MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, April 15, 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	
Jay Heinzerling	Brian Lamour	J Henry Lievens	
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 Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the April 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (04/01/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Bill Lavoy: Thanked the Commissioners for having live streaming.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Special Tribute recognizing Dundee's Varsity Wrestling Team, The Vikings, for a spectacular season.

   Vice-Chairman Lievens read the Tribute into the record and offered the Special Tribute to Coaches Nate Hall and Garett Stevens and the team.

   Both coaches and team members thanked the Board for this opportunity.

2. Resolution for proclaiming May as Motorcycle Awareness Month

Vice-Chairman Lievens read the tribute into the record and presented it to Adam Thorn from Abate.

Mr. Thorn explained their group is bipartisan and that they have been working towards undoing SB1 over the last six (6) years. He further explained that motorcyclists are the only individuals who cannot access their own health care in the event of an accident. He then thanked the Board.

3. Resolution recognizing MCOP for 60 years of service in Monroe County

Commissioner Swartout stated it is a pleasure being on this board and they work well together.

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior, read the tribute into the record. Commissioner Swartout offered it to Stephanie Zorn-Kasprzak, Executive Director of MCOP.

Stephanie Zorn-Kasprzak, thanked the Board and explained she is celebrating her 20-year anniversary as Executive Director. Ms. Zorn-Kasprzak also gave personal invitations to members of the Board for the 60th Anniversary Gala Event. Ms. Zorn-Kasprzak explained their mission and how they have met and will continue to meet the greatest needs for low-income people.

4. Presentation of 2024 Monroe County Central Dispatch Annual Report by Central Dispatch Director, Donna Kuti.

Donna Kuti presented main highlights and updates from the 2024 Annual Report.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the 2024 Annual Report on Monroe County Central Dispatch and place the report on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

5. Presentation of 2024 Monroe County Sheriff's Office Annual Report by Sheriff Troy Goodnough

Sheriff Goodnough presented the main findings from the 2024 Annual report.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to accept the 2024 Annual Report on Monroe County Sheriff's Office and place the report on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN

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

Motion carried.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 04/16/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,301,864.42

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the 04/16/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,301,864.42 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			
Greg Moore, Jr.	Brian Lamour	J. Henry Lievens			
David Vensel	Jay Heinzerling				

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated April 10, 2025 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer submitting a Letter of Intent with Erie Township for an infrastructure project deploying American Rescue Plan Act funds to promote economic development in Erie Township.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the Letter of Intent and the recommendation to deploy $3,750,000 of ARPA funds for the described infrastructure project.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 04/04/2025 in the amount of $1,136,801.87
   b. Check Register dated 04/11/2025 in the amount of $ 721,921.51

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated April 10, 2025 from Ms. Mary Gantzos, Managing Attorney, Monroe County Indigent Defense, submitting the Fiscal Year 2026 Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Grant Application including compliance plan and cost analysis in the amount of $3,663,943.66. The County's local cost share match is $217,053.37 providing a total program cost of $3,880,997.03. The County match is included in the 2025 budget for the period October 1-December 31, 2025. The balance of the state fiscal year match January 1-September 30, 2026 will be included in the 2026 County budget.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication and approve the grant application submission in the amount of $3,663,943.66 with a County match of $217,053.37 for fiscal year 2026 for a total program cost of $3,880,997.03. The County local match amount is included in 2025 budget and will be included in the 2026 County budget subject to final grant award.

   Commissioner Lamour amended the motion to state the approval of the grant application submission is conditional upon County Administrator submitting a written request and justification for a delivery model change to a public defender's office and a request for a multi-level staff review to be considered by the MIDC Commission. This written request must be submitted no later than Friday, April 18, 2025.

   The maker and supporter of this motion agreed to the amendment.

   Discussion was held.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated April 10, 2025 from Mr. Andrew Clark, Museum Director, requesting approval to submit a grant application for up to $50,000 to begin the upgrade of exhibit cases within the Monroe County Museum. The grant requires a 30% match from the Museum System Millage.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication and approve the grant application submission in the amount of $50,000.00 with a 30% match from the Museum System Millage.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Operations Committee - Report of Committee Chairman from 4/10/2025 meeting. Link to Operations Committee 4/10/2025 Agenda Packet: HERE

1. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program Presentation

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to support a resolution amending the resolution of August 20, 2019 approving the establishment of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program and move to amend the resolution of August 20, 2019 to establish the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program and adopt the Lean & Green Michigan PACE Program report replacing the previous program report and move that the PACE Administrator shall be Lean & Green Michigan and the PACE Authorized Official shall be the County Administrator.

   Discussion was held.

   Andy Levin, Founder and Chief Strategist of Lean & Green Michigan, further explained this program and answered questions. Discussion commenced.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

2. Letter dated March 17, 2025 from Mr. David L. Robinson, Monroe City Manager, requesting a $1,000,000 contribution to the West Elm Avenue Rail Grade Separation Project for the remaining unfunded local match requirement.

   David L. Robinson presented more information on this project as well as the background information concerning other grants/contributions.

   Discussion commenced.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the West Elm Avenue Rail Grade Separation Project requesting $1,000,000 with a Letter of Commitment.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN

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

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated March 14, 2025 from Sheriff Troy Goodnough, requesting the addition of an additional Sergeant position to the existing staffing plan.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the addition of an additional Sergeant position to the existing staffing plan.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

4. Letter dated April 3, 2025 from Ms. Donna Kuti, Dispatch Director, requesting the addition of two (2) additional full-time 9-1-1 dispatchers and two (2) part-time 9-1-1 dispatchers to the current approved staffing levels.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the addition of two (2) additional full-time 9-1-1 dispatchers and two (2) part-time 9-1-1 dispatchers to the current approved staffing levels.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

5. Letter dated March 28, from Mr. Jeff McBee, Human Resources Director, requesting the reclassification of the Courthouse Security being placed on the Non-Union Wage Scale.

   Commissioner Asper asked about the total cost of this.

   Jeff McBee informed the Board it was a grand total of $4,184. Discussion commenced.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the reclassification of the Courthouse Security being placed on the Non-Union Wage Scale.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

6. MIDC Feasibility Study

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to table this MIDC Feasibility study since it is no longer relevant considering the Board's prior action taken with the MIDC Grant.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

7. Probate Court Security Discussion

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to add an additional security window arrangement to Judge Arnold's Courtroom and approve up to $4,000 for architecture fees in the Probate Court.

Commissioner Moore asked if the total is $4,000 because he saw other numbers in the packet.

Chairman Vensel explained the numbers included in the packet are from 2017 so they're not accurate.

The Chairman also assured Judge Arnold that he can be involved in this and that he wants the Fire Marshall involved in this as well.

Commissioner Swartout explained that there have been ADA compliance changes since 2017 as well.

Commissioner Moore asked why this wouldn't be coming out of the Judicial budget.

Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO explained we are the funding unit and the County is responsible because it is seen as facility maintenance of the building.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

David Vensel	Jay Heinzerling				

Motion carried.

8. St. Joseph's Center for Hope Emergency Funding

Rebecca Turner explained they received funding. They are now currently funded through June 15th and will reapproach this at a later date. Explains she is going to see if they can solve this themselves.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to table this request until a later date.

Vice-Chairman Lievens stated this is a great example of partnership and they do great work. He also stated he is excited to be on the RAW Board now. Thanked Ms. Turner for their great works.

Chairman Vensel stated that is great news and brought attention to how everyone in this community helps each other and it is an outstanding place to live. He wished Ms. Turner the best and asked for her to keep them posted.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

9. Courts request to allow Court Recorders to use the Printing Department to produce transcripts with the Court Recorders reimbursing the County for production costs.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the Court records using the Printing Department to produce transcripts once a rate is determined.

Sue Maier and Jacob Perry explained the process of setting this up and answered questions.

Discussion commenced.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

10. Monroe County Bar Association Historical Pictures Displayed

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to relocate the Historical Pictures displayed on the third and fourth floors to outside the Courtrooms.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

11. Standing Ethics Committee Discussion

Commissioner Hoffman stated he wants to get going on it.

Chairman Vensel explained he feels it is absolutely necessary to create a Standing Ethics Committee but thinks it would serve everyone best to wait for the independent investigation to be completed to hear their suggestions, recommendations, and advice.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission/Department update

Mary Gantzos, Managing Attorney stated she currently did not have an update.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Michael Grodi: Thanked the Board for the Letter of Intent for the Erie Project. Stated this will bring life into the town. Thanked the Bedford Township Board, Monroe County Business Alliance, Sean Strube, TC Clements, Michael Bosanac, Phillip Goldsmith, Thomas Graham, Dave Leach, Dave Thompson, Tim Surgo, and the Erie Township Board for their efforts regarding this project.

2. David Leach: Thanked Patrick McGow and his team, Kari Blanchett and her team at PFM, Sue Maier and her team, Jesse Stanford and his team, and Michael Bosanac for all they did to help them through the bond process.

3. Bill Lavoy: Explained there has been a few cases when he has gotten up to speak and he heard comments from the public and he wanted to bring it to the Boards attention. Further explained he understands humor but thinks some comments made during members time are taken too far and it isn't fair to him because he can't respond so he doesn't get the last word. Mr. Lavoy shared his concerns with conceal carry rules in public meetings. Mr. Lavoy also explained the FELON Ethics group he discussed at the last meeting and how it is still in the works.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the March 18, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Thanked the Chairman for honoring the by-laws in order to individually vote on the Operations Meeting Agenda items. Told the Mayor he did a fantastic job getting the grant and that it will be great for the community. Stated that just because they disagreed on how it should be funded, please don't take it personally. He then explained how he viewed it as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Moore also stated when a commissioner is asking a director questions, he respectfully disagrees with the Chairman and states Commissioner Asper has every right to ask him anything.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Stated he is happy to see live streaming for the sake of transparency. The public can see what we are trying to do for the County and it's all out front. He then told Commissioner Moore his first responsibility is to the County of Monroe but he also represents the City of Monroe and Frenchtown Township so he has to fight for those constitutes equally as well.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed

Commissioner Asper – Thanked Commissioner Moore. Nothing personal as far as Monroe is concerned and she apologized for her coughing tonight.

Commissioner Hoffman – Thanked everyone for coming out. Asked the Road Commission about the closed road between Ida and Summerfield.

Dave Leach explained why the road is closed and that the townships have signed contracts and they are working to get it corrected.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Stated this is their first time streaming and wanted to acknowledge the Department Heads, Elected Officials, and Prosecutors for being in attendance. Explains it takes the whole team.

Michael Bosanac– Explained the Administrators report will be sent out soon, he was out of town the few days before.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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