

Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commission Chambers on December 17, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Shaffer.

County Clerk Gina Everson called the roll, and the following commissioners were present:

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

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

Amendment to Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Shaffer requested to remove the Resolution for the Advisory Board for the No Wrong Door Program Grant from the agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Baker to amend the agenda. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Yunker to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2024
- 911 Policy Board Appointment – Greg Carlin
- Community Corrections Advisory Board Appointments – Luis Rosado, Luke Nofsinger, Paul Stutesman, Lisa Martin, Edward MacKay, Robert Pattison, Deborah Davis, Jeffrey Middleton, Chad Spence, Autumnne Keifer, Thomas Miles, Kevin Kane, Alek Haak-Frost, Sam Smallcombe, Thomas Lowry, Luke Lori
- Planning Commission Appointments: Lon Huffman, Edward Bell, Joe Woodin
- St. Joseph County Road Commission Reappointment Vincent Mifsud

Public Comment

Kelly Weaver of White Pigeon Township

Deborah Davis of Colon Township

Regina Chapman of Wilbur Rd Three Rivers

Paige Willis of White Pigeon Township

Rebecca Shank of Constantine Township

Presentations

Resolution Honoring Dennis Allen for Service 2017-2024

RESOLUTION 18 – 2024

WHEREAS, Dennis Allen has served St. Joseph County with distinction from 2017 to 2024, demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment to the community; and

WHEREAS, his efforts have contributed to numerous advancements in public service and governance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners extends its deepest gratitude to Dennis Allen for his dedication and service and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

Commissioner Shaffer presented the resolution honoring Dennis Allen. A roll call vote was conducted at the Chairman's request. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board.

County Administrator's Report

Administrator had nothing to report.

Committee Reports and Appointments

Commissioner Rosado announced the Covered Bridge is closed.

No appointments

Unfinished Business

None to report

New Business

FY 25 Agreement for Extension Services

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Shaffer to approve the agreement. The motion carried 6-1 upon a roll call vote with Commissioner Baker dissenting.

Resolution St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners Supporting COA and Area Agency on Aging Grant Application

Resolution 19 – 2024

A Resolution of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners Supporting the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging's Partnership with the Area Agency on Aging 3-C in Applying for the State of Michigan Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) for the No Wrong Door Program.

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging (SJCCOA) is committed to supporting the health, well-being, and quality of life for older adults in St. Joseph County through a variety of programs, including Medicare counseling and assistance with applications for financial support programs; and

WHEREAS, finding and accessing an unbiased Medicare counselor presents a significant challenge for many individuals and families due to the complexities of multiple insurance providers, and eligibility requirements, often creating confusion and frustration; and

WHEREAS, the No Wrong Door (NWD) Program is a statewide initiative designed to implement a person-centered approach to navigating and providing Medicare counseling, and assisting individuals with applications for the Medicare Savings Program and low-income subsidies; and

WHEREAS, the NWD program seeks to prioritize the needs and preferences of individuals and families, ensuring they are empowered to make informed decisions about their healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging has partnered with the Area Agency on Aging 3-C to pursue the State of Michigan Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) to support the implementation of the NWD program through expanded counseling services, enhanced education efforts, and improved access to vital programs like the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA); and

WHEREAS, this funding will enable SJCCOA to better meet the needs of St. Joseph County residents, ensuring equitable access to high-quality services while promoting financial savings, independence, and well-being among older adults;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners supports the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging's partnership with the Area Agency on Aging 3-C in applying for the State of Michigan Grant Funding Opportunity for the No Wrong Door program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board recognizes the importance of this program in addressing the challenges faced by individuals and families in navigating Medicare-related resources and applauds the efforts of SJCCOA in advancing person-centered approaches to healthcare and support services;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners pledges its full support for this grant application and encourages ongoing collaboration between the SJCCOA, the Area Agency on Aging 3-C, and other community partners to ensure the success of this initiative for the benefit of St. Joseph County residents.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Baker to adopt the Resolution. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

Pivotal and Substance Abuse Services Appropriation Resolution Resolution 20 – 2024

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County appropriates monies for Pivotal for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County has budgeted \$257,268.00 for Pivotal for 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer of St. Joseph County be respectfully directed to make quarterly transfers of \$64,317.00 in 2025 to Pivotal during the first half of the month for the months of January, April, July and October 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Hoffmaster to adopt the resolution. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

Community Health Agency Appropriation Resolution Resolution 21 – 2024

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County is a member of the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (CHA); and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County is committed to supporting programs that provide access to appropriate health care services for low-income residents of St. Joseph County; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County has budgeted \$322,977 in 2025 to finance a portion of the Community Health Agency; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 St. Joseph County and the Community Health Agency entered into a building lease agreement for 1110 Hill Street, Three Rivers, for an annual rent of \$1.00 per year payable by January 15th; and

WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to reduce the appropriation by \$1.00 to represent the yearly rent payment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Treasurer is respectfully directed to make quarterly transfers at the direction of the CHA. The CHA will determine the amounts and the timing for each quarterly transfer.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Yunker to adopt the resolution. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

Tentative Agreements for Collective Bargaining Units Presented by Teresa Cupp

- 1) AFSCME for Circuit Court and Friend of the Court
- 2) AFSCME for Family Court Employees
- 3) AFSCME for Probate Court Employees
- 4) AFSCME for General Unit
- 5) St. Joseph County District Court Employees' Association
- 6) FOP – Correction Officer Division

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Baker to adopt the resolution. Motion carried 7-0 upon a roll call vote.

Non-Union Employees 5% Cost of Living Adjustment

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the adjustment. Motion carried.

Elected Official 5% Cost of Living Adjustment

It was moved by Commissioner Hoffmaster and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to approve the adjustment for all elected Official, excluding the County Commissioners who will receive 2%. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hoffmaster commented on his appreciation of the staff for the past year.

Commissioner Malone commented on the wage study and extended his gratitude to the staff.

Commissioner Yunker commented on how welcoming the staff has been and is looking forward to 2025.

Commissioner Rosado commented on work sessions and prosecutor pay.

Commissioner Conklin commented on his gratitude to the staff.

Commissioner Shaffer commented on reflections of the past year.

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Shafer to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Gina Everson, St. Joseph County Clerk/Register