

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational Meeting in the City of Monroe on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Monroe County Clerk, Annamarie Osment, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, as follows:

PRESENT		ABSENT
David Hoffman	Randy Richardville	Sharon Hill (Excused)
Mark Brant	David Swartout	
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.	
George Jondro	Henry Lievens	

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Clerk, Annamarie Osment led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders led the Opening Prayer

V. ELECTION OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

A. Election of Chairperson:

Clerk Annamarie Osment opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

Commissioner Richardville nominated Commissioner Brant for Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

No other nominations were offered. Clerk Annamarie Osment closed the nominations for Chairperson.

Motion by Commissioner Richardville, supported by Commissioner Lievens to elect Commissioner Mark Brant as Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

Roll call vote by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Randy Richardville		Sharon Hill	
Mark Brant	David Swartout			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.			
George Jondro	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried and Chairman Brant presided over the meeting from this point forward.

B. Election of Vice-Chairperson:

Chairman Brant asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Commissioner Lievens nominated Commissioner Richardville for Vice-Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

No further nominations were offered. Chairman Brant closed the nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Swartout to elect Commissioner Randy Richardville as Vice-Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Randy Richardville		Sharon Hill	
Mark Brant	David Swartout			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.			
George Jondro	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Jondro, supported by Commissioner Lievens to approve the January 4, 2022 Organizational Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (12/29/2021 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the December 29, 2021 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Payment of Accounts Payable Current Claim Report

1. Payment of the 01/05/2022 Accounts Payable Current Claim Report in the amount of \$432,416.80.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the Accounts Payable Current Claims payment report as presented on the agenda for the date and amount listed.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Randy Richardville		Sharon Hill	
Mark Brant	David Swartout			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.			
George Jondro	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

2. Payment of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 12/30/2021 in the amount of \$234,140.50

Motion by Commissioner Jondro, supported by Commissioner Asper to approve 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	Randy Richardville		Sharon Hill	
Mark Brant	David Swartout			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.			
George Jondro	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

B. Establish Date to Submit Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

Chairman Brant commented that a fairly major overhaul of the Bylaws were done just last year and there probably isn't a need for any additional updates at this time. Any suggested changes, should be given to him as soon as possible so we can move through the process sooner rather than later. This will be an agenda item for the January 18, 2022 meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Richardville to establish the second meeting in January (01/18/2022) to provide any suggested amendments to the Board's Bylaws to Legal Counsel.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Randy Richardville		Sharon Hill	

Mark Brant	David Swartout			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.			
George Jondro	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

C. Board Action:

1. Letter dated December 22, 2021 from Mr. Chris Westover, Environmental Health Director requesting approval to submit a grant application for a Scrap Tire Clean-Up Grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). There is no match requirement for this grant.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lievens to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to submit a grant application for a Scrap Tire Clean-Up Grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) with no matching funds required.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

AYE		NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
David Hoffman	Randy Richardville		Sharon Hill	
Mark Brant	David Swartout			
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.			
George Jondro	Henry Lievens			

Motion carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Erika Brodie-Frenchtown Township—She has been waiting for an apology from the Commissioner that she believes made fun of her at a public meeting. She wants people to look into getting an EMF meter. She discussed a letter received from the school in Middle College and believes children are being segregated in school(s). She will continue to come and speak to the Board of Commissioners because she does not know where else to address her concerns. She handed out printed information to the Board.
2. Tricia (No last name given)-Monroe Township-Expressed her concerns regarding non-emergency calls that the fire department(s) get called out on. She thinks it's a problem and needs to be addressed. She does not know who to talk to for help with this issue.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS—None

XI. MEMBERS TIME
 Commissioner Swartout—Passed.

Commissioner Asper—I wish everyone a wonderful new year. I would encourage you to be courageous and not listen to a lot of fear. I think we're going to do a great job this year in the County. Talk to us after the meeting about that firefighter thing. We don't answer up here but we have something already in the works.

Commissioner Jondro—Congrats to the Chair and Vice-Chair again and I'm looking forward to another good year of accomplishments.

Commissioner Lievens—I'd like to congratulate you (Chairman Brant) and the Vice-Chair. We had effective leadership last year and I look forward to more of the same this year. I do think though that we possibly missed a fun opportunity where we could have appointed Sharon to leadership in her absence and given her a big surprise when she returned. I do think if there is some resource for triaging 9-1-1 calls that it should be explored. I don't know what that looks like but it's certainly something to look at because we do have so many volunteer fire departments in this County already struggling. What they put these volunteers through just to serve is tremendous. It's not the 6 hour class that it was in the 1970's anymore; it's the full deal. If there's anything we can do to give those tools where they are better utilized and serving the public efficiently as well, that would be awesome. Finally, applause to our Health Department on getting this grant for the used tires. When I was a kid ditches were full of used tires. There's really no excuse for our drains and ditches to be filled with used tires when you can take it to a proper disposal site.

Commissioner Moore—Congratulations to Commissioner Richardville on his Vice-Chairmanship and to Commissioner Brant on his Chairmanship. I look forward to working with you in leadership for the next year. Hopefully it will be fruitful. I echo the concerns of Commissioner Lievens regarding firefighters. I just spent 4 days at my property up north with a firefighter from Lucas County and he was telling me of some of the calls they go on (that are non-emergency). If it's happening in Lucas County, it's probably happening across Monroe County. If there's some way we can streamline that even though I know it's not really our purview. If there's some way we can talk to someone that would be good.

Commissioner Hoffman—Congratulations to you both (Chairman & Vice-Chairman). You must be doing a good job. I want to comment on the firefighter issue. I was on the Frenchtown Twp. Fire Department years back and was on a fire call the other night to provide big equipment. It turned out to be an eight alarm fire which was discussed in more detail. Each call that a firefighter goes out on is more money for them. At some point I think there will be a centralized fire department in the county with all full-time firefighters. I see it in other states and other cities. Go to the Fire Association meetings which have public comment time too. Maybe it's something to bring up at the 9-1-1 Board also.

Commissioner Richardville—Thank you everyone for your support. It's been a learning experience for me. You all are the definition of what a public servant should be. We are public servants who work hard and come prepared and I'm proud to serve with you. Thank you for electing me to the Vice-Chairmanship.

Ms. Aundrea Armstrong, Acting Administrator—Congratulations to both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. We accomplished a lot in 2021 even with the challenges that we had with Covid. We were hoping Covid would be gone but it's here in 2022, but I know we can accomplish a lot in 2022. I look forward to working with everyone.

Commissioner Hill—Excused.

Commissioner Brant—Thank you to everyone for their confidence in my leadership style. With Vice-Chairman Richardville's help it was a very smooth and productive year. I hope that we don't have any obstacles that take that away from us in 2022. I'll be making Committee assignments as I did last year. They'll probably

generally be what they were last year. I don't think there were any glitches or problems. If you have a concern with a committee that you are on, let me know. I will probably have the Committee assignments at the next meeting. If anyone has anything they would like to see changed in the Bylaws, get those to me and/or Tom as soon as possible so that we can have that turned around by the next meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m. with no further business to conduct.