

St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2024

5:00 PM

Historic Courthouse, Commission Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

2. Opening Ceremonies

Commissioner Shafer gave the invocation and Chairman Malone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

Rusty Baker Luis Rosado

Terry Conklin Rick Shaffer

Jared Hoffmaster Ken Malone

Absent: Dennis Allen

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

4. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Rosado moved to add a resolution to the agenda and seconded by Commissioner Hoffmaster to approve the amended Agenda. Motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda

Items:

Approval of October 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Materials Management Planning Committee Appointments: Presented by Teresa Cupp

Appointments include Michael O'Rourke, Carol Higgins, Eric Shafer, Terrance Conklin, Karen Newman

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board Appointments: Presented by Teresa Cupp

Appointments include Ken Jones, Mark Honeysett

Commissioner Shafer moved to approve all consent agenda items and seconded by Commissioner Rosado. Motion carried.

6. Employee Service Awards

The following employees were present to receive their service award:

Mark Pratt, Buildings and Grounds, 30 years of service received a clock

Traci Wenzel, Drain Commission, 10 years of service received a key chain

Jeffrey J. Wenzel, Drain Commissioner, 15 years of service received a Coffee Mug

Kathryn S. Humphreys, Treasurer, 20 years of service received a blanket

Kristen Brandys, Friend of the Court, 10 years of service received a key chain

Lisa K. Youga, Friend of the Court, 20 years of service received a blanket

Bryanna Bradford, Juvenile Court, 10 years of service received a key chain

Julie A. Hakeos, Juvenile Court, 10 years of service received a key chain

Terri Crabtree, Probate Court, 10 years of service received a key chain

Tiffany Howe, Probate Court, 10 years of service received a key chain

Paulino Hernandez, Sheriff's Department, 10 years of service received a key chain

Tonya Barrington, MSU, 25 years of service received a clock

7. Public Comment

Andy Brandt spoke on his dislike for the public having to go through a metal detectors when they are doing business in the historic building. Andy thanked the commission for listening to the public regarding having hand-outs available to the public. He would like to have more that a day to review them.

Gordon Evilsizor asked for a copy of the lawsuit against the sheriff.

8. County Administrator's Report

Teresa Cupp thanked all employees for their service to the county, including those who were receiving service awards and were unable to attend.

12. New Business

Veterans Service Officer Exception to Hiring Freeze

Commissioner Rosado moved to approve the Veterans Service Officer Request for Exception to the hiring freeze. Commissioner Hoffmaster seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of Christina Yunker as District 5 Commissioner

Commissioner Hoffmaster moved to appoint Christina Yunker to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dennis Allen, effective November 1, 2024, until the new term officially begins. Commissioner Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 16-2024 Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of St. Joseph County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, St. Joseph County hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11, 2024 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, St. Joseph County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th, 2024.

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Shafer to adopt a Support Operation Green Light for Veterans. The Motion carried 6-0 upon a roll call vote.

13. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Shafer invited everyone to Fairview on November 13, 2024 at 8:30 am for a Veterans Service and then a walk to Yoder's for activities.

Commissioner Baker thanked all the employees for their dedication and service

Commissioner Hoffmaster expressed what an amazing group of people the county has employed.

Commissioner Conklin stated that four of the employees recognized were former students of his.

14. Closed Session

Commissioner Baker moved to go into closed session under Section 8(h) of the Opening Meeting Act to discuss a written legal opinion exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege and section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner Rosado seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Closed session began at 5:35pm

15. Adjournment

Commissioner Hoffmaster moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 pm. Commissioner Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Clark, Chief Deputy County Clerk