

DECEMBER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

From: Mike Chappell, Vice Chair, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners;
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News from the County Commissioners (**Gail Patterson-Gladney, Kurt Doroh, Richard Godfrey, Mike Chappell, Randall Peat, Donald Hanson, Paul Schincariol**)

ARPA FUNDS (\$14.6 million) A majority of Commissioners (5 or more) has voted to fund the following requests for the use of ARPA funds by the County:

- (1) A request from the County Treasurer to stabilize a building at 5 West Main St. in Hartford, for \$75,000.00. This is a tax-foreclosed property and is in danger of collapsing if repairs are not made.
- (2) A request from the County Administrator for Essential Workers Premium Pay. Previously many essential workers for the County received a payment from the State. 148 employees did not receive this payment. The total cost is \$158,389.23 of ARPA funds to provide this payment. None of the elected officials are included in the 148.
- (3) A request from the County Administrator to use ARPA funding to recover the revenue lost by the County because of COVID-19. The County's Auditors determined the loss to total \$4,035,152 which will be transferred to the County's General Fund from the ARPA Fund.
- (4) A request from the County Administrator to use ARPA funds to purchase an Emergency Announcement System for 3 County Buildings because there is no Alarm system in these buildings. The cost of this system is estimated to be \$120,000.00 in ARPA Funds.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT: Commissioners reviewed and approved payment of all credit card purchases by County personnel for the period of October 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021. The total was \$1,868,097.52. Requests for credit card payments will now be made monthly.

SPECIALTY COURT GRANTS: The State Court Administrative office has awarded Van Buren County \$650,032.00 for the operation of its Specialty Courts: Drug Treatment Court; Family Treatment Court; Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program; Adult and Youth Recovery Courts; and Sobriety Court. The Office of Justice Programs approved a \$700,000.00 grant to enhance the Swift and Sure program. Commissioners accepted these grants.

Michigan Department of Corrections Grant: Commissioners accepted a grant from MDOC for \$150,000.00. These funds are to be used for pre-trial supervision, drug testing, electronic monitoring, and Moral Reconciliation Therapy.

PROPERTY SALE: Commissioners authorized the County Administrator to select an agent to sell the property vacated by the Heath Department at 23200 Red Arrow highway in Mattawan.

VETERANS HORTICULTURE THERAPY PROGRAM: This is a 3 year pilot program which will be managed by MSU Extension. Commissioners approved the MSU Veterans Therapy Garden Agreement. The garden will be located on County owned property on Hazen St.

JANITORIAL SERVICES: The County has been unable to fill vacant in-house janitorial positions. Therefore, the County will enter into an agreement with ABM Janitorial Services to clean the Court House and Annex buildings. The cost is \$7,875.00 per month. This agreement was approved by Commissioners.

LANDSCAPE AND MOWING SERVICES: Historically the County has employed workers from the jail to provide lawn care. But with changes in the law there is no longer a workforce available from the jail to provide these services. Commissioners have approved a contract with Lawn Boys and Elevate to provide these services for \$85,000.00 for all County locations.

ANIMAL CONTROL VEHICLE: Commissioners approved the purchase of a truck for use by Animal Control for an expense not to exceed \$27,000.00.

DATA CENTER LICENSING: Additional Data Center Licensing is required because of the new equipment installed last year. The lowest price is \$17,486.60 to meet Microsoft Licensing requirements. Approved by Commissioners.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN: This is a multi-jurisdictional plan which will be developed in conjunction with the South-West Michigan Planning Commission. A \$32,000.00 grant is available which requires a local match of \$10,350.00. Commissioners approved the proposed development plan.

MICHIGAN CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT: This is a grant from the Department of Justice for \$150,000.00 to assist the County in its efforts to operate remotely because of Covid-19. Commissioners approved the application of the grant through Michigan State Police.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT: The Entergy Corporations will provide a \$55,000.00 grant to Van Buren County's Economic Development's Strategic Fund. This Fund will be used to mitigate the impact of the closure of Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. Commissioners approved the application for this grant. The plant will be closing in May of 2022.