and we are waiting for the equipment. It should be about 30 days.

Commissioner Moore recognized Supervisor Grodi at the meeting and then thanked Bill Lavoy for bringing the poster to their attention.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Passed.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Excused.

Commissioner Asper – Commissioner Asper explained to Mr. Lavoy that we have quite vigorous audits on how County funds are being used. She also stated that is what the County receives the Government Finance Officers Association

Award(GFOA) for. Commissioner Asper also shared how a few years ago the auditors told us they were amazed we did such a good job because we didn't have the personnel for it.

Commissioner Hoffman – Commissioner Hoffman explained the board is trying to get back on track. He stated most on the board would like to see a resignation letter from Brant but we don't know if we're going to see it. Commissioner Hoffman stated if it was him in the position, he would resign to save the embarrassment for the County.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Vice-Chairman Lievens thanked Ms. Gantzos for all her hard work. He then stated he wants to do everything in their power to facilitate this place as a meeting place. Vice-Chairman Lievens also explained they need to look into Hoffman's concerns with security.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the February 4, 2025 meeting:
    a. Commissioner Asper informed the public of a fundraiser at Paula's House a week from Friday from 5pm – 7:30pm. It is $20 and there is spaghetti. They are doing such a wonderful service, let's support them.

XVIII. CLOSED SESSION

1. Discussion on collective bargaining

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens supported by Commissioner Asper to go into Closed Session to discuss collective bargaining.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried and Closed Session began at 7:10 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to come out of Closed Session and go back on the record at 8:08 pm.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Discussion was held. Chairman Vensel clarified this will come before the Board at the next meeting.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens supported by Commissioner Lamour to follow the recommendation of the bargaining team.

Vice-Chairman Lievens stated he is going to be an advocate for the hazardous duty pay as well as looking at the practicalities of reopening the pension system.

Discussion was held.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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