



**FEBRUARY 24, 2022**  
**VAN BUREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION MONTHLY ACTIVITY**

Administration Address  
219 E Paw Paw Street - Suite 201, Paw Paw, MI 49079  
Website: [www.vanburencountymi.gov](http://www.vanburencountymi.gov)

Telephone No.  
(269) 657-8230  
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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Rural Broadband Inventory Survey by DCS Technology approved for parcel level detail countywide.
- Purchase offers are being considered for vacant county property formerly occupied by Public Health in Mattawan.
- The following re-appointments were made:
  - Mike Toth to the Economic Development Corporation
  - Matt Newton to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
  - Sandra Hanson to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- The following appointments were made:
  - Jan Peterson to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- Annual borrowing resolution authorized County Treasurer to borrow up to \$7.5 million for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.
- Claims in the amount of \$2,357,651.81 were approved.
- MDOT Grant was approved for \$826,470 for Public Transit.
- New MVAA (Veterans) Grant was approved for an additional \$12,086.
- Annual 911 Local Surcharge resolution was approved for 7/1/22-6/30/23.



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## DETAILS

### **1. Broadband Expansion Efforts**

A proposal from DCS Technology was approved for a rural broadband inventory survey. The total cost of the survey is \$96,000. Field technicians will begin their work in April. The final report will include parcel level detail and is expected by July 2022.

### **2. Lease Agreements:**

The BOC approved lease agreements with Applied Imaging for multi-function machines that will be used in Public Transit, Buildings and Grounds, and Veterans Services.

### **3. Board Appointments:**

- Mike Toth was re-appointed to the Economic Development Corporation Board for a six-year term expiring 2/13/2028.
- Jan Petersen was appointed to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term expiring 12/31/2023.
- Matt Newton and Sandra Hanson were re-appointed to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a two-year term expiring 12/31/2023.

### **4. Annual Borrowing Resolution:**

The BOC authorized the county treasurer to borrow up to \$7.5 million for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

### **5. Grants**

- MVAA (Veterans) awarded the county an additional \$12,086.00 for veteran services and programs. This is in addition to the \$86,462.00 already awarded. These funds are used to help with the dental, K9, and horticulture programs for veterans and their families.

### **6. Public Transit**

- The board approved an MDOT grant for \$826,470.00 to be used by Van Buren County Public Transit in accordance with the master agreement.
- A new scheduling and dispatch program was approved for Public Transit at a total cost of \$60,518.00. PC Trans will be the new system and it will create more efficiency with scheduling and provide real-time location information for all buses.

### **7. Public Transit**

The board approved the annual application with MDOT. The process is required to assist MDOT's process to allocate operational and capital funding to transit agencies throughout the State of Michigan.

### **8. Property**

The board approved the consideration of offers for vacant county property located in Mattawan. The site was formerly occupied by the public health department.



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### **9. Attorney Firm**

The board signed an engagement agreement with Miller Johnson to replace Miller Canfield as the county's attorney firm.

### **10. Personnel**

- K9 officer Aspen was allowed to retire and be purchased by handler Scott Schmitt.
- Two part-time positions were changed into two full-time positions. Due to worker shortages, staffing has been difficult to find to fill all vacant positions. The hope is to offer a more attractive opportunity by offering full-time options.
- A letter of agreement was made with the union at Public Transit which places employees on a unified AFSCME pay scale.
- A new Family Division Administrator was selected by the courts and BOC approved the courts request to start the employee at an elevated step on the assigned scale.
- The county administrator was authorized to attend the Midwest Region ICMA conference in St. Louis, March 23-25, 2022.

### **11. Claims**

The board authorized claims in the amount of \$2,357,651.81.

### **12. 911 Operations**

- The board authorized collection of the 911 Local Surcharge from the voter approved funds from the August 2020 election. The local surcharge collection resolution is for the period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.
- 911 received authorization from the board to proceed with the purchase of 911 Customer Premise Equipment. The total cost is \$72,275.68. The current equipment is at its end of life and was scheduled for replacement.

### **13. Palisades Community Advisory Panel (PCAP)**

The next meeting of PCAP is scheduled on 3/9/2022 from 6-8 p.m. at the South Haven Lake Michigan College location. This meeting will primarily focus on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Members of the public who wish to submit public comment to the PCAP or NRC in advance of the meeting must do so no later than 5 p.m. on February 28, 2022 and can be sent to: [palisades@marketvanburen.org](mailto:palisades@marketvanburen.org) with the subject line "Public comment."  
More information can be found [here](#).

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As a reminder, all board meeting agendas and minutes can be found [here](#).