MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Chairman David Vensel 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	David Vensel	David Swartout	J Henry Lievens
Jay Heinzerling	Brian Lamour		
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.		

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Swartout led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the March 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda with the addition of a new item XI-3 under communications regarding confirmation of the County's denial of Steven Meyer's FOIA request for public records relating to Mark Brant being asked to resign.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (02/18/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the minutes as presented for the February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Asper added the amendment to waive the reading thereof.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Dale DeSloover: Informed the Board of a SEMCOG Planning Assistance Grant. He proposed building a pedestrian bridge from Waterloo Park to North Custer Bike Trail with

these funds. He shared his ideas and stated if the County applied for this grant, he believes they would get it.

2. Bill Saul and Nancy Williams: Ms. Williams explained that they would like an opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss projects for the front of the courthouse. An architect, Mark Kohler, drew up some plans to make the Courthouse more historical and they would like to be able to present it to them. Mr. Saul explained they have experience and he is an enthusiastic.

   Discussion was held.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Special Tribute recognizing the Saint Mary's Catholic Central Girls Basketball Team for an undefeated season.

   Commissioner Swartout explained there were some scheduling issues so we are going to do this at a different date.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 3/05/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $843,491.08

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the 3/05/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $843,491.08 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims.
   a. Check Register dated 02/21/2025 in the amount of $ 678,458.90
   b. Check Register dated 02/28/2025 in the amount of $ 318,749.31

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

   Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated February 19, 2025 from Ms. Jamie Dean, Health Director, requesting approval to submit a one-year Work Program draft to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for the Materials Management Planning Grant. This grant would yield an estimated $137,404.50 annually with no matching requirement.

   Chris Westover, Environmental Health Director, explained how they are trying to avert as many items as possible from landfills. He elaborated the State is offering unmatched money for municipalities to get this process going for the next three years.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and approve the submission of a one-year Work Program draft to the EGLE for the MMP Grant estimated $137,404.50 annually with no matching funds required.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

2. Letter dated February 14, 2025 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 Ida Township.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, 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 Ida Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Ida Township Board.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

3. Steven Meyer's FOIA request appeal for public records relating to Mark Brant being asked to resign.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour , supported by Commissioner Swartout to uphold the FOIA denial in the County Legal Advisors letter to Mr. Meyer dated February 18, 2025, and to deny My. Meyers appeal.

Tom Graham, Legal Advisor, explained the FOIA appeal process. Mr. Graham further explained there were no public records relating to the request for Mark Brant to resign and that they shared this information with Steven Meyer on multiple occasions and in the original FOIA response letter.

Discussion was held.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Revisions and updates to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners By-Laws and Rules of Procedure. Link to 2025 By-Laws.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the Monroe County Board of Commissioners By-Laws and Rules of Procedure as presented and adopt the accompanying Resolution.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

2. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission/Department update

   Mary Gantzos, MIDC Managing Attorney, stated she didn't have much to update the Board on. Ms. Gantzos explained the attorneys are using the new excel sheets/software and she is waiting for them to be completed in order to review.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

1. Commissioner Hoffman explained that the Dundee Wrestling Team has had eight (8) straight wins so we are going to create a Special Tribute for them soon. Stated they are doing an outstanding job.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Certificates issued since the February 4, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Explained Dale's bridge sounds very interesting. Stated he would like the County to look into it because he believes it is a great idea.

Commissioner Swartout – Stated he agrees with Commissioner Moore and explained he will be at a SEMCOG Meeting tomorrow so hopefully we can get more information on it then.

Commissioner Lamour – Explained he heard Dale speak at the Frenchtown Township Meeting and he was excited to hear about his project. Stated he is also looking forward to getting the courthouse back to its historical value.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed.

Commissioner Asper – Stated that she loves the whole bridge idea and loves how the people in the County are working together. She mentioned how Paula's House had their fundraiser Friday and it was amazing. She also stated Nancy and Bill are excellent at planning. They know how this stuff works and she is excited about the prospect of the front of the courthouse.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated he was on board with everybody. Commended Dave at the Road Commission again for a speedy response when he was informed that there were some roads that were unsafe to drive on.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Excused.

Michael Bosanac– Stated that we have five (5) pedestrian bridges currently under construction. The work at the intersection of North Custer and Rainsville Road Bridge is the partnership between the Road Commission and the County working together, sharing resources, and ultimately sharing money. These projects are creating and connecting 18 miles of trails. He stated this County has a lot of good coming. He also explained that SEMCOG are great partners.

Commissioner Moore – Stated the 61st Annual Agricultural Banquet is at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Ida. Tickets are around $10 and it is this Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Vensel – Reminded the Board and the public that the Operations Committee Meeting is on March 13th at 5:45 p.m. following the Agenda meeting. He explained the Business Alliance will be answering questions related to ARPA Funds at this meeting. Chairman Vensel also gave an update regarding the independent investigation on Mark Brant. On February 28th he signed a letter of engagement with Bodman Law in Ann Arbor. Sarah J. Gabis will be the lead attorney for this investigation. He stated she will be at the March 18th meeting to meet everyone.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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