

Regular session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commission Chambers on August 20, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Shaffer.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Clark called the roll, and the following commissioners were present:

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| Rusty Baker | Luis Rosado |
| Terry Conklin | Rick Shaffer |
| Jared Hoffmaster | Ken Malone |

Absent: Dennis Allen

Also present: Teresa Cupp, County Administrator; Angie Steinman, Finance Director

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Public hearing was opened at 5:10 pm regarding St. Joseph County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Regarding Adoption of Brownfield plan of WITT Properties LLC Development White Pigeon, St. Joseph County, Michigan.

The public and Commissioner's comments were heard. The hearing was closed at 6:31 pm.

Public hearing was opened at 6:32 pm regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for Emergency Program Income Funding.

Angie Steinman, Finance Director explained the funding. No public comments. Commissioners approved.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Hoffmaster to approve the July 16, 2024 Regular Board Minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Craig Crabill of Sturgis read a letter from Jeffrey O'Donnell, Computer Systems Expert. Mr. Crabill informed the commissioners of an upcoming meeting that he will be having regarding elections.

Kelly Ward introduced herself. Ms. Ward is running for St. Joseph County Probate Judge.

Presentation

FY 2023 Gabridge & Company Audit Presentation. Presented by Joe Verlin, Gabridge & Company. Mr. Verlin went through the county audit and reported that the county had a clean report.

Colon Michigan Grange #215 150th Anniversary Resolution. Presented by Commissioner Shaffer and Conklin. Commissioner Conklin read the resolution as follows and presented it to Mary Beth Powell.

Resolution 12-2024

WHEREAS, since the National Grange inception in 1867, this organization has been a strong voice for rural America; actively promoting the legislative interests of the American Agriculturalist, promoting cooperative buying, service to their communities, and a source of education and fellowship for the whole family, and

WHEREAS, The Michigan State grange, organized formally in 1873, has provided its members with many benefits, both tangible and intangible, and

WHEREAS, locally the first Grange organized in St. Joseph County was at Parkville #22. From that seed many other granges sprang into life in all corners of the county, and

WHEREAS, the Granges of today, though fewer in numbers, continue to provide service, education and fellowship for their members and the communities they serve, and

WHEREAS, Colon Grange #215 was organized in the spring of 1874, has now achieved a major milestone, 150 years of continuity as a part of their community, and

WHEREAS, the Colon Grange Hall, one of the oldest buildings in the village is still being maintained in fine fashion by its members and friends, and

WHEREAS, over the 150 years Colon Grange has continuously provided service, both large and small, to assist the village of Colon being the wonderful community it is. Projects have included major support for the Helipad for emergencies, Christmas gifts for 1st graders to give to their parents, adopt-a-highway, a warming station with homemade soups for the many visitors to the “Christmas in Colon” activities and many, many more...

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners recognizes this special 150th Anniversary of the Colon Michigan Grange #215.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County of Commissioners recognizes the long lineage of Special Accomplishments of the Grange Members and Volunteers who, over the years, have provided time and talents in the achievement of innumerable successful projects that have contributed to making Colon, the wonderful community that it is.

2023 St. Joseph County Human Services Commission Annual Report. Presented by Laura Brott.

2023 St. Joseph County Road Commission Annual Report. Presented by Eric Shafer.

2023 Juvenile Division Family Court Annual Report. Presented by Kevin Kane.

County Administrator’s Report

None to report

Committee Appointments

No appointments

Unfinished Business

None to report

New Business

Resolution Adopting a Brownfield Plan of WITT Properties LLC Development White Pigeon, Michigan.
Resolution 13-2024

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended (the "Act"), has formally resolved to participate in the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) of St. Joseph County (the "Authority") and have designated that all related activities shall proceed through the BRA; and

WHEREAS, the Authority, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 13 of the Act, has reviewed, and recommended for approval by the County Board of Commissioners, the Brownfield Plan (the "Plan") attached hereto, to be carried out within the County, relating to the development of property located at Parcel ID 045 777 015 00, White Pigeon, Michigan (the "Site"), as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the Plan and more particularly described in the legal description of the property contained within the attached Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village of White Pigeon Village Council has reviewed the Plan, and have been provided a reasonable opportunity to express their views and recommendations regarding the Plan and resolved to support its adoption by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Plan, and has been provided a reasonable opportunity to express their views and recommendations regarding the Plan and in accordance with Section 14(5) of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners has noticed and held a public hearing in accordance with Section 14 (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) of the Act, and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners has made the following determinations and findings:

1. The Plan constitutes a public purpose under the Act;
2. The Plan meets all of the requirements for a Brownfield plan set forth in Section 13 of the Act;
3. The proposed method of financing the costs of the eligible activities, as described in the Plan, was feasible and the Authority has the ability to arrange the financing;
4. The costs of the eligible activities proposed in the Plan are reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act; and
5. The amount of captured taxable value estimated to result from the adoption of the Plan is reasonable; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the review of the Plan the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners concurs with the approval of the individual Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. **Plan Support.** Pursuant to the authority vested in the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners, by the Act, the Plan is hereby supported in the form attached to this Resolution.
2. **Severability.** Should any section, clause, or phrase of this Resolution be declared by the courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Resolution as a whole nor any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.
3. **Repeals.** All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to adopt a Brownfield Plan of WITT Properties LLC Development White Pigeon Michigan. The Motion carried 4-2 upon a roll call vote.

- Yes: Commissioners Hoffmaster Rosado, Shaffer and Malone
- No: Commissioners Baker and Conklin

CDBG Emergency Repair Program Program Guidelines

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to approve CDBG Emergency Repair Program Program Guidelines. Motion carried.

Special License for Alcohol Sales Parks & Rec

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to approve the Special License for Alcohol Sales Parks & Rec. The Motion carried 6-0 upon roll call vote.

Memorandum of Understanding between St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office and Centreville Public Schools

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Conklin to approve the MOU between St. Joseph County Sheriff's Office and Centreville Public Schools. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Shaffer announced he had pamphlets regarding MACC Association if anyone was interested.

Commissioner Rosado addressed a statement made regarding himself during the public hearing. He stated that he attends on average 24 meetings per month. He is unable to attend the Village and Township of White Pigeon's meeting due to the change in meeting time. They conflict with his job or other meetings.

Commissioner Conklin commented on the commissioner's desire to work together to make the county successful.

Closed Session Legal Opinion

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster to go into closed session under Section 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss a written opinion exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege and section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act. Seconded by Commissioner Rosado to adjourn for close session at 7:38 pm. Motion carried

No decision was made during closed session.

Adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Ladena M. Clark, Chief Deputy County Clerk