

**APPROVED
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY SESSION – SPECIAL MEETING**

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 8:03 a.m. and was called to order by the Chairperson.

The prayer was pronounced by Commissioner Curran.

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

Present at roll call: Gretchen Cosby, Lucy Ebel, Doug Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Joe Moss, Kendra Wenzel, Rebekah Curran, Sylvia Rhodea, Roger Belknap, Roger Bergman, Allison Miedema. (11)

Correspondence

None.

Public Comment

1. Adrea Hill-Holland Township
2. David Morren-Allendale Township
3. Joe Spaulding-Holland Township
4. Donovan Gomez-Holland

Approval of Agenda

SM1 24-001 Sylvia Rhodea moved to approve the agenda of today.

The motion passed.

Consent Resolutions

None.

Agenda and Action Requests

- A. Update from Board Chairperson regarding a response to the letter from County Administrator John Gibbs- Chairperson Moss gave a brief history of why he called this special meeting.
- B. Consideration of complaints against County Administrator John Gibbs-Chairperson Moss asked Administrator Gibbs if he would like to go into Closed Session to discuss the complaints against him. He agreed.

SM1 24-002 Joe Moss moved to go into closed session at 8:21 a.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 (a) to hear complaints brought against the County Administrator John Gibbs.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Roger Belknap, Rebekah Curran, Gretchen Cosby, Jacob Bonnema, Sylvia Rhodea, Doug Zylstra, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Lucy Ebel, Roger Bergman, Joe Moss. (11)

SM1 24-003 Rebekah Curran moved to come out of closed session at 9:44 a.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 (a) to hear complaints brought against the County Administrator John Gibbs.

The motion passed.

The meeting resumed at 10:25 a.m.

SM1 24-004 Joe Moss moved to put Administrator Gibbs on paid administrative leave.

The motion passed.

SM1 24-005 Rebekah Curran moved to go into recess at 10:27 a.m. and to resume next week at the call of the Chair.

The motion passed.

Chairperson Moss called the meeting back to order at 8:40 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Attorney Brook Bisonet gave a brief word on the confidential memo that went out to the Board regarding their option moving forward.

SM1 24-006 Joe Moss moved to terminate Mr. Gibbs contract for cause because the Board has determined that Mr. Gibbs, in connection with the performance of his duties under the employment agreement has been dishonest, committed gross misconduct and/or committed willful malfeasance.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Gretchen Cosby, Roger Bergman, Jacob Bonnema, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Lucy Ebel, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss (10)

Nays: Doug Zylstra. (1)

SM1 24-007 Doug Zylstra moved to amend the motion to reinstate Mr. Gibbs and pursue mediation in this matter as soon as possible.

Motion failed for lack of support.

SM1 24-008 Rebekah Curran moved to amend the agenda to remove item 8C and to replace it with a recommendation that they move forward with a discussion on the potential for mediation.

The motion passed.

SM1 24-009 Doug Zylstra moved to amend the agenda to add an agenda item to discuss immediate county leadership.

The motion passed.

Public Comment

1. David Barnosky-Port Sheldon Township
2. Jim Kuiper-Holland Township
3. Dena Arner-Holland Township
4. Dan Zimmer-Port Sheldon Township
5. Nancy Hemlich-Grand Haven
6. Sheila Dettloff-Holland Township
7. David Morren-Allendale Township

Online Public Comments

1. Meegan Zickus-Allendale Township
2. Joe Spaulding-Holland Township
3. Kelsey Compagner-Park Township

Adjournment at Call of the Chairperson

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK, Clerk/Register
Of the Board of Commissioners

JOE MOSS, Chairperson
Of the Board of Commissioners