

# BARRY COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## Barry County Board of Commissioners – Committee of the Whole March 19, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Commission Chambers MINUTES

**Members Present:** Commissioners Mark Doster, Mike Callton, Jon Smelker, David Jackson, David Hatfield, and Bob Teunessen. Also present: Sr. Deputy Clerk Sarah VanDenburg.

**Others Present:** Michael Brown, Posse member Rebecca Bolt, Marton Albert, John Lake, Gary White, Charles Hertzler, Andrew Hartwick, Rick Moore, Joel Ibbotson, Larry Osborne, Arnie Diehl, Denny Mackenzie, Marilyn Smith, Mark Bonsignore, Rich Thiemkey, Lori Courtney, Jennifer Heinzman, Jack Miner, Casey Smith, Elizabeth Masserang, Dave Van Haaren, Daryl Cheeseman, Brandon Mierys, Greg Moore, Dave Laansma, Dan Patton, Julie Nakfoor-Pratt and Curt Dekam.

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Those present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**REPORTS FROM STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS:** None.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daryl Cheeseman talked about the Trail Project.

Larry Osborne thanked the commissioners for their service and commented on the Dominion voting equipment issue.

Joel Ibbotson talked about voter intimidation and files resulting from the current Dominion Voting Systems investigation that have been released by the Sheriff.

Gary White talked about circulation of a the petition to Amend the Clean and Renewable Energy Act and the AxMITax petition.

Rick Moore stated that he appreciates the county's support of the Paul Henry Trail and gave an update on paving the trail.

**ANDREW HARTWICK – Remonumentation Surveyor Contracts**

Moved by Callton and supported by Hatfield to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to enter into the attached 2024 Monumentation Surveyor Agreements with: Arrow Land Surveys, Inc.; Crane Land Surveying, P.C.; Exxel Engineering, Inc.; Jonker Land Surveys, P.C.; Land and Resource Engineering (LRE); RD Miller Land Surveying; and Wightman, and to authorize the Chairperson and Grant Administrator to sign the attached agreements on behalf of the County. *Discussion.* Doster asked that the agreements reflect the correct County Clerk's name. It currently has Pam Palmer's name on it. Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion carried.

**ANDREW HARTWICK – Remonumentation Peer Review Contracts**

Moved by Hatfield and supported by Teunessen to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to appoint the following licensed surveyors to the Barry County Remonumentation Peer Review Board for 2024: Steven C. Koerber with Arrow Land Surveys, Inc.; Michael P. Pratt with Crane Land Surveying, P.C.; Cameron Reid Lear with Exxel Engineering, Inc.; Randall J. Jonker with Jonker Land Surveys, P.C.; Rodney Lee Bredeweg with Land and Resource Engineering (LRE); and Ryan Miller with RD Miller Land Surveying, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the attached 2024 Agreements for Peer Review Services on behalf of the County. *Discussion.* Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion carried.

**MARILYN SMITH – CHILL Grant Resolution for Citizen Participation and Administration Approvals**

Moved by Smelker and supported by Hatfield to recommend to the Board of Commissioners adoption of Resolution # 24-6 to Adopt a Citizen Participation Plan for the CDBG Housing Improvement Local Livability (CHILL) Program, and approval of MSHDA CHILL GRANT Administrative Contract with Smith Housing Consulting, the Management Plan for the County and Smith Housing Consulting, and exempt activity form 05-b as required by MSHDA and HUD for performing the Environmental Review Tier I and Tier II for the CHILL grant program. *Discussion.* Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CASEY SMITH, SME – Brownfield TIF Program Overview**

Casey Smith and Elizabeth Masserang gave an educational presentation about the Brownfield TIF Program.

**JENNIFER HEINZMAN – Brownfield TIF Plan, 117 N. Main Street, Nashville, MI**

Heinzman gave an overview of the project located at 117 N. Main Street in Nashville, MI. Bruce Johnson, Dave Van Haaren and Lori Courtney presented the plan to the Board.

Moved by Callton and supported by Doster to schedule a public hearing, in accordance with the attached Notice of Public, during the regular Board of Commissioners meeting

to be held on April 9, 2024 at 9 a.m., and subject to the public hearing, recommend approval of the Brownfield TIF plan for 117 N. Main Street, Nashville, MI. *Discussion.* Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion carried.

The board went into recess at 10:18 a.m.

The board resumed at 10:23 a.m. with all commissioners present.

#### **DAN PATTON – Request for Additional ARP Act Funds for Paul Henry Trail Project**

Moved by Callton and supported by Hatfield to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval for an additional \$72,997.23 from the Local Assistance and Trail Consistency Funds for the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail Improvement project due to the inflationary increases from our original granted amount for construction improvements to the Nashville East and Thornapple Manor sections of the trail. *Discussion.* Nays: Doster, Ayes: Callton, Smelker, Jackson, Hatfield and Teunessen; Motion carried.

#### **MICHAEL BROWN – Appointment of Planning Commissioner Member to Solid Waste Oversight Committee**

Moved by Teunessen and supported by Doster to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to re-appoint David Hatfield to serve on the Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee in the position representing the Planning Commission for a one-year term that began on 1/1/24 and expires on 12/31/24, as approved by the Barry County Planning Commission on January 22, 2024. *Discussion.* Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion carried.

#### **COMMISSIONERS CALLTON, SMELKER AND TEUNESSEN – Resolution affirming the Board's Support of the Constitution**

Discussion occurred regarding the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners approval of Resolution # 24-07 affirming the Board's Support of the Constitution. Moved by Smelker and supported by Callton to table this item until the April 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting with possible amendments to be made to the Resolution. Ayes: Callton, Smelker, Jackson, Hatfield and Teunessen. Nays: Doster. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rick Moore thanked the board and indigenous people for funding the Thornapple Trail. He explained that Thornapple Township has bought property for the Trail.

Gary White commented on taxes and funding. He offered petitions that he spoke about previously in the meeting to the Commissioners if they would like to collect signatures.

Julie Nakfoor-Pratt, Barry County Prosecutor provided a definition of sanctuary and the constitution is intended to be a sanctuary for all citizens.

Doster left at 11:19 a.m.

Joel Ibbotson talked about the Sheriff and the release of files on Twitter. He announced that he will be filing to run for Sheriff.

John Lake talked about the amendment put forth in March of 2023 by the GOP that was unanimously supported by four commissioners. He spoke about the Constitution and the Second Amendment.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Callton – no comment.

Smelker supports the proposed resolution. He asked Gary White for a Wind and Solar Petition.

Hatfield talked about the first Personnel and Human Services Committee meeting.

Teunessen – no comment.

Jackson talked about the information on the internet, emails and phone calls from individuals who are concerned about Sheriff Leaf's investigation and the arrest of Attorney Lambert on March 18, 2024. The board shares some of the same concerns. They are monitoring the investigation from a legal standpoint. He read a statement from the Board. See attached statement.

**ADJOURNMENT:** at 11:32 a.m.

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David Jackson, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

  
Sarah VanDenburg, Sr. Deputy County Clerk

Approved: 3/26/24 clw

Date & Initials

ATTACHMENT 3/19/24 COW Minutes

The Barry County Board of Commissioners is aware of the ongoing election investigation by Sheriff Leaf. We are also aware of information being released on social media to the attention of Representative Jim Jordan. The Board of Commissioners did not review or authorize any such investigation into Dominion and/or their representatives. Sheriff Leaf is acting on his own behalf in coordination with other individuals who have ongoing concerns about the 2020 elections. We continue to support our local clerks and believe elections in Barry County are continuing with utmost integrity and professionalism. The Barry County Board of Commissioners has not been briefed on Sheriff Leaf's investigation locally or nationally, and with the release of the latest information, we will be withholding any further comment as the process plays out legally between Sheriff Leaf, the State of Michigan, and other named parties.