

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:01, Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chair Vette called the meeting to order and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll.  
Present: Comrs. Kathy-Sue Vette, Steve Frisbie, Derek King, Tommy Miller, Rochelle Hatcher, Diane Thompson, and Monique French.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, Communications Director Lucy Blair, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Susan Connolly.

**2. Moment of Silence/Invocation**

Chair Vette called a Moment of Silence.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Comr. Frisbie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Res.011-2024

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the agenda of the February 15, 2024, Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

A. *Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting*

Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting.

Res.012-2024

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

**6. Citizens' Time**

Bob Lyng, Marshall Township Trustee, thanked the Road Department for numerous intersection improvements in the Township.

Richard Logan, Battle Creek resident, requested the board address his ongoing road subdivision complaint.

Resident Carl Gallahuff shared concerns related to pothole repairs and various roadway matters.

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams expressed opposition to the citizens' time limit set by the Board.

A female attendee (did not provide name or community of residence), expressed concerns related to road repairs throughout the County.

**7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments**

There were none.

**8. Special Order of Business**

*A. Resolution to Affirm Opioid Settlement Steering Committee*

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM OPIOID SETTLEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE**

At a Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, held in Board Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan, on Thursday, February 15, 2024, with Chair Kathy-Sue Vette presiding, the following action was taken:

WHEREAS; Calhoun County is the 14th most vulnerable county in Michigan related to substance use, with a rate of 35.4 overdose fatalities per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS; Calhoun County participated and signed on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS; Calhoun County is projected to receive \$11.4 million over a total of eighteen (18) years, beginning in January 2023, as a result of litigation; and

WHEREAS; the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the

settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS; the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners wishes to affirm the establishment of an Opioid Settlement Steering Committee, which has met twice since December 2023 and now has a stable membership roster, to remain active throughout the planning process for the opioid settlements spending plan and thereafter as deemed necessary by the County Administrator/Controller, and for which membership does not prioritize or preclude members from receiving opioid settlement monies; and

WHEREAS; the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners has final approval on how the opioid settlement monies are appropriated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby affirms the establishment of an Opioid Settlement Steering Committee with representatives from numerous partners across the County, including but not limited to: local government, public health, health care providers, public safety, criminal-legal system, specialty courts, prevention coalition, harm reduction providers, recovery support providers, transportation, homeless shelters, behavioral health providers, treatment providers, medical examiner, individuals and families and friends of those with lived experience with substance use, and Tribal government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Opioid Settlement Steering Committee will provide recommendations to the County Administrator/Controller, who will advise the Board of Commissioners on strategies and activities for the use of opioid settlement funds.

Res.013-2024

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Reslution to Affirm the Opioid Settlement Steering Committee, as presented.”

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

*B. Proclamation - February 2024 American Heart Month*

**PROCLAMATION OF FEBRUARY 2024  
AMERICAN HEART MONTH**

WHEREAS, Heart disease has long been the leading cause of death in the United States, claiming nearly 700,000 lives a year. Nearly half of all American adults have at least one major risk factor for cardiovascular disease. From heart attacks and strokes to high blood pressure, the threat of cardiovascular disease touches almost every family in our Nation; and

WHEREAS, while heart conditions can be costly and deadly, they are often preventable with access to affordable health care, advancements in technology, and lifestyle changes; and

WHEREAS, as treatments and access to care improve, we can each help raise awareness of the importance of a healthy heart. Exercising regularly, eating well, managing weight, and avoiding smoking or vaping are proven to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, we can save lives by learning the warning signs of a heart attack or stroke and consulting a doctor if we have risk factors or symptoms; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all neighbors to help bring attention to heart health, honor the memory of those we have lost to heart disease, and celebrate the courage of the countless loved ones who are living strong and full lives despite having heart conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2024, as

"AMERICAN HEART MONTH "

in the County of Calhoun and urge neighbors to join me in the commitment to fight cardiovascular disease and extend the pursuit of a long and healthy life.

Dated this 15th day of February 2024

Res.014-2024

"Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the Proclamation - February 2024 American Heart Month, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

*C. Proclamation - February 2024 Celebrating Black History Month*

**PROCLAMATION OF FEBRUARY 2024 CELEBRATING  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by Black Americans in Calhoun County, Michigan, to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, President Biden stated in his Black History Month Proclamation dated January 31, 2023, "We celebrate the legacy of Black Americans whose power to lead, to overcome, and to expand the meaning and practice of American democracy has helped our Nation become a more fair and just society. This country was established upon the profound but simple idea that all people are created equal and should be treated equally throughout their lives"; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideas; and

WHEREAS, the County of Calhoun continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens and visitors — past, present, and future — are respected and recognized for their contributions to our community, the country, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the County of Calhoun is proud to honor the history and contributions of Black Americans in our community, throughout our state, and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of Black Americans, past and present in our community, we, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2024, as

**"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"**

in the County of Calhoun and urge citizens and visitors to recognize and support the ideals of human dignity and equal opportunity to which this nation is committed throughout the international community and which we celebrate during this month. Further, I urge all Americans to celebrate the rich history and numerous historical contributions of the Black American culture.

Dated this 15th day of February 2024

Res.015-2024

“Moved Comr. Miller, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Proclamation - February 2024 Celebrating Black History Month, as presented.”

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

**9. Consent Agenda**

*A. Petitions, Communications, Reports*

*B. Resolutions*

*1. Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Appointment: Gerald Stover*

*2. CCRD Agreements with Townships - 2024 Local Road Projects*

*3. CCRD Bridge Investment Program Grant Application*

*4. Correction to Previously Approved Updates to BOC Policy #340 Employee Benefits*

Res.016-2024

“Moved Comr. Thompson, second by Comr. Hatcher to approve the Consent Agenda of the

February 15, 2024, Board of Commissioner's Regular Session, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

**10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports**

There were none.

**11. Unfinished and Old Business**

There was none.

**12. New Business and County Administrator's Report**

**A. *Administrator/Controller's Report***

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott thanked the board for supporting the Resolution affirming the Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee. Ms. Scott added that the County will receive over eleven million dollars over the next eighteen years, and that the Board has already appropriated some of the restricted funding for initiatives such as the Sheriff's Office Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program within the jail, and the employment of a full-time regional Drug Enforcement Officer.

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that the Steering Committee is being facilitated by Amy Dolinky through a grant managed by the Michigan Association of Counties at no cost to the County or our taxpayers. Kelli Scott mentioned the committee will develop a spending plan for the use of the funds.

Ms. Scott shared that the Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) met on Feb.13, noting that Commissioner French is on that board. Scott highlighted the Economic Development Committee is working to facilitate conversations between Ford and key manufacturers across the county.

**B. *New Business***

**1. *Amendment to the Contract with the City of Westland for Prisoner Transport and Lodging***

Ms. Scott reported that the contract between the County and our Sheriff with the City of Westland was initially created in 2021 to assist the City by boarding and transporting their inmates.

Kelli Scott noted the current contract is set to expire in March, and the proposed amendment will extend the agreement for an additional five years with an increased per diem rate.

Sheriff Steve Hinkley was present to answer any questions and thanked Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose for the quick turnaround in drafting the amendment.

Res.017-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Thompson to approve the Amendment to the Contract with the City of Westland for Prisoner Transport and Lodging, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *CCRD Bid Award: RFP#102J-24 Cold Patch*

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that this bid was conducted jointly for the Calhoun and Jackson County road departments. Scott noted that the recommended bid award was to Lakeland Asphalt, which was the lowest bidder even with a 17% increase.

Comr. Hatcher asked about the rationale for the continued use of Lakeland Asphalt with such a steep price increase.

Assistant County Administrator, Brad Wilcox and Interim Road Department Manager, Kristine Parsons were present to answer questions.

Ms. Parsons explained that the increase in costs was expected and is consistent with other materials pricing this year.

Res.018-2024

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Miller to approve the CCRD Bid Award: RFP#102J-24 Cold Patch, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *2nd Amendment to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) Articles of Incorporation*

Administrator/Controller Scott noted the first amendment to the TACC Articles was necessary following the opting out of townships and villages, primarily to reset the Authority's legal boundaries and jurisdiction. Scott reminded the Board that the new TACC District Map does still include the cities of Marshall, Albion, Battle Creek and Springfield.

Ms. Scott added that this second amendment of the Articles was primarily to amend the board membership requirements to give flexibility for the County Board to appoint members who reside anywhere in the County. Scott mentioned that the amendment also set forth a corrected dissolution provision to comply with current state laws.

Comr. Miller expressed his opposition to the TACC and stated he would be voting no on this item.

Comr. Thompson asked for clarification about the dissolution process section and why it specified that upon dissolution of the Authority, services would necessarily still be provided by the cities of Battle Creek and Marshall.

Kelli Scott replied that noted the City of Battle Creek and Marshall are the two currently designated federal transportation agencies within the County based on those communities' qualifications for transit services and funding.

Res.019-2024

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Miller to approve the 2nd Amendment to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) Articles of Incorporation, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 6, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.  
No - 1, Comr. Miller  
Motion **CARRIED**.

*4. Public Defenders Office Authorized Staffing Allocation Change*

Ms. Scott reported that the Public Defender's Office has been in operation for four years in Calhoun County, and that is mostly funded through a state grant because the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) was set forth by the state legislature and implements standards for public defense services by counties.

Kelli Scott noted that while the office is mostly funded through the State of Michigan, staffing increases and classification changes are approved by the Board of Commissioners by Board policy and our annual budget resolutions.

Chief Public Defender David Makled asked for support for the request, which was to add one position and reclassify two existing positions in order to meet increasing MIDC requirements for data gathering and other administrative items.

Comr. Frisbie noted that is it unfortunate that there is no State funding for Prosecutors' Offices in Michigan that would allow counties to make similar staffing adjustments as needed to keep up with their increasing demands and workloads.

Res.020-2024

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Public Defender's Office Authorized Staffing Allocation Change, as presented.”



On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

### **13. Citizens' Time**

A resident thanked the Road Department for the quick turnaround on pothole repairs on C Drive and asked for clarification of whether township taxpayers would be required to vote on any millage if the Transit Authority decides to put that request on the ballot. County commissioners confirmed that any TACC millage request would only appear on the ballots of the four cities, since all of the townships opted out of the Authority.

A resident expressed opposition to the Ford Blue Oval Battery Plant and expressed concerns with the status of road repairs throughout the county.

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams invited the Board to a public meeting this Saturday, Feb 17 at the VFW Hall at 3pm, regarding the Ford Blue Oval Battery Plant.

### **14. Commissioners' Time**

Comr. Miller thanked Communications Director Lucy Blair for her attendance at the recent Albion Township board meeting to provide updates on the County's Broadband Task Force.

Comrs. King and Vette addressed Mr. Logan's subdivision roadway complaint.

### **15. Claims Payable Listing**

A. *Claims Payable for January 11, 2024 through January 24, 2024 in the amount of \$4,800,306.14*

B. *Claims Payable for January 25, 2024 through February 7, 2024 in the amount of \$2,793,171.02*

#### **Res.021-2023**

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Miller to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for January 11, 2024 through January 24, 2024 in the amount of \$4,800,306.14, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

#### **Res.022-2023**

“Moved Comr. Hatcher, second by Comr. Frisbie to amend and approve the second Claims Payable for January 25, 2024 through February 7, 2024 in the amount of \$2,793,171.02, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**, Yes – 7, Comrs. Vette, Frisbie, King, Miller, Hatcher, Thompson, and French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

**16. Announcements**

There were none.

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

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Susan M. Connolly  
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners