

**Board Conference Room  
December 19, 2024  
Board of Commissioners Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

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

Chairperson Walker open the Public Hearing regarding the annexation of public property to the Village of Rothbury. Chairperson Walker asked if there were any public comments regarding this, there were none.

Chairperson Walker declared the Public Hearing on the annexation of public property to the Village of Rothbury closed at 11:31 a.m.

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

Also Present: Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Cristine Juska, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. McCormick and seconded by Mr. Hardy to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. McCormick to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024 closed session Board Meeting as presented.

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. Chairperson Walker requested the Commissioners Oath of Office be given by Clerk Anderson after the payment of claims.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Agenda Items**

**MOTION #2024-150 – ROTHBURY ANNEXATION**

Moved by Mr. McCormick and supported by Mr. Beggs, to adopt Resolution #24-05 Exhibit A annexing a specified territory to the Village of Rothbury resulting in territory to be included within the corporate limits of the Village of Rothbury.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-152 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SCHEDULE FOR 2025**

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. Hardy, to approve the 2025 meeting schedule for the Board of Commissioners Committees and Regular Board meeting.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-153 – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENT FOR DISTRICT 2**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Beggs, to appoint Mr. Joel McCormick to the Board of Commissioners for District 2 to replace Phil Morse from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

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

Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024-154 – COUNCIL ON AGING SPECILIZED SERVICES**

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Hardy to approve the contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program for Oceana County Council on Aging and allow the 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 #2024-155 – APPOINTMENT TO THE LRE OVERSIGHT POLICY BOARD**

Moved by Mr. McCormick and supported by Mr. Beggs to appoint Commissioner Robert Walker to the Lakeshore Regional Entity Oversight Policy Board for a three-year term from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

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

Voice vote. Motion carried.

**MOTION #2024- 156 – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Moved by Mr. Hardy and supported by Mr. Erickson, to adopt Motion #2024-156, approving the payment of accounts payable and release of funds for December 19, 2024.

<b>AMBULANCE</b>	<b>\$6,874.34</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>202.20</b>
<b>AUTOMATION R.O.D.</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>INDIGENT DEFENSE</b>	<b>36,122.77</b>

<b>LCOT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>K9 UNIT</b>	<b>4,619.71</b>
<b>CJT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>71,104.75</b>
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>	<b>10,285.05</b>
<b>TECH &amp; INNOVATION</b>	<b>2,475.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROG/EQUIP REP</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>FORECLOSURE</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>18,573.72</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>559,948.33</b>

**GRAND TOTAL \$710,205.87**

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

Motion carried.

Clerk Anderson administered the Oath of Office for all Commissioners at this time.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

Mr. Erickson reported that he and Mr. McCormick met on Monday to inspect the jury chairs in the Circuit Courtroom. It was concluded that the chairs could be repaired, which would stabilize them and make them more comfortable for those chosen to be jurors. He also extended his thanks to Clerk Anderson for her many years of service.

Mr. Beggs mentioned that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs met yesterday and reported that two members term will be expiring soon. There will be some recommendations for the Board to appoint for the positions. He also reported that the VSO’s have been working very hard to reach out to the Veterans in Oceana County as well as Veterans that are residents in neighboring counties. He explained that next year they be trying new ways to reach veterans such as a “meet and greet” approach with coffee and donuts where Veterans will be welcome to meet with the staff and/or other Veterans. He also reported that the Road Commission has been very busy with what “Mother Nature” has provided.

Mr. Hardy thanked Mr. Beggs for taking his place at the last Mason Oceana 911 meeting that he was not able to attend. He also thanked Clerk Anderson for her many years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

Mr. Walker reported that Oceana County has been approved for the grant for the Sobriety Court. The reason for this is because there are fewer criminal cases in Oceana County rather than Mason County. He also reported that at the West Michigan Community Mental Health meeting last night, interviews were conducted for the replacement of Dr. Williams. There were two finalists chosen and an offer was made to one of them. He also thanked Clerk Anderson for her many years of service and wished her well.

Clerk Anderson took a moment to wish the Board a Merry Christmas and stated that she would miss them all.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Walker also wished everyone a Merry Christmas at this time.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 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, December 19, 2024, at 10:27 a.m., in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Ms. Lisa Nagel, Transportation Director, Oceana County Council on Aging (OCCOA) Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and supported by Mr. McCormick to approve the minutes of the December 05, 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**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Agenda Items**

Ms. Byard, brought forth discussion regarding the Rothbury annexation. Mr. Walker provided a brief history on the property that the Village of Rothbury has asked to be annexed.

Ms. Byard presented the Board of Commissioners 2025 meeting schedule.

Ms. Byard began discussion regarding the vacancy appointment for County Commissioner, District 2.

Ms. Lisa Nagel, OCCOA Transportation Director began discussion regarding Specialized Services. The form needs to be signed so the monies from MDOT can be received.

Ms. Byard began discussion regarding the Lakeshore Regional Entity (LRE) Oversight Policy Board Appointment.

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)**

<b>Fund #</b>	<b>Dept. #</b>	<b>Dept. Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>				
210 - Ambulance			\$ 1,120.08	to Republic Services for dumpster service
			\$ 5,500.00	to Walkerville Areas Fire & Rescue for 3rd quarter 2024 MFR costs

**UNOFFICIAL**

260 - Indigent Defense	\$ 14,135.50	to Good Law, PLC for November Indigent Defense attorney fees
	\$ 14,500.00	to Indigent Defense Consultants, PC for monthly expenditures
	\$ 1,137.50	to Karen L. Moore for November Indigent Defense attorney fees
267 - K-9 Unit	\$ 4,403.00	to Animal Surgical Center of Michigan for veterinary medical expenses
286 - American Rescue Plan Act	\$ 13,250.00	to Custom Tree Service, Inc for miscellaneous tree removal
	\$ 36,250.00	to Fleis & Vandenbrink for Safe Route to School Project
	\$ 21,104.75	to Leavitt Township for ARPA Reimbursements
293 - Veterans' Affairs	\$ 2,940.00	to TH Brands for public outreach
298 - Technology & Innovation	\$ 1,395.00	to Envigor for yearly website hosting contract
549- Building Department	\$ 3,082.30	to Kevin Greiner for inspections and permits
	\$ 1,223.97	to Sonnie Smith for inspections and permits
	\$ 4,826.46	to Lance Gates for inspections and permits
	\$ 4,905.45	to Randolph D Miller, LLC for inspections and permits
<b>General Fund</b>		
101 - Board of Commissioners	\$ 7,340.93	to H Security & Investigation for monthly expenditures and overtime hours

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**UNOFFICIAL**

	\$ 1,099.59	to Cohl, Stoker, & Toskey, P.C. for legal expenses
248 - General Services	\$ 4,500.00	to Pitney Bowes for postage refill
	\$ 1,403.92	to TelNet Worldwide for telephone services
	\$ 1,500.00	to CGIVB Technology Solutions for monthly expenditures and start up fees
253 - Treasurer	\$ 3,701.00	to Greenstone Insurance for quarterly payment
262 - Elections	\$ 1,488.00	to Election Source for November 2024 Presidential election expenses
265 - Courthouse & Grounds	\$ 2,277.80	to City of Hart for utilities
	\$ 1,541.94	to Republic Services for dumpster services
	\$ 1,971.78	to Engineered Protection Systems for monthly service contract
283 - Circuit Court	\$ 4,775.13	to Hayes Law Office for January 2025 appropriations
	\$ 4,775.13	to Springstead Law Offices for January 2025 appropriations
	\$ 3,300.00	to Heacock Reporting for January 2025 appropriations
296 - Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 4,000.00	to City of Ludington for an extradition case
301 - Sheriff	\$ 7,051.30	to Wex Bank for fuel purchases

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**UNOFFICIAL**

	\$ 23,977.09	to Enterprise FM Trust for vehicle leasing, maintenance, and repairs
	\$ 12,250.61	to Affordable Auto & Sales for various repairs
	\$ 5,303.31	to American Signal for equipment repairs and maintenance
	\$ 6,900.00	to Celebrite Inc for 2025 service contract
	\$ 1,674.50	to Walicki's A-1 Auto Body & Towing for vehicle repairs & maintenance
351 - Jail	\$ 16,244.61	to Advanced Correctional Healthcare for monthly inmate medical services
	\$ 2,087.58	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 1,465.04	to Gordon Food Service for inmate board and janitorial supplies
	\$ 1,155.78	to Hansen Foods for inmate board
	\$ 1,090.52	to Amazon Capital Services for janitorial supplies and machinery & equipment
430 - Animal Control	\$ 1,143.62	to Mike Blackmer Electric, Inc for repairs & maintenance
528 - Transfer Station	\$ 20,637.15	to American Classic for dumpster services
	\$ 1,875.00	to Lakeside Electrical Services for equipment repairs & maintenance
~ <b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 276,305.34</b>	

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

## MTA MEETING

The MTA meeting was held in Otto Township on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Newfield Township provided a presentation about their new recycling center and how they obtained grant funds to assist

**JANUARY 9, 2025**



with putting that in place. Information was provided to the group about the process in which we are going through for the Materials Management Plan and how the recycling will tie into that. Information will be provided to the townships as this process moves forward. Information was shared about the new Animal Control Ordinance and the ability to obtain a copy from our website. Details were provided about the adoption of the county budget, grants that were applied for regarding the tractor for the County Airport and Crystal Valley Dam. The group discussed training for peer review. Mr. Erickson shared the opinion they received from their attorney as it relates to the Oceana Echo and it being a newspaper of record for public notices.

## MACAO MEETING

Our Administrator's group met on Thursdays to discuss lame duck sessions happening at the state. The House and Senate were in session at that time and planned to meet late into the night and then be back on Friday and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the following week and again the Monday before Christmas. There are 70 bills that they are looking to push through.

There are two bills that MAC has been opposing for us, one pertains to minimum staffing for our Sheriff's Department and the other pertains to PA152 and the amounts for health insurance. The minimum staffing bill has already passed through the Senate.

There was discussion pertaining to the statewide septic code. MAC is opposed to that bill and has had conversations about changes. They said that it has been revised and the local point of sale ordinances would be kept in place and high-risk tanks would be on a list and would be required to be inspected within a ten-year period.

There is a road funding bill that is being proposed but unfortunately, they didn't have much information on that as they are not sharing at this time.

## FOLLOW UP

### Opioid Meeting

A meeting was held with Dr. Lisa Williams, Community Mental Health with Community Mental Health to discuss the next steps for the Opioid steering committee. The list of stakeholders will be shared with Chairman Walker and the Sheriff to see if there needs to be any additions or deletions. Contact information will be added and, once complete, will be shared with Amy Dolinky with MAC to get that process moving forward. Dr. Williams and I will be meeting sometime in January but would like to schedule a meeting with MAC prior to her departure for her new position.

### County Directory

Currently the County Clerk's office prepares the county directories every two years with the cycle of the County Commissioners. Commissioners will now be on a four-year cycle. Now that a change has been made to the commissioner's terms, do you wish to have them published every four years or continue with the two-year cycle?

### Ladder Grant

Mr. Curtis Burdette has advised that they received an early response to the Ladder grant application. The application far exceeded available funds, and they expect to have an update in Spring of 2025, which will determine what will be funded.

### Airport

The aviation easement paperwork has been completed and submitted for the title work by the engineer. If you recall this pertained to the airport airspace due to the blockage of the trees.

## **Additional Administrator's Report Items**

There were no additional Administrator's report items at this time.

**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 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk

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

The Properties, Environment, and Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Erickson, on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 10:03 a.m. in the Board Conference Room.

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

Also Present: Hon. Susan K. Sniegowski, 51<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court Judge, Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission; Mr. Craig Mast, Oceana County Sheriff; Ms. Byard, Oceana County Administrator, and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk.

Moved by Mr. Beggs and seconded by Mr. McCormick to approve the minutes of the October 24, 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 additions were mentioned.

Moved by Mr. Hardy 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**

Hon. Susan K. Sniegowski, was present to discuss the replacement of the seating for the Jury Box in the Circuit Court room.

**Department Head Report**

Mr. Garry McKeen, Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission stated there will be a celebration of the winter solstice at Gales Park tomorrow. In October, the parks partnered with Pam Blough who is a landscape architect. She thinks Gales pond is a nice little park. We need to talk about ADA accessibility. She will draw up some plans for Cedar Point for ADA accessibility up to the shelter. As well as other amenities to the picnic table area. Work will begin on Marsh Dam shortly, it should be finished by the end of the winter season.

Sheriff Mast stated there were 50 in the jail right now. Full body scanner will be moving into the jail real soon.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

Chairperson Erickson asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk

