

**Board Conference Room
August 24, 2023
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 11:33 p.m.

Chairperson Walker led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll was called by Clerk Anderson. Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Beggs.

Also Present: Mr. Chuck Ritchard, Hart resident, Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare any conflicts of interest on the agenda items. No conflicts were declared.

Chairperson Walker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were mentioned, however, due to the absence of Mr. Beggs, Motion #2023-94 has been assigned to Mr. Morse.

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Chuck Ritchard, Hart Township resident, was present to inform the Board that he is prepared to file a case in Federal District Court against Mr. Erickson for libel and slander.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2023-92 – REMONUMENTATION PEER GROUP AGREEMENT

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Erickson, to approve agreements with Mr. Alex Altmaier, Mr. Noah Penn, Mr. Donald Sandel and Mr. Craig Stapely to participate in the County Remonumentation Peer Group for 2023 to expire on December 31, 2023 and allow the Chair to sign.

Roll call vote: Mr. Morse - yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.
Absent: Mr. Beggs.

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-93 – PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy, to approve the agreement between the City of Hart and Oceana County for the purpose of Property Assessment Administration from September 1, 2023 through August 30, 2026 and allow the Chair to sign.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.
Absent: Mr. Beggs.

Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-94 - REAPPOINTMENT

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Erickson, to reappoint Connie Cargill to the Landbank Authority for a three-year term to expire on September 30, 2026.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION #2023-95 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson, to adopt Motion #2023-95 approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for August 24, 2023.

AMBULANCE	\$244,294.03
GIS	-0-
FOC	2,194.06
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	4,711.25
BROWNFIELD	-0-
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE	26,565.43
LCOT	-0-
K9 UNIT	-0-
CJT	-0-
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	5,165.13
VETERANS AFFAIRS	4,696.69
TECH & INNOVATION	939.75
CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
FORECLOSURE	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	12,869.34
GENERAL FUND	368,133.19
GRAND TOTAL	\$669,568.87

Roll call vote: Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Morse – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes.
Absent: Mr. Beggs.

Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Morse had no report, however, did inquire about the Transfer Station. He also mentioned he had a conversation with Mr. Ron Christians, former County Commissioner who is now involved with the Dogwood Center and expressed there are concerns with housing in Oceana County.

Mr. Erickson reported the celebration in Mears on Sunday afternoon was well attended. He commented that the Oceana County Fair is in full swing, but there is concerns for the animals due to the weather conditions this week. He also reported the Oceana County Medical Care Facility is still struggling with the census and retaining/attracting employees.

Ms. Byard inquired if Mr. Morse attended the Broadband meeting. Mr. Morse indicated he did attend and reported that currently approximately 70% of Oceana County addresses have coverage and by 2026 that percentage should increase to approximately 95%.

Mr. Walker stated that previously, the former Board Chairperson suggested that periodically, the Board members would visit various County owned facilities such as the airport, animal control, etc. to become familiar with the individuals that manage them. He then inquired if this board would be interested in a quarterly visit to these facilities upon adjournment of the Board meetings.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

Mr. Walker, Chairperson

Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance and Administration Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 10:03 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Morse, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Hardy. Absent: Mr. Beggs.

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Mr. John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Mr. Tim Lewis, POAM Union Representative; Mr. Paul Postal, FOP Union Representative; Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff; Mr. Curtis Burdette, Executive Director, Oceana County Economic Alliance; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Morse and supported by Mr. Erickson to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023 Finance and Administration Committee meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were mentioned.

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Agenda Items

Mr. Tim Lewis, POAM Union Representative, was present to initiate a discussion regarding the Sheriff's Union and the need to attract employees.

Mr. Curtis Burdette, Oceana County Economic Alliance, discussed the workforce development report. The purpose of the survey was to look at work diversification, training and opportunities. Also looked at the needs of the county. The final report should be available by the end of the year. He mentioned Pitch North competition which was a competition with entrepreneurs from three counties. Second place went to Birch & Blossom from Hart. Big Skinny's from Hesperia was also a participant. Larry Byl is working with him on Developer Day 10/6/23, which will bring developers to the county to look at potential sites and opportunities for businesses.

Ms. Byard began discussion regarding the Remonumentation Peer Group. She asked the board to approve the contract. This is paid for by the state.

Ms. Byard brought for discussion regarding the agreement for the purpose of property assessment administration for the City of Hart. Asked for renewal for assessment services and approval by the board.

Ms. Byard also did not read the claims for payment, but the following was provided:

Oceana County Administrator

REVIEW OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT (>= \$1,000 and Other Noteworthy Expenditures)

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
Special Revenue Funds				
210 - Ambulance			\$ 240,605.43	to Life EMS for the quarterly service agreement.
			\$ 3,630.00	to Hesperia Fire Department for MFR costs.
215 - Friend of the Court			\$ 2,194.06	to Image Soft for professional services and icloud storage
239 - Shelby Twp Community Park			\$ 2,577.50	to Kennari Consulting for professional services. Fully reimbursed via private donations.
			\$ 2,133.75	to Landscape Architects & Planners for project services. Fully reimbursed via private donations.
260 - Indigent Defense			\$ 5,625.00	to Indigent Defense Consultants for managed assigned counsel services.
			\$ 2,991.00	to Hayes Law Office, PLC for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 7,123.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
			\$ 7,994.00	to Good Law for court appointed attorney fees.
286 - ARPA			\$ 3,276.86	to River's Ace for Grant Twsp Fire Dept.
			\$ 1,375.00	to Shelby Township Treasurer for reimbursement.

549 - Building Department Fund	\$ 2,450.70	to Randy Miller for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 2,334.20	to Randy Neuman for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,458.41	to Sonnie Smith for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,400.00	to Shoreline Inspection Service LLC for permits, residential plan reviews, and commercial plan reviews.
	\$ 1,505.00	to BS&A for employee training.
General Fund		
101- BOC	\$ 6,120.73	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security for August 2023 and July 2023 OT.
	\$ 2,740.60	to Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. for legal services.
248 - Courthouse & Grounds	\$ 10,000.00	to Reserve Account for postage.
253 - County Treasurer	\$ 1,718.00	to Greenstone Insurance Co for short term surety tax bond insurance.
257 - Equalization	\$ 24,210.00	to V&V Assessing for equalization and assessing services.
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 4,223.92	to Hayes Law Office for appropriations for September 2023.
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for court contracted services.

	\$ 4,223.92	to Springstead Law Offices for appropriations for September 2023.
301 - Sheriff	\$ 1,180.00	to Michigan Sheriff's Association for employee training.
351 - Jail	\$ 3,804.80	to Gordon Food Service.
	\$ 1,174.99	to Command Communications for equipmenmt
442 - Drain Commissioner	\$ 2,253.62	To huntington national for conference and travel.
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 19,793.40	to American Classic Dumpster for removal of trash and recycling material.
601 - Health Department	\$ 5,300.00	to DHD#10 for monthly lease payment.
648 - Medical Examiner	\$ 7,095.42	to Mid Michigan Medical Examiner Group for administrative services.
649 - Mental Health	\$ 10,833.33	to West Michigan Community Mental Health.
~ Total	\$ 396,646.64	

Administrator's Report *(as provided by Ms. Byard):*

BUDGET

Budgets have started coming in. We are in the process of inputting our budgets and that information. Once all budgets are received, the process of administrator recommendations will begin allowing for meetings with the department heads if needed. Once that is complete

preparation for the Board of Commissioners will begin to present to the Board on Tuesday, September 26th.

OPIOID MEETINGS

Opioid meetings are being held monthly with the Michigan Association of Counties. Each meeting consists of a county presenting to the group to showcase what they are using those funds for or even to just touch on where they are in the process. Gladwin County presented at the last meeting. They did create a group of many stakeholders who deal with the opioid crisis in one way or another to come up with ideas for uses of those funds.

BROWNFIELD APPOINTMENTS

There are three positions on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority that will be expiring. Two of the positions do not wish to be reappointed. The posting has been placed on the website and put in the paper to encourage applications. The appointments will be placed on the Board of Commissioners agenda for approval at their meeting on September 28th.

ZENCITY

A meeting was held with Zencity. They invited Phil Morse and I to discuss some changes to the program and present those. We explained the hesitation that came out of the presentation to the Board before. They will be providing a revised quote to allow for consideration during the budget process.

MATERIALS MGT/MTG WITH WMSRDC

A meeting was held with the surrounding counties and the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission as they had approached us to handle our materials management plan. The group asked for them to provide a proposal. We will meet once that is received to discuss options.

Additional Administrator's Report Items

Retirement- Anything related to Defined Benefit cannot be opened unless it is 100% funded and at the current time it is at 83%.

Phone call from Mr. Hyslop regarding recycling, talking about materials management plan. He was informed we are talking of doing a group management plan.

Emails with Mr. Selner-lead pipe replacement. State is requiring the lead pipes be replaced. Should fees be charged and under whose authority would the charge be generated. We need to check with LARA and International Building Code as to charges.

The grant for generators for buildings is not possible for us to use as it applies for community services and having to do with poverty.

Department Head Reports

There were no department head reports at this time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk