



## May 2023 Board of Commissioners Activity Report

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Proclamation Christmas Spirit Foundation - Wahmhoff Farms** – Betsy Perales, of Wahmhoff Farms Nursery, was presented a Proclamation at the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, from the State of Michigan and the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, for receiving the Christmas Spirit Award for the Trees for Troops program. The community thanks her for her many years of dedication to serving our military personnel!
- 2. Hazen Street Road Extension and Village of Paw Paw Housing Development** – There was a request to provide an update on the discussions regarding the County-owned Hazen Street Road extension and the proposed Paw Paw housing development, and to conduct a survey of the site. This was first brought to the Board's attention at the March 28, 2023, Committee of the Whole. Future updates were to be given when they were available. In summary, the Village would like to obtain ownership of the County-owned Hazen Street extension, which is a service drive that connects Hazen Street west to the Paw Paw Public Schools Elementary School campus. Buildings served by this road include Human Services East and the Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) to the north and Building & Grounds, Head Start, and the Sheriff's storage facility to the south. Paw Paw Public Schools retains an easement on the drive to allow for school traffic. There are sewers and water easements as well. The drive is part of a single county-owned parcel that contains the above county facilities. The other facilities (Head Start and VBISD) have their own parcels. A developer is working on a site plan for mixed housing units south of the drive. A requirement is that they have access to the drive in order to have an additional ingress/egress to the development. The drive would have to be rebuilt to meet Village Road standards. A request has been made to ascertain the County's interest in dedicating the existing service road to the Village through the Land Bank Authority along with a parcel that would connect the development site to the road. The Village would use Tax Increment Financing to build the roads to Village standards. The first step would be to survey the county property and establish at least four separate parcels: 1. The service drive 2. County land north of the service drive 3. County land south of the service drive 4. Connecting parcels to development. Once the parcels are established, the next step would be transfer of ownership. The roads to be developed would then be maintained by the Village. The Board of Commissioners approves the conduction of the survey and requests that the results be brought back to the Board at a future meeting to discuss further action that includes the Establishment of the parcels and the Dedication of the parcels to the Land Bank Authority/Village.
- 3. Animal Control Building** – John Small reported that the State Inspection of the Animal Control Building revealed several deficiencies that need to be remedied. He will prepare a list of repairs needed and present it to DLZ for an estimate to complete the repairs and/or construct a new facility. There's an option to purchase replacement kennels from an animal clinic that is closing, and it is a better and less expensive option than repairing the existing kennels. These kennels would also be able to be utilized if a new facility was constructed.

Buildings and Grounds is requesting authorization to negotiate a price that fits within the \$75k total project budget. Further information to be provided at a later date.

4. **April 2023 Claims** – Claims in the amount of \$3,092,330.76 for April 2023 were submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Board during the May 23, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting.
5. **Use of County Property - Van Buren Youth Fair** – The Van Buren County Youth Fair has requested to use the paved parking lot adjacent to the fair, serving the Health and Human Services Building and the former Health Department Building, from July 17th at 5:30 PM to July 22nd, 2023, at 11:00 PM. This request will only apply in the event of extremely wet ground conditions. The Board of Commissioners approved the use of the parking lot adjacent to the fairgrounds by the Van Buren Youth Fair, in the event of extremely wet ground conditions from 5:30p.m. July 17th, 2023, to 11:00p.m. July 22nd, 2023.
6. **FY2024 MVAA Grant Request** – There was a request for approval of the FY2024 MVAA grant submission and for the Board Chair to sign all related documents on the Board's behalf. Veterans Services has the requirement to submit the FY2024 MVAA grant request for funds. This request needs to be submitted to the MVAA no later than May 10, 2023. Veterans Services is requesting that the Board of Commissioners allow Chairman Randy Peat to sign all required documents to support the FY24 MVAA request for funds due to the submission deadline of May 10, 2023. We are also requesting that the board pre-approve the strategy for Veteran Services' initial request for funds. The scope of the request is the same as FY2023, which included: Dental Program \$50,000.00 Advertising and Promotion \$15,000 Emotional Support Program \$21,000 - \$25,000 Emergency Relief Program \$9,192.00 - \$12,000 WHEREAS, in FY2024 our request is to keep with the same format to solidify the programs already in place with more funding. Dental Program \$50,000.00 Advertising and Promotion \$15,000.00 Emotional Support Program \$21,000.00-\$25,000.00 Emergency Relief Program \$9,192.00-\$12,000.00. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the submission of the FY2024 MVAA Grant request and for the Board Chair to sign on the board's behalf.

## Appointment/Reappointment Applications

1. **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Reappointment of Zach Morris** – There was a request for the re-appointment of one board member, Zach Morris, to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Zach Morris has a three-year term set to expire on June 1st, 2023. He is requesting reappointment to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority with a new term date expiring as of June 1st, 2026. The Board of Commissioners approved the reappointment of Zach Morris to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three-year term set to expire on June 1st, 2026.
  
2. **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Reappointment of Kate Strohauer** – There was a request for the re-appointment of one board member, Katie Strohauer, to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Katie Strohauer has a three-year term set to expire on June 1st, 2023. She is requesting reappointment to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority with a new term date expiring as of June 1st, 2026. The Board of Commissioners approved the reappointment of Katie Strohauer to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three-year term set to expire on June 1st, 2026.

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