

**Board Conference Room  
September 26, 2024  
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The annual meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 11:31 a.m.

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

Roll was called by Chief Deputy Coon. Present: Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker.

Also Present: Mr. Curtis Burdette, Executive Director, Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA); Hon. John Middlebrook, District Court Judge; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the September 12, 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. He confirmed the removal of Motion 2024-104 Transfer Station Scale Approval from the agenda.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs to approve the agenda as changed.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Agenda Items**

**MOTION #2024-96 – ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Erickson, to adopt Ordinance 2024-07 Oceana County Animal Control Ordinance, as authorized by the Dog Law of 1919, MCL 287.289a, for animal control programs, facilities, personnel and necessary expenses incurred in animal control to be effective 30 days after viewing for public comment.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 105 – MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to appoint Ms. Lynne Cavazos to the Materials Management Planning Committee representing the elected official from a city or village and Jim Kleiner as one of the representatives of a business that generates managed materials with terms to expire on December 31, 2030.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 106 – BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT APPOINTMENTS**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Erickson, to appoint the following individuals: Mr. Chad Robinson for a three-year term to expire on September 20, 2027, and reappoint Mr. Curtis Burdette and Ms. Mary Lou Phillips for a three-year term to expire September 20, 2027.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 107 – PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy, to appoint Mr. Phil Morse to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Allen Blohm to expire on December 31, 2026.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 108 – EPA GRANT SUBMISSION**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson, to approve the submission of the EPA Community Change Grant application in the amount not to exceed \$10.5 million for the purpose of a resilience hub/community center in Rothbury.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 109 – AIRPORT AUTHORIZED SIGNER RESOLUTION**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy, to adopt Resolution #24-14, to authorize the County Administrator to be the authorized designated signer for the Airports MDOT Contracts.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 110 – MDOT BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW AGREEMENT**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs, to approve the Michigan Department of Transportation Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Agreement number 2024-0833 for grant number 3-26-0154-18224 for the purpose of obstruction marking/lighting/removal for runway 9/27- part 77 primary surface grading design in the amount of \$34,500.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 111 – PROPOSED L-4029 SETTING THE 2024 MILLAGE RATE**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson, to approve the L-4029 as prepared by the Country Equalization Director setting the 2024 Tax Millage Rate.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024 – 112 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Beggs, to appoint Mr. Joel McCormick to the unexpired term of Phil Morse on the Board of Commissioners for District 2 to expire on December 31, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024- 113 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Motion #2024-113, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for September 26, 2024.

<b>AMBULANCE</b>	<b>\$151.06</b>
<b>GIS</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>FOC</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PENTWATER-HART TRAIL</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>SHELBY TWP COMM PARK</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BROWNFIELD</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>AUTOMATION R.O.D.</b>	<b>1,470.48</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE</b>	<b>36,335.85</b>
<b>LCOT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>K9 UNIT</b>	<b>(76)</b>
<b>CJT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>9,254</b>
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>	<b>6,221.70</b>
<b>TECH &amp; INNOVATION</b>	<b>4,397.41</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>3,909.13</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>14,978.81</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>522,323.68</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$598,966.12</b>

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

Motion carried.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

Mr. Hardy noted great progress was made at the budget meeting this week. The 911 meeting was cancelled for this month due to not much activity.

Mr. Beggs stated it was a busy meeting week. He attended the budget meeting and focused on a replacement for Mr. Morse.

Mr. Erickson attended the Department of Health & Human Services on Monday. The Medical Care Facility ventilation system is being worked on. The new facility administrator is doing well communicating. The budget meeting was good. He is making a trip to District 2 Health Department.

Mr. Walker concurred with the other commissioners that this was the first time they have went into a budget workshop where there was not a deficit.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Curtis Burdette stated that on October 11 there will be an Economic Development breakfast at the Research Station. There will be some programming updates. Mr. Randy Thelen will be the guest speaker.

Judge Middlebrook mentioned that approximately two weeks ago he received an email from the State Court Administrative Office stating approval for \$15,000 for drug treatment sobriety program which is contingent on Federal approval. He had a conversation with Ms. Facundo, 79<sup>th</sup> District Court Magistrate, that a court reporter may not have been approved. A meeting with Mr. Morse and Mr. Erickson indicated they were in favor of approval of this position for next year. They did not want to approve for the interim this fall. They have hired a reporter and this is working out well. He feels the position is definitely needed.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

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Melanie A. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Walker, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance and Administration Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hardy on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 10:55 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the September 12, 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. Walker to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Agenda Items**

Ms. Byard presented the Animal Control Ordinance. Mr. Beggs suggested to add 30 days for public comment after published.

Ms. Byard brought forth consideration to approve Resolution #24-14 for Authorized Signer for Airport MDOT Contracts.

Ms. Byard brought forth consideration to approve the MDOT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Agreement.

Ms. Byard brought forth consideration to approve the L-4029 setting the 2024 Tax Millage Rate.

Ms. Byard provided the County Treasurer’s FGU Annual Sales Report. Ms. Phillips stated if there are any questions please feel free to contact her.

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
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>				
256 - Automation Fund			\$ 1,470.48	to GovOS for monthly software expenditures
286 - American Rescue Plan			\$ 9,254.00	to Anderson Mechanical 50% down payment for rooftop HVAC system on jail.

260 - Indigent Defense	\$ 16,835.00	to Springstead Law Offices for court appointed attorney fees.
	\$ 7,450.50	to MKG Law Office, PLLC for court appointed attorney fees
	\$ 5,833.34	to Indigent Defense Consultants, PC for monthly services
298 - Technology & Innovation	\$ 1,234.04	To Huntington National bank for assorted machinery and equipment
	\$ 1,739.50	to Trace3 for software
445 - Public Improvement	\$ 3,909.13	to West Michigan Drain Solutions for repairs
549 - Building Department	\$ 4,792.15	to Randolph D Miller, LLC for inspections and permits
	\$ 1,225.98	to Kevin Greiner for inspections and permits
	\$ 1,352.51	to Sonnie Smith for inspections and permits
<b>General Fund</b>		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 3,432.35	to Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. for legal services.
248 - General Services Administration	\$ 6,000.00	to Pitney Bowes for postage
257 - Equalization	\$ 18,150.00	to V&V Assessing LLC for monthly services
262 - Elections	\$ 1,697.00	to Election Source for services rendered

283 - Circuit Court	\$ 4,223.92	to Hayes Law Office for appropriations for October 2024
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for appropriations for October 2024
	\$ 4,223.92	to Springstead Law Offices for appropriations for October2024
286 - District Court	\$ 2,250.00	To the Ebco Company for office supplies
301 - Sheriff	\$ 20,694.85	to Enterprise FM Trust for fleet lease and vehicle maintenance/repairs.
	\$ 9,941.31	to Wex Bank for fuel
	\$ 1,388.00	to Arms Unlimited for machinery and equipment
351 - Jail	\$ 1,303.62	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 1,844.48	to Engineered Protections Systems, Inc for security purposes
442 - Drain Commissioner	\$ 1,333.24	To Huntington National Bank for employee training and travel
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 20,375.85	to American Classic Dumpster Services
648 - Medical Examiner	\$ 10,690.70	to WMU Homer Stryker for autopsies
<b>~ Total</b>		<b>\$ 165,945.87</b>

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

Nothing to add for the administrator's report.

**Department Head Reports**

Mr. McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission, stated there was a Zoning Board of Appeals training last Thursday. Ms. Mary Riley from the extension office spear headed the training. There were 19 guests with 8 different townships being represented.

**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 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Coon  
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk

**Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee**

The Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Erickson on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 8:48 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Mr. Rob Eekhoff, Mr. Joel McCormick, Ms. Gina Loera, Mr. Roger Follett, Mr. Jeff Hiddema, Mr. Rod Studer; Ms. Janet Schultz, Benona Township resident; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2024 Personnel and Health & Human Services Committee Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairperson Erickson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Ms. Byard asked the discussion regarding the commissioner position to be moved from the Finance Meeting to this meeting.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Agenda Items**

County Commissioner Candidate Interviews for the vacancy in District 2. The candidates were Mr. Steven Myers, Mr. Rob Eekhoff, Mr. Joel McCormick, Ms. Gina Loera, Mr. Roger Follett, Mr. Jeff Hiddema and Mr. Rod Studer. Mr. Steven Myers dropped out of the race.

Interviews were held in the following order: Mr. Joel McCormick, Mr. Rod Studer, Mr. Rob Eekhoff, Mr. Roger Follett, Ms. Gina Loera and Mr. Jeff Hiddema. Each candidate was asked the same five questions. After interviews were completed, discussion commenced regarding a selection for the vacancy. Mr. Beggs top three picks were Mr. Eekhoff, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Studer. Mr. Hardy chose Mr. Hiddema, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Studer. Mr. Erickson chose Mr. McCormick, Mr. Studer and Mr. Hiddema. Mr. Walker chose Mr. McCormick, Mr. Eekhoff and Mr. Hiddema.

The top three candidates for consideration were Mr. McCormick, Mr. Studer, and Mr. Hiddema.

**Public Comment**

Ms. Schultz pointed out that Mr. Phil Morse was a data person and wanted to know if there was any way to bring that question to the new candidates.

Vice-Chairperson Erickson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully,

Melanie A. Coon  
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk

## **Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee**

The Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Erickson, on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 10:09 a.m. in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Planning Commission; Mr. Vaughn White, Program Advisor, The Ladder Community Center; Mr. Curtis Burdette, Executive Director, Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA); Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Coon, Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024 Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Chairperson Erickson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were mentioned.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Agenda Items**

Ms. Byard brought forth bid opening and discussion of the Transfer Station scale bids. One bid was received. The bid was from GR Metrology, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The scale purchase and installation quote for the scale was \$130,604. The quote for the scale house was \$21,000.

Mr. Walker requested to move the discussion and award of the scale bid to the next regular board meeting on October 10, 2024. He wanted to have Rick Wadel and Dan Hallack review the bid for completeness. The Board concurred.

Ms. Byard brought forth the candidates for the Materials Management Planning Committee openings. Oceana County has four positions to fill for the newly created committee that will be working with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) to create a 5-county plan. The four positions are for two elected officials and two business owners. Ms. Lynne Cavazos, Pentwater Township Supervisor, has expressed interest in being an appointee. Mr. Jim Kleiner, Purdue Farms, has agreed to be put forth as an appointee as a business owner.

Ms. Byard brought forth the Brownfield Appointments. There is an opening on the board and a recommendation has been given for the seat to be filled by Mr. Chad Robinson. The terms for current board members Mr. Curtis Burdette, Oceana County Economic Alliance, and Ms. Mary Lou Phillips, Oceana County Treasurer, will expire on September 30, 2024, and they have requested to be reappointed.

Ms. Byard brought forth the Planning Commission appointment. Mr. Morse vacated his position as a county commissioner on the commission, but there were two openings and Mr. Morse was asked if he would take one of those positions and he agreed.

Ms. Byard invited Mr. White to speak about the EPA Grant Application. He described the project the grant is being sought for, The Ladder Community Resilience Center in Rothbury, Michigan. The grant deadline is November 21, 2024, and requires the signature of the lead applicant which would be Oceana County.

Mr. Burdette noted the Board previously approved the contract for this project because Oceana County will be the lead applicant for this grant. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has been very helpful in preparing everything for this grant.

**Public Comment**

Mr. McKeen provided an update on the Marshville Dam Project. He also noted that the Conservation District would be inviting all Oceana County 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to Gale’s Pond on September 27, 2024, for a six-station conservation nature walk.

Mr. Burdette pointed out there is a vacancy on the OCEA board due to Mr. Morse’s resignation and he invited any interested county commissioners to let him know if they would like to serve on that board.

Mr. Burdette reported that earlier this year the Brownfield Tax Increment Financing Plan had a big change, and they are now a Housing Tax Increment Financing Plan as well. The change provides considerable tax incentives to developers to build housing complexes.

Mr. McKeen strongly suggested that a maintenance contract be obtained for the Transfer Station scale as they often need repairs or recalibration.

Mr. McKeen suggested that the Materials Management Planning Commission seek out the Conservation District for recycling inspiration as they are perhaps the best recycler in Oceana County.

Chairperson Erickson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Coon  
Oceana County Chief Deputy Clerk