

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Chairman Mark Brant 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	Jay Heinzerling	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Vensel
Mark Brant	Randy Richardville	J. Henry Lievens	
Dawn Asper	David Swartout		

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Chairman Brant asked for a moment of silence for Mrs. Floreine Mentel who was a former commissioner, a community leader and led a life dedicated to service. Ms. Mentel passed away last week.

Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (01/24/2023 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the minutes as presented for the January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—None

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION—None

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Approval of the 02/08/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,057,014.73

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the 02/08/2023 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$1,057,014.73 and approve payment for the date and amounts listed on the Report.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated February 1, 2023 from Ms. Aundrea Armstrong, Deputy Administrator/Chief Financial Officer submitting the audit engagement letter dated December 14, 2022 from auditor Rehmann, for professional services to be performed on the audit for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

Ms. Armstrong summarized the audit engagement letter.

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

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 01/27/2023 in the amount of \$456,281.41
 - b. Check Register dated 02/03/2023 in the amount of \$1,164,472.17

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

Board Action:

1. Letter dated February 2, 2023 from Chief Deputy Chad Zeunen, Sheriff's Office, requesting approval to apply for the Fiscal Year 2023 Marine Safety Grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the amount up to \$54,573 that is included in the 2023 adopted budget.

Chairman Brant read the request into the record and Chief Deputy Zeunen answered questions.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to apply for the Fiscal Year 2023 Marine Safety Grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the amount up to \$54,573.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS—None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—None

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Pastor Heather Boone, Oaks of Righteousness, is disappointed that no agency has reached out to her to ask what they can do to help with the problems at the Shelter and help keep it open. They visited Cherry Street Mission (in Toledo, Ohio) today and they have Mental Health staff onsite. She does not want to close the Shelter but feels there is no other option without any help from other agencies. Would like the Commissioners to at least take a tour of the Shelter and see what it is that they do. Help, support and ask questions.
2. Sandy Libstorff—Nurse at Oaks Shelter, talked about how Community Mental Health (CMH) is the only provider in the County to serve the severely mentally ill on Medicaid and get all the money. Some people at Oaks Shelter have outbursts and are very disruptive and no other shelter is going to want to take them. No one asked them if they wanted to join the Homeless Coalition meeting. She passed out statistics to the Board.
3. Erika Brodie is asking again for independent testing for radiation poisoning in the County. She is upset that DTE plans to put in large solar farms once they shut down the coal burner. She talked about another pandemic in the future called SEERS.
4. Judy Green is a volunteer at Oaks. She said that the Shelter does not want to close. The Shelter needs help from Community Mental Health services. We asked for help from the Board of Commissioners to form a coalition. We came to ask for help to stay open. We want services from CMH. She mentioned that there are issues with a Veteran who is in a wheelchair and they have to drag his wheelchair up the steps to help him get into the Shelter.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Tributes or Certificates issued since the January 24, 2023 meeting: None
2. Commissioner Asper announced that there is a Memorial Service for Floreine Mentel this Friday.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME

Commissioner Lievens—Pass

Commissioner Moore—Asked Pastor Boone if he could have a tour of the facility.

Commissioner Swartout—Pass

Commissioner Heinzerling—Pass

Commissioner Vensel—Excused

Commissioner Hoffman—Thanks everybody for coming. As County Commissioners, we make sure the budget passes, bills are paid, grants get approved, so some of this is over our heads. Does money funnel from CMH to Oaks? Where does Salvation Army get their money? Maybe we need to look into grants for Oaks. We have a lot of people on the streets and they do need help. Other churches in the area might start lining up too. We want to see what we can do. If we do away with coal burners, nuclear, solar and windmills, I think we will be in the dark. We do want to help our citizens but there is only so much we can do.

Commissioner Asper—I am frustrated with the meeting with the groups without having you (Oaks) at the table. I did not take it that you wanted to close but that there is a real crisis. What I see, being on the Board of Mental Health is that they used to be under us where we had more input. Now we can at least appoint the Board members. We give them money, but you are a church organization so we can't give it directly to you. Having been there (at Oaks) and seen what is going on, I don't see anything going forward without having you at the table with a discussion. With regard to the Cherry Street Mission is that we are in Michigan and they are in Ohio and I think things are better with the way that mental health is run. The CMH Board is just supposed to set policy. We've been criticized for micromanaging but when we hear complaints and we are being blamed for them. I would definitely like to meet with you (Pastor Boone) also so maybe we could figure out something that the Commissioners could do with those groups that take care of homelessness. The other thing is that you take everybody and they do not, so they don't run into these problems. The more we improve these services, the more we get people coming to Monroe that aren't from around here. I would like to meet with you (with Commissioner Moore) to discuss all of this. The ARPA thing, I don't know if we could do some type of matching fund so you could have the money to do what you need to and be able to get the ARPA money. Going to the windmills and solar farms, we already know in Michigan that there is no way that is going to fly for our energy. By going with these other sources instead of fossil fuels, it will literally kill people in third world countries. I don't know why DTE persists in closing down a coal burner in 2040 that they spent \$2 billion in order to produce the clean coal. We are going to have to go to nuclear if we want to be carbon zero and that just makes no sense. I definitely do want to meet about this mental health thing because there are answers.

Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO—Copies of Adopted Budget on your desk and on the website. State of the County Address on April 11, 2023 at Business Alliance meeting. Trail Loop project easements are being worked on.

Commissioner Richardville—Asked Mr. Bosanac about the fees that the County pays Rehmann for the audit services. He wants to discuss if Rehmann is the servicing CMH as well. Talked about people who think he has a conflict of interest serving on the CMH Board. He said that he does not agree and that perception is not why he resigned from the CMH Board. Reached out to Team Wellness who does incredible work in Wayne County. No one at CMH has responded to Team Wellness and its proposal. Explained that Oaks Shelter does not want to close and it is not a matter of funding or capacity but a lack of mental health support. Disappointed that the ARPA funds were not given for the employees at Oaks to get a \$2/hour raise. He pulled himself out of those discussions as a Commissioner so as not to have a conflict of interest. No one wants Oaks to close but it has to do more with the Oaks employees have to deal with the severely mentally ill. No 24/7 coverage in Monroe County for mental health services. He's advocating for a mental health emergency room. Asking for a state of the art facility to get the problems taken care of short term and work on long term. ARPA money was given for a mobile unit. Pleading for help with some direction from CMH. I couldn't be more proud of my friend, Commissioner Dave Vensel, who has rolled up his sleeves and has been going to Oaks to help.

Commissioner Brant—Pass

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT—Chairman Brant adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with no further business to conduct.