



MINUTES
St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
Environmental/Public Works Committee

Board of Commissioners' Room
County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060

December 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call/Opening

Commissioner Torello called the meeting to order at 06:16 PM.

Present: Jorja Baldwin, Lisa Beedon, Dave Rushing, Steve Simasko, Dave Vandebossche and Joi Torello

Absent: Jeff Bohm

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche Nay: None

3. Citizens to be Heard

Andrea Heering, Ft. Gratiot - re: Solar project

Austin Richardson, Ft. Gratiot- re: Industrial Solar project

Shane Richardson, Ft. Gratiot - re: Solar project and PA 233

Sarah Beebe, Ft. Gratiot - re: Industrial solar project

Jennifer MacDonald, Burtchville - re: Solar/Wind Energy and zoning

Liz Masters - re: Metropolitan Planning Committee appointment and EDA

Ashley Richardson, Jeddo - re: Solar Energy and health concerns

Linda Schwehofer - re: Solar Energy and Data Centers

Sandra Richardson, Ft. Gratiot - re: Industrial solar project

Vicki Blackburn, Port Huron - re: Accusations without proof

Vance Richardson, Ft. Gratiot - re: Solar Energy and Mental Health

Libby Prill, China Twp. - re: Solar Energy and Data Center

Jim Wier - re: Solar Energy

Angie Defrain, Ft. Gratiot - re: Solar Energy and MPC Appointment

Robert Felitz, Kimball - re: Metropolitan Planning Commission Appointment and Solar Energy and psychological effects

Shawn Treadway, China Twp. - re: Metropolitan Planning Appointment

Chris Barto, Ft. Gratiot - re: Metropolotan Planning Commission appointment and Industrial Solar project

Jill Barto, Ft. Gratiot - re: Portside Solar project

Debby Lipps-Carbone - re: Solar project

Joseph Hayes, Port Huron - re: Health Advisory Board appointment

Darren Wehner, China Twp - re: Solar project - Marine City Highway

Greg Abbey, Cottrellville - re: Solar Energy and Ordinance

Vanessa Davis, St. Clair - re: Negative effects of solar farms

Kevin Glass - re: Solar Devastation

Dan Turke, China Twp - re: Solar Energy and EDA

Trisha Jones submitted the following e-mail for public comment:

Dear Commissioners,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Remington Nevin, Medical Director of the St. Clair County Health Department, for his thorough evaluation and thoughtful response to public concerns regarding the potential health risks of industrial solar plants and data centers. His memorandum demonstrates a deep commitment to

listening to community voices and prioritizing public health, particularly for our vulnerable populations.

Dr. Nevin's detailed analysis highlights the gaps in existing state protections and advocates for the independent regulatory authority of our local health department to safeguard our community. By addressing environmental health hazards and potential sources of contamination, Dr. Nevin ensures that our health department remains proactive in protecting residents from avoidable health risks.

His emphasis on incorporating public input into decision-making processes underscores a transparent and community-centered approach that is absolutely necessary following the loss of trust in our public health institutions for blindly following the Covid-19 measures from state and federal authorities that lacked complete scientific proof at the time and have been proven to have caused great harm to the public.

I fully support Dr. Nevin's recommendations for additional regulations and health orders to uphold our community's safety and well-being.

There are MANY health officials who could learn much from his courage to stand firmly in truth, stand behind the constitution and individual liberties, and bodily autonomy without coercion, interference, or external control, and to support their community and remember their oaths to "Do No Harm".

St. Clair County is fortunate to have such dedicated leadership in public health, and I stand firmly behind his efforts to hold all projects accountable to the highest standards of health and safety.

Thank you Dr. Nevin!

Thank you to our chosen public leaders who will stand behind those who do the right thing, even when it's not the easy thing to do!

Sincerely,
Trisha Jones

4. Updates

None

5. Conceptual Initiatives

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Approving Airport Lease Assignment, Amendment and Consent of Owner (Lot T-4) - Lennox Oil, LLC.

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the Lease Assignment and Consent of Owner for Hangar T-4 from Tail Wind Holdings, LLC to Lenox Oil, Inc. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

B. Parks and Recreation Additional Vehicle Request

Moved by Commissioner Vandenbossche, supported by Commissioner Simasko, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the addition of a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton work truck to our fleet in 2025 and to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-250 4x4 with a snow plow from Gorno Ford in the amount of \$56,747.00. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

C. Parks and Recreation Proposed E-Bike Rules

Moved by Commissioner Beedon, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the proposed E-Bike Rules for Parks and Recreation to be implemented on 01/01/25. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

Parks and Recreation will provide an update in 6 months.

D. Contract Amendment - Fishbeck - Engineering Services - Parks

Moved by Commissioner Vandenbossche, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the contract amendment with Fishbeck for additional engineering services for the North Channel County Park, increasing the amount not to exceed to \$79,145 and extending the term to 12/31/25. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

E. Landfill - PFAS Treatment Equipment Procurement & Installation

Matt Williams, Landfill Director, discussed the requirements for treating leachate for PFAS.

Moved by Commissioner Simasko, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the contract with ECT2 for the procurement and installation of a PFAS treatment system at Smiths Creek Landfill in the amount of \$1,386,200. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

F. Dr. Reminton Nevin, Public Health Risks of Industrial Solar Plants and Data Centers

Dr. Nevin, Medical Officer, discussed his memo regarding the possible health risks that industrial solar plants and data centers may cause. He also discussed next

steps.

G. Metropolitan Planning Commission - Appointment

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to table the appointment of Jorja Baldwin to the Metropolitan Planning Commission as Business Representative for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 12/31/2025. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

H. Landfill Materials - Asphalt Trucks, Inc. Contract Amendment

Moved by Commissioner Vandenbossche, supported by Commissioner Rushing, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the amendment to the Asphalt Trucks, Inc. contract for Landfill Materials increasing the not to exceed amount to \$506,700. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

8. Smiths Creek Landfill Activities Reports

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to receive and file the August and September Landfill Activity Reports. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

A. Smiths Creek Landfill August Volume Report

B. Smiths Creek Landfill September Volume Report

9. Other Environmental/Public Works Matters

None

10. Information Only

A. Monthly PARC Financial Documents

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to receive and file Item 10A as information only. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

11. Receive and File Packets

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Beedon, to receive and file packets and all information received. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Baldwin, to

adjourn at 07:51 PM. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Simasko, Vice Chairperson Baldwin, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche Nay: None