



February 2025 Board of Commissioners Activity Reports

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

- 1. Broadband Update** – During the February 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board discussed the Mercury RDOF default and the BEAD Program, deciding to delay further broadband expansion decisions until more funding details are available.
- 2. Van Buren Youth Initiative Update** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board received a quarterly update on the Van Buren Youth Initiative, which provides educational and recreational programs for local youth. The update included new after-school activities aimed at fostering positive development and engagement opportunities for young residents.
- 3. AmeriCorps Host Site** – During the February 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved hosting an AmeriCorps Community Redevelopment Liaison. The liaison will assist local communities in pursuing redevelopment and housing initiatives.
- 4. Status Offense Diversion Project Grant** – During the February 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the submission of a \$100,000.00 grant application for the Status Offense Diversion Project. This program aims to reduce juvenile court involvement by expanding intervention services for at-risk youth.
- 5. January 2025 Claims** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, claims amounting to \$4,001,142.93 for the month of January 2025 were approved.
- 6. 2025 Annual Borrowing Resolution** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board authorized the County Treasurer to borrow up to \$7.5 million to ensure timely reimbursements to local taxing authorities for unpaid property taxes. This borrowing is secured by future tax collections.
- 7. Jail Inmate Phone Service Provider** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved Combined Public Communications (CPC) as the new service provider for inmate phone services. The contract maintains commission revenue for the County and ensures competitive call rates for inmates.
- 8. Urgent Facility Repairs at Animal Control** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a \$36,080 emergency floor replacement project at the Van Buren County Animal Control Facility. The repairs were mandated following a state inspection to ensure compliance with animal welfare standards.
- 9. Hartford Kayak Launch** - During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the acceptance of a warranty deed from Meachum Properties, LLC, allowing the County to move forward with the Hartford Kayak Launch Project. The property, acquired for a nominal fee of \$1.00, will be developed into a designated public kayak launch site along the Paw Paw River, enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities.

- 10. IT Agreement with Paw Paw Police Department** - During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved an IT services agreement with the Paw Paw Police Department. The agreement formalizes ongoing technological support and maintenance, ensuring the department's systems remain secure and operational.
- 11. Facility Improvements to South Haven Courthouse and Administration Building** - During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved two capital improvement projects. The first allocates \$24,829.17 to replace worn carpet at the South Haven Courthouse, improving safety and appearance. The second, totaling \$51,730.00, replaces aging siding on the Administration Building and will be completed alongside a window replacement project to enhance energy efficiency and aesthetics.
- 12. Policy Updates for Employee Benefits and Emergency Closures** - During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board updated two county policies. The Paid Time Off (PTO) policy was revised to comply with the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act, effective February 21, 2025. The Building Closures Policy was also clarified to ensure consistent compensation guidelines for employees during emergency closures or delays.

Request to Use County Property

- 1. 2025 Community Events** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the use of various County properties during the 2025 Wine & Harvest Festival, taking place from September 5-7, and the Lakeshore Harvest Ride on September 13. The Wine & Harvest Festival, one of the county's largest and most anticipated events, typically attracts over 60,000 visitors for a weekend filled with entertainment, including the Arts and Crafts Show, the Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk, and the Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bike Tour. The Board also approved the use of South Haven Courthouse parking facilities for the Lakeshore Harvest Ride, a scenic cycling event that shows the county's picturesque countryside, local farms, orchards, and wineries. Both events highlight the region's vibrant culture, support tourism, and provide a significant economic boost to local businesses!

Appointments/Reappointments

- 1. Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Board Appointments** – During the February 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the appointment of new members to the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Board. These individuals will help guide the development and maintenance of local parks and recreational facilities, ensuring that the county continues to offer quality outdoor spaces for residents.



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