

**Board Conference Room
October 10, 2024
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 12:22 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. McCormick, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker.

Also Present: Mr. Brendan Samuels, The Echo correspondent; Ms. Cristina Juska, Oceana's Herald Journal correspondent; Judge Middlebrook, 79th District Court; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2024 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. Mr. Hardy suggested the addition of the sidewalk and concrete replacement at the Sheriff's office.

Chairman Walker suggested that a Budget workshop should be scheduled to review the many requests that have come before the board.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Judge Middlebrook, 79th District Court, asked for the Court Room Clerk to be approved for the 2025 budget year.

Agenda Items

MOTION #2024-104 – TRANSFER STATION SCALE

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs, to approve the Transfer Station scale bid from GR Metrology in the amount of \$151,604.00 not to exceed \$170,000 with the funds to be paid from the Public Building and Improvement Fund.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-116 – PEER GROUP CONTRACTS FOR REMONUMENTATION

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy, to approve the Remonumentation Peer Group Member Agreements for Donald Sandel and Noah Penn, Land Surveyor's for a period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and allow Chair to sign.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-117 – MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to appoint Connie Cargill, Treasurer Golden Township, to the Materials Management Planning Committee representing the elected official from a city, village or municipality for a term to expire on December 31, 2030.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-120 – SIDEWALK AND CONCRETE REPLACEMENT

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Erickson to approve the concrete replacement for driveway, sidewalk and surrounding areas at the Sheriff’s Department not to exceed \$6,000 to be completed in conjunction with the City of Hart’s sidewalk project.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024-118 – CRYSTAL VALLEY DAM (TBD)

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. McCormick, to allow Mr. James Tiffany to apply to EGLE for a permit to remediate the issue at Crystal Valley Dam.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION #2024- 119 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Motion #2024-119, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for October 10, 2024.

AMBULANCE	\$2,315.28
GIS	-0-
FOC	-0-
PENTWATER-HART TRAIL	-0-
SHELBY TWP COMM PARK	-0-
BROWNFIELD	-0-
AUTOMATION R.O.D.	739.19
INDIGENT DEFENSE	14,338.39
LCOT	300.00
K9 UNIT	109.18
CJT	250.00
CDBG	-0-
ARPA	31,942.06
VETERANS AFFAIRS	4,820.38
TECH & INNOVATION	1,332.09
CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP	-0-

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	2,699.32
FORECLOSURE	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	20,909.10
GENERAL FUND	363,630.68
GRAND TOTAL	\$443,385.67

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner’s Reports

Mr. Beggs reported that he met the new part-time Veteran’s Service officer. He seems to be getting acclimated very well. The Road Commission is nearing the end of the “Road Construction” Season. There has been \$16M in road repairs with 144 miles of improved road surface.

Mr. Hardy reported that he will have a 911 meeting next week and will report after that.

Mr. Erickson thanked the commissioners for the ability to move forward with the Crystal Valley Dam project and also commented on the County Parks.

Ms. Byard stated that the Budget Hearing is scheduled for the next Board Meeting on October 26, and wanted to know when they would like the Budget Workshop scheduled. Also, she wanted to know if the Board would like her to prepare a list of what was approved, put on hold, and what has been requested since the last workshop.

Mr. Walker suggested that Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. for the Budget Workshop.

He also commented that on McKinley Road in Grant Township, there is a new private subdivision put in where two new houses were built with a value of just under \$500,000 each.

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 12:43 p.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, October 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. McCormick, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Hardy.

Also Present: Ms. Laura Ackerman, Oceana County Soil Conservation District Director; Mr. Phil Morse, Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA) Chairperson; Mr. Ian Rees, Audit Mgr., Gabridge & Company (via Zoom); Mr. Richard Raffaelli, Shelby Twp. Supervisor; Mr. Curtis Burdette, Oceana County Economic Alliance; Mr. James Tiffany; Ms. Michelle Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner; Mr. Ryan Schiller, Oceana County Undersheriff; Ms. Cristina Juska, Oceana's Herald Journal correspondent; Mr. Brendan Samuels, The Echo correspondent; Mr. Lee Hyslop, Crystal Township Supervisor; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2024 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. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Beggs to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ms. Laura Ackerman, Director Oceana County Soil Conservation District, requested a budget increase in order to continue with education and action through resource and distribution.

Mr. Phil Morse, OCEA chair spoke on behalf of Curtis Burdette and the Economic Alliance. He stressed that there is a need for another employee to assist with the increase of work and ability to grow our county.

Agenda Items

Mr. Ian Rees, Audit Mgr., Gabridge & Company presented a report on the audit via zoom. Mr. Rees reported the audit passed with no issues. Revenue was \$6.25 million with expenses up at \$1.5 million. He went over pensions and the basic financial statements.

Mr. Richard Raffaelli, Shelby Twp. Supervisor requested an appropriation from the County for the Shelby Township Enclosed Facility. He requested \$50,000 from ARPA funds to help with the indoor facility at Shelby Township Park. He stated that construction will begin in May 2025. The total cost is roughly \$8.5 million and noted that all but one million dollars have been funded.

Mr. Richard Raffaelli, Chief Operating Officer, Peterson Farms, Inc. and Mr. Curtis Burdette, Economic Alliance requested additional staffing for Oceana County Economic Alliance. Mr. Raffaelli spoke in support of additional staff for Mr. Burdette. He stated that this employee would be under the control of the county. Mr. Burdette stated that some of the grant money could be used for administration purposes.

Mr. Walker provided information on the Transfer Station Scale. He stated that the only way to run the transfer station properly is to scale in and scale out. He noted that the price of the scale is \$136,041. The total for the project is \$170,000 from the Building Improvement Fund. There would be less than a two-year payback. He would be in favor of entering into a contract with GR Metrology for a 50' x 11' scale.

Administrator Byard requested approval of the Peer Group Contracts for Remonumentation.

Administrator Byard requested an appointment to the Materials Management Planning Committee. She stated that there are two positions for a municipality (one village or city and one for a township) and two for a business. Her recommendation was Ms. Connie Cargill, Golden Township Treasurer to fill the municipality of a township position.

Commissioner Erickson began discussion regarding Crystal Valley Dam. Mr. James Tiffany, engineer, was present via zoom. He explained the various aspects of the plan to correct the issues with the dam and stated that this project is expected to start next summer. He stated that local companies would be used as long as they were able to provide the service necessary. He noted that some grants have become available through EGLE. He stated that an application should be submitted to EGLE with plans and then if approved, bids will be requested.

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

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

Fund #	Dept. #	Dept. Name	Amount	Purpose
Special Revenue Funds				
210 - Ambulance			\$ 1,127.62	to Republic Services for dumpster service
286 - American Rescue Plan			\$ 10,716.06	to Oceana Conservation District FY 2024 ARPA Expenditure reimbursements
			\$ 21,226.00	to Scheid Plumbing Heating & Cooling, Inc. for Sterling water treatment deposit
260 - Indigent Defense			\$ 9,087.00	to Hayes Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
298 - Technology & Innovation			\$ -	To Huntington National bank for assorted machinery and equipment
445 - Public Improvement			\$ 2,699.32	to Scott Monroe Jr (Fire House Films) for courthouse window tinting
549 - Building Department			\$ 8,894.00	to Randolph D Miller, LLC for inspections and permits
			\$ 2,627.44	to Kevin Greiner for inspections and permits
			\$ 1,751.47	to Sonnie Smith for inspections and permits

	\$ 4,113.10	to Lance Gates for inspections and permits
General Fund		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 6,623.62	to H Security & Investigation for courthouse security services
248 - General Services Administration	\$ -	to Pitney Bowes for postage
262 - Elections	\$ 1,068.39	to Spectrum Printers, Inc. for the November 2024 election costs
265 - Courthouse & Ground	\$ 1,541.94	to Republic Services for dumpster services
	\$ 3,996.06	to City of Hart for utilities]
301 - Sheriff	\$ 1,294.31	to AT&T Mobility for telephone services
	\$ 10,296.83	to Wex Bank for fuel
	\$ 1,180.00	to the Michigan Sheriff's Association for employee training
	\$ 1,296.55	to NYE Uniform for uniforms
351 - Jail	\$ 2,062.59	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 1,598.85	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 4,346.04	to City of Hart for utilities
	\$ 1,249.33	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies

528 - Transfer Station	\$ 18,283.20	to American Classic for dumpster services
	\$ 1,382.50	to Geocycle for tire recycling
601 - Health Department	\$ 1,018.79	to Consumers Energy for utilities
710 - MSU Extension	\$ 36,598.75	to MSUE for 4th quarter 2024 MOA Work Plan
728 - Economic & Community Development	\$ 2,125.00	to MSUE for 3rd quarter 2024 Right Place Clerical Support
~	Total	\$ 209,481.01

Administrator’s Report

Ms. Byard mentioned that there has been discussion regarding a vehicle for the Emergency Manager’s use. She stated that she has been consulting with Undersheriff Schiller about a leased vehicle through Enterprise. She indicated that the lease for a Chevy Trailblazer would be \$3900 a year. There would be a reduction of \$2328 in travel and he could apply for grant funds in the amount of \$1440.

She has been sending out information regarding the Animal Control vehicle.

Ms. Byard mentioned that she and Jessica met with Brown and Brown, to discuss the health insurance and noted that there is a 4.07% increase and have asked them to make some adjustments and report back to them.

Ms. Byard reminded that she sent an email regarding the West Michigan County Alliance meeting to be held in Lake County. Please let her know if you will be attending so that she can make reservations.

Ms. Byard mentioned that Mr. Erickson reached out to her regarding a public notice that was published in the paper. The QR code that was included was not working. She also noted that the proof copy that was provided did have a working QR code.

Department Head Reports

Undersheriff Schiller reported that the Uninterrupted Power Supply is up and running. He stated that the cut over was scheduled for November 5, however they are working on rescheduling as that is election day and they do not want to cause any issues for the Clerk’s office on Election Day. There have been some plumbing issues and working to get that corrected. He also noted that the City of Hart has been working on some sidewalk projects and it was noticed that the carport at the Sheriff’s Office is cracked and upheaved. Conversation continued regarding this issue and a quote was

requested from the City for replacement of the pad. The estimate was approximately \$4900. Undersheriff stated that now would be the time to have this replaced as the city is currently working on the sidewalks.

Mr. Walker suggested that the curb be cut away to make it wheelchair accessible at the same time. He also complimented the Jail Lieutenant, corrections staff, and administration for passing the MDOC Inspection on all points.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks & Recreation stated that relationships are very important when applying for grants. He noted that the fishing platform at Marshville Dam was funded by a Great Lakes Fishery Access Fund that CRA found. He has written a request to the Board for \$100,000 from some ARPA funds to help fund projects that have been unfunded for a long time. This would help to pave the parking lots at Gales Pond Park, Cedar Point Park and Marshville Dam to be ADA compliant.

Public Comment

Mr. Curtis Burdette, Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA), provided updates on various items. He noted that tomorrow is the breakfast for the OCEA. Next week he will be attending the Merrit Broadband Summit at Crystal Mountain. They have been speaking to internet providers. The Oceana County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority approved an environmental assessment at the previous Village Hall in Pentwater. There has been \$225,000 out of the \$300,000 grant that has been committed which leaves \$75,000 left for environmental assessments. They are still looking for other opportunities.

Ms. Michelle Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner, reported that projects are being finished up. She commented on Mr. Tiffany's report that an engineered plan must be developed prior to submitting the application to EGLE.

Mr. Hyslop, Crystal Township Supervisor, provided an update on the farm road project. He will be attending a meeting on November 15 to clarify where his data came from. He also spoke in support of the additional office support for Mr. Curtis Burdette.

Chairperson Hardy asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk