



## January 2025 Board of Commissioners Activity Reports

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### HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY 2025

- 1. KL Avenue Landfill Groundwater Restriction** – During the January 14, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the creation of a Groundwater Use Restricted Zone in Alma Township to support remediation efforts at the West KL Avenue Landfill. The restriction prevents new well installations without approval and ensures public safety.
- 2. New Covert Generating Litigation Agreement** – During the January 14, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a joint legal engagement with Covert Township, consolidating legal representation under Foster Swift to improve efficiency in an ongoing lawsuit regarding the New Covert Generating Plant.
- 3. OnBase Licensing Renewal** – During the January 14, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a \$58,467.08 payment to Applied Innovation for the renewal of OnBase, the electronic imaging and workflow system used by the Friend of the Court.
- 4. Specialty Court Consultant Contract** – During the January 14, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a transition plan for the outgoing Specialty Court Administrator, Rachel Lindley, to provide training to her successor. The contract includes full-time consultation from January 27 to February 23, followed by part-time consultation through April 30, 2025.
- 5. Public Defender Salary Exception** – During the January 14, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a salary exception for a newly hired Assistant Public Defender with extensive felony trial experience.
- 6. North Lake Drain Project** – During the January 28, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the pledge of the County's full faith and credit for the issuance of a \$692,681.02 note to fund the North Lake Drain maintenance project in Columbia Township, which includes replacing road crossings and improving drainage.
- 7. Budget Stabilization Transfer** – During the January 28, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board authorized a \$715,000.00 transfer from the General Fund to the Budget Stabilization Fund to maintain compliance with state financial stability requirements.
- 8. Out-of-State Travel Approval – Finance** – During the January 28, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved travel for the Finance Director and Finance Operations Manager to attend the annual Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conference in Washington, D.C., from June 28 – July 2, 2025.
- 9. MDOT Transit Funding Application** – During the January 28, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the submission of the County's FY 2026 Annual Application to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to secure continued funding for the Public Transit program.

## **Request to Use County Property**

- 1. Paw Paw Recycle Roundup Event** – During the January 28, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the use of County property by the Van Buren Conservation District for its annual Recycle Roundup event on June 7, 2025. The event will be held at the Van Buren Community Mental Health building parking lot and includes the use of facilities and equipment.

## **Appointments/Reappointments**

- 1. Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) Board Appointment** – Former Commissioner Richard Godfrey was appointed during the January 14, 2025, BOC meeting to the Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board for a two-year term from January 1, 2025, through January 1, 2027.
- 2. Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) Appointments** – Donovan Kelley and Kimberly Haneberg were appointed during the January 28, 2025, BOC meeting to the MMPC, representing recycling and composting operations, respectively. This committee oversees waste management planning for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.



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