



March 2025 Board of Commissioners Activity Reports

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 2025

- 1. 911 Local Surcharge Continuation** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved continuation of the voter-approved 911 Local Surcharge for fiscal year 2025–2026.
- 2. Hartford Kayak Launch Project** – During the March 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved acceptance of a warranty deed from Meachum Properties LLC to support the development of a public kayak launch on the Paw Paw River.
- 3. IT Services Agreement with Paw Paw Police Department** – During the March 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a formal IT services agreement with the Paw Paw Police Department to compensate the County for support services.
- 4. Facility Improvements to Courthouse and Administration Building** – During the March 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved CIP-funded projects to replace the carpet at the South Haven Courthouse and replace siding on the Administration Building.
- 5. Congressional Funding Request for Emergency Operations Center** – During the March 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved submission of a \$3 million Congressionally Directed Spending application to construct a new 911 Dispatch/Emergency Operations Center.
- 6. Support for Nuclear Energy Legislation** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board adopted a resolution supporting Michigan House Bills 4124–4129 to promote small modular reactor development and energy sector workforce investment.
- 7. February 2025 Claims** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved claims totaling \$5,389,678.04 for the month of February 2025.
- 8. Broadband Expansion Support** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a letter of support for Midwest Energy & Communications' application for BEAD Program funding to improve broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.
- 9. Materials Management Work Program Adoption** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board adopted the Southwest Michigan Materials Management Work Program and authorized application for EGLE grant funding.
- 10. Materials Management Planning Grant Administration** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a \$20,000 contract with the Van Buren Conservation District to assist in administering the EGLE Materials Management Planning Grant.

- 11. AI Usage Policy** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved an AI Usage Policy to guide the County’s responsible use of artificial intelligence technologies.
- 12. Intergovernmental AI Partnership** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a partnership with St. Joseph County to form a shared Digital Information Department, supporting joint AI initiatives and communication strategies.
- 13. Medical Examiner Services Renewal** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved a four-year contract renewal with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine for Medical Examiner services through March 31, 2029.

Request to Use County Property

- 1. Use of County Property for Community Events** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved requests from Warner Vineyards and the Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce to use County property for the Summer Concert Series and Paw Paw Days 2025.

Appointments/Reappointments

- 1. Parks and Recreation Board Appointments** – During the March 11, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board confirmed new appointments to the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Board with terms ranging through 2028.
- 2. Mental Health Board Reappointments** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board approved the reappointment of Thomas Coles, Christopher Tapper, and Mike Toth to the Van Buren Community Mental Health Authority Board for terms expiring March 31, 2028.
- 3. Appointment to Materials Management Planning Committee** – During the March 25, 2025, BOC meeting, the Board appointed Sheila Bergen to the Materials Management Planning Committee, filling a vacancy representing the waste diversion sector.



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