



February 2023 Board of Commissioners Activity Report

Administration Address
219 E Paw Paw Street - Suite 305, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Website: www.vanburencountymi.gov

Telephone No.
(269) 657-8253

Email: Admin@vanburencountymi.gov

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Proclamation of Suella VanDyke – 103rd Birthday** – The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners recognizes and thanks Ms. Suella VanDyke for her dedication to her community of Covert. The Board honors Ms. Suella VanDyke for her long life and prosperity and wish her many more!
- 2. Finance Director Update** – With the departure of the current Finance Director on February 9th, 2023, a significant leadership position within the County is now vacant. To fill this vacancy, the best course of action is to post the position and begin a search for candidates immediately. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the posting of the Finance Director position.
- 3. Health Department Awning Repair** - There has been a request to approve the proposal from Miller Davis to repair the awning at the Health Department building in Hartford. The awning at the Health Department building was recently damaged and needs repair. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approves of the repair proposal from Miller Davis for the awning repair at the Health Department building located in Hartford.
- 4. Historical Museum Roof Upgrade** - There has been a request from VanDam & Krusinga to upgrade the roof on the Historical Museum to a standing seam type. The Historical Museum in Hartford sustained severe damage during a wind event in 2022. During the project, the contractor recommended to take this opportunity to upgrade the roof to a standing seam metal roof which includes a lifetime warranty. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the upgrade of the roof at the Historical Museum during the February 28th meeting.
- 5. School Resource Deputy Positions – Gobles and Bloomingdale Schools** – There was two requests to create a School Resource Office position within Gobles and Bloomingdale Public Schools. The Sheriff's Office is requesting these positions to be created as the School Resource Officer to establish the role of a Law Enforcement Officer and the law in the lives of students while in school and in society. The Board of Commissioners approved the creation of both School Resource Officer positions for Gobles and Bloomingdale Schools during the February 28th meeting.
- 6. VSO Position Creation** - There was a request to create a second Veterans Services Officer position based on increased workload and Veteran contact in the last year, the Veterans Service Office is in need of a second Veterans Service Officer Position. It was approved by the board for the creation of a second officer position within the Veteran Services department.

7. **Claims** – Claims in the amount of \$ 2,374,019.87 were approved for the month of January 2023.
8. **Request to use County Property - Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival 2023** – There was a request to use county property from Friday, September 8th through Sunday, September 10th for the 2023 Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival. Last year's attendance was huge, which makes this event very important to the community of Van Buren County and the Village of Paw Paw. The Craft Show organizer has requested that the grass be cut on Thursday, Sept.7. Crafters will begin setting up on the streets and in the park on Friday, Sept.8. Paw Paw and Niles Streets will be closed beginning on Friday, Sept. 8 at 4:00 pm and will reopen after 5:00 pm on Sunday, Sept. 10. This request was approved at the February 14th meeting.

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Appointments/Reappointments

- Appointments/Re-appointments to the Land Preservation Board** – The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners are responsible for making appointments to the Van Buren Land Preservation Board. The Land Preservation Board terms of the names listed below have expired and it is necessary to make the re-appointments, including the appointments of two applicants. The appointments and reappointments were approved by the board at the February 14th meeting.

Reappointments:

- Dave Foerster – Landowner
- William Van Tassel – Elected official
- Scott Cedarquist – County Planning Commission
- Julie Pioch – Environmentalist
- Richard Godfrey – Van Buren Board of Commissioners

New Appointments (per online applications):

- Carl Druskovich - Farmer
- Emily Hickmott – Conservation District

- Appointments and Reappointments to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission** – There has been a request to approve the appointment/re-appointments of Commissioners Tina Leary, Kurt Doroh, and Gail Patterson-Gladney to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term expiring December 31st, 2024. Commissioner Tina Leary is seeking to be appointed, and Commissioners Kurt Doroh and Gail Patterson-Gladney are seeking to be reappointed, for a two-year term to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Board. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the appointment and reappointment of Commissioners Tina Leary, Kurt Doroh and Gail Patterson-Gladney to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission Board at the February 28th meeting.

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