

To All Ottawa County Commissioners:

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners will meet on **Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM** for the regular December meeting of the Board at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex in West Olive, Michigan and via Zoom and YouTube.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Correspondence
5. Public Comment
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Consent Resolutions:

From the County Clerk/Register

A. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Suggested Motion:

To approve the minutes of the [November 26, 2024](#) Board of Commissioners meeting and the [December 10, 2024](#) Board of Commissioners Meeting.

From Administration

B. [Post-Execution Ratification of Contracts under Section IV\(D\)\(2\) of the Ottawa County Contracting Authorization and Form Policy](#)

Suggested Motion:

To ratify all contracts for the period of December 1, 2024 to December 19, 2024 currently pending on the post-execution ratification list as authorized under Section IV(D)(2) of the Ottawa County Contracting Authorization and Form Policy.

C. [Agricultural Preservation Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Michael Bronkema

Scott Muellerleile

and to select Michael Bronkema to fill one (1) Agricultural Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

D. [Agricultural Preservation Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Kelly Goward

Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones

and to select Kelly Goward to fill one (1) Local Conservation Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

E. [Ottawa County Building Authority](#)

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

**Eligible Applicants:**

\*Jared Schuitema

\*Joel Studebaker

\*Dan Winiarski

Robert DeVries

and to select Jared Schuitema, Joel Studebaker, and Dan Winiarski to fill three (3) Member Seat vacancies beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

F . [Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board](#)

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

**Eligible Applicants:**

\*Alison El-Cassabgui

Alexandra Darland

Randy Kortering

Susan Ouellette

Cynthia Scholten

**Ineligible Applicants:**

Larry Jackson – No show/no explanation November 7

Pete Vissar

and to select Alison El-Cassabgui to fill one (1) Private Sector Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

G . [Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board](#)

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

**Eligible Applicants:**

\*Molly Brouwer

Pete Vissar

Ineligible Applicants:

Cynthia Scholten

and to select Molly Brouwer to fill one (1) Public Sector Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

H. [Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Paula Creswell

and to select Paula Creswell to fill one (1) Business Community Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

I. [Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Anna White

Christine Tober

and to select Anna White to fill one (1) Defense Attorney Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

J. [Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Amanda Sheffield

Ineligible Applicants:

Larry Jackson – No show/no explanation October 15

and to select Amanda Sheffield to fill one (1) General Public Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

K. [Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board](#)

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

**Eligible Applicants:**

\*Caleb Worpel

and to select Caleb Worpel to fill one (1) Media Sector seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

L. [Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board](#)

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

**Eligible Applicants:**

\*Kelly Boeve

\*Tim Piers

and to select Kelly Boeve and Tim Piers to fill two (2) Service Area Seat vacancies beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

M. [Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board](#)

**Suggested Motion:**

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

**Eligible Applicants:**

\*Peggy Fakler

Robert Davis

Debra Deater

Leah Fountain

Mark Stephenson

Melissa Warthen

**Ineligible Applicants:**

Mickayla Pastor – Did not interview

and to select Peggy Fakler to fill one (1) Member Seat K vacancy beginning November 7, 2024 and ending March 31, 2027.

N. [Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Robert Davis

Ryan Attema

Judith Cohen

Kristi Drooger

Debra Deater

Peggy Fakler

Leah Fountain

Mark Stephenson

Lavonne (Vonnie) Vanderzwaag

and to select Robert Davis to fill one (1) Member Seat L vacancy beginning May 28, 2024 and ending March 31, 2026.

O. [Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Randy Kortering

Benjamin Genser

and to select Randy Kortering to fill one (1) Private Sector vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.

P. [Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Benjamin Genser

Elizabeth Butler  
Rachel Donaldson  
Scott Muellerleile  
Anne Sailers  
Cynthia Scholten

and to select Benjamin Genser to fill one (1) Director Seat vacancies beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2030.

Q. [Ottawa County Environmental Health Appeals Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Curtis Carini  
\*David Kraker  
\*George Pio

and to select Curtis Carini, David Kraker, George Pio to fill three (3) Ottawa County Environmental Health Appeals Board Seat vacancies beginning October 18, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027.

R. [Ottawa County Groundwater Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Sarah Bowman

and to select Sarah Bowman to fill one (1) Ag/Conservation Technical Assistance Seat vacancy beginning October 17, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026.

S. [Ottawa County Groundwater Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*David Kraker  
David Creswell  
Derrick Muilenburg  
Cynthia Scholten

Ineligible Applicants:

Larry Jackson – Now show/no explanation October 15 & November 7

and to select David Kraker to fill one (1) At-Large Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

T. [Ottawa County Groundwater Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Scott Muellerleile

and to select Scott Muellerleile to fill one (1) Local Business/Agriculture Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

U. [Ottawa County Groundwater Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Dean Smith

and to select Dean Smith to fill one (1) Local Unit of Government Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

V. [Ottawa County Groundwater Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Curtis Carini

Lacey Bereza

Kelly Kuiper

and to select Curtis Carini to fill one (1) Real Estate/Development Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

W. [Ottawa County Groundwater Board](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview

Subcommittee):



Eligible Applicants:

\*Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones  
Sara Pearson  
David Wardwell

Ineligible Applicants:

Scott Muellerleile

and to select Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones to fill one (1) Scientific Community Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

X. Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Pat Staskiewicz

and to select Pat Staskiewicz to fill one (1) Utilities/Engineering Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

Y. Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Amanda Murray

Ineligible Applicants:

Benjamin Genser

and to select Amanda Murray to fill one (1) Representative OC Econ. Dev. Corp. Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2030.

Z . [Ottawa County Land Bank Authority](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Laurie Van Haitsma

Thomas Oonk

Ineligible Applicants:

Lacey Bereza

Larry Jackson

Scott Muellerleile

and to select Laurie Van Haitsma to fill one (1) Township Representative Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2030.

AA. [Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Martin Harris

Fred Cizauskas

Justin Drooger

Jane Fraunheim

Nathan Hoekstra

James Kober

Joseph Kowalkowski

Kelly Kuiper

Scott Muellerleile

Malaythong Phan

Kelly Rice

Cynthia Scholten

Eric Shake

Joseph Sierawski

and to select Martin Harris to fill one (1) Public Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

AB. [Ottawa County Road Commission](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of

(\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*James Miedema

Robert De Vries

Thomas Elhart

Ineligible Applicants:

Troy Goodno

Larry Jackson – No show/no explanation November 18

and to select James Miedema to fill one (1) Member Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2030.

AC. [Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Kenneth Styles

Gregory Carlson

David Chesney

Dustin Parlin

Richard Jakubczak

Steve Skodack

Benjamin Terpsma

Richard Van Dop

Caleb Worpel

Ineligible Applicants:

Larry Jackson – No show/no explanation October 17

and to select Kenneth Styles to fill one (1) War Veteran Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2028.

AD. [Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of

(\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Gregory Carlson

Steven Barnes

David Chesney

Richard Jakubczak

Kenneth Styles

Ineligible Applicants:

Dustin Parlin

and to select Gregory Carlson to fill one (1) War Veteran Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2028.

AE. [West Michigan Airport Authority](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Benjamin Fogg

Ineligible Applicants:

Craig Dunlap

and to Benjamin Fogg to fill one (1) Member Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.

AF. [West Michigan Regional Planning Commission](#)

Suggested Motion:

To place into nomination the names of (\*indicates recommendation from the Interview Subcommittee):

Eligible Applicants:

\*Benjamin Genser

and to select Benjamin Genser to fill one (1) Member Seat vacancy beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.

8. Agenda and Action Requests:
  - A. [Approval of Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson pursuant to MCL 15.270\(5\)](#)

Suggested Motion:  
To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson pursuant to MCL 15.270(5).
  - B. [Approval of Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin R. Wetmore pursuant to MCL 15.270\(5\)](#)

Suggested Motion:  
To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin Wetmore pursuant to MCL 15.270(5).
  - C. [Approval of Amended Agreement for Separation and Release with Jordan Epperson](#)

Suggested Motion:  
To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Amended Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson.
  - D. [Approval of Amended Agreement for Separation and Release with Benjamin Wetmore](#)

Suggested Motion:  
To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Amended Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin Wetmore.
  - E. [Agreement for County Pregnancy Resources](#)

Suggested Motion:  
To approve and authorize the Board Chairperson/Clerk to sign an agreement with Protect Life Michigan for County Pregnancy Resources and to appropriate a grant for Pregnancy Resources Assistance to Protect Life Michigan in the amount of \$177,270 per year for two (2) years out of Board Initiatives for a total of \$345,540.00.
9. Committee Reports
10. Public Comment
11. Additional Business
  - A. Administrator's Report
  - B. Chairman's Update
  - C. Appointment to Housing Commission by Chairman Moss
12. Adjournment at Call of the Chairperson

**PROPOSED  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER SESSION – SECOND DAY**

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 10:42 a.m. and was called to order by the Chairperson.

The prayer was pronounced by Pastor Cory Nederveld.

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

Present at roll call: Chris Kleinjans, Doug Zylstra (via zoom in Puebla Mexico), Jacob Bonnema, Joe Moss, Kendra Wenzel, Rebekah Curran, Sylvia Rhodea, Roger Belknap, Allison Miedema. (9)

Absent: Gretchen Cosby, Roger Bergman (2)

Gretchen Cosby joined the meeting at 11:10 am.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comment

Public comments were made by the following:

1. John Teeples-Georgetown Township
2. Dan Zimmer-Port Sheldon Township
3. Darleen Dykstra-Georgetown Township
4. Shontell Martenell-Park Township

Approval of Agenda

B/C 24-206 Rebekah Curran moved to approve the agenda.

The motion passed.

Consent Resolutions

B/C 24-207 Rebekah Curran moved to approve the following Consent Resolutions.

- A. To approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.
- B. To approve the revised County Policies.
- C. To approve the revised Legal Services Policy.

D. To approve the revised Contracting Policies.

E. To approve the revised Purchasing Policies.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Roger Belknap, Rebekah Curran, Jacob Bonnema, Sylvia Rhodea, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Chris Kleinjans, Joe Moss. (8)

Agenda and Action Requests

B/C 24-208 Rebekah Curran moved to approve the contract with Good Samaritan Ministries for the Emergency Solutions Grant.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Jacob Bonnema, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Chris Kleinjans, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss. (8)

B/C 24-209 Roger Belknap moved to approve the contract with Community Action House for the Emergency Solutions Grant.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Jacob Bonnema, Chris Kleinjans, Allison Miedema, Kendra Wenzel, Sylvia Rhodea, Rebekah Curran, Roger Belknap, Joe Moss. (8)

B/C 24-210 Allison Miedema moved to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of the Crockery Township Water Supply; 2024 Water System Improvement bonds.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Roger Belknap, Rebekah Curran, Allison Miedema, Kendra Wenzel, Jacob Bonnema, Sylvia Rhodea, Chris Kleinjans, Joe Moss. (8)

B/C 24-211 Roger Belknap moved to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of the Wyoming Water System; 2024 Water System Improvements Bonds Issue.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Kendra Wenzel, Rebekah Curran, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Allison Miedema, Chris Kleinjans, Jacob Bonnema, Joe Moss. (8)

B/C 24-212 Allison Miedema moved to amend the appointment of Esther Fifelski to the Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board for a 3-year term from March 26, 2024, to March 26, 2027, rather than from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, in order to comply with the bylaws and policy of the aforementioned advisory board, and to amend the appointment of Kenneth Styles to the Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board for a 3-year term from May 15, 2024 to May 15, 2027, rather than from May 15, 2024 to December 31, 2024, in order to comply with the bylaws and policy of the aforementioned advisory board.

The motion passed.

B/C 24-213 Allison Miedema moved to amend the appointment of Dave Parnin to the Lakeshore Regional Entity Substance Abuse Oversight Policy Board for a 3-year term from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026, rather than from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, in order to comply with the bylaws and policy of the aforementioned board, and to amend the appointment of Richard Kanten to the Lakeshore Regional Entity Substance Abuse Oversight Policy Board for a 3-year term from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026, rather than from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, in order to comply with the bylaws and policy of the aforementioned board.

The motion passed.

B/C 24-214 Roger Belknap moved to approve the contract amendment for the annual renewal and upgrade of the Blumira service from Advanced to SIEM+ Edition with People Driven Technology for year 2 of the 3-year contract, and authorize the appropriate officials to execute the agreement. (Wenzel – 2<sup>nd</sup>)

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Chris Kleinjans, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Sylvia Rhodea, Kendra Wenzel, Roger Belknap, Jacob Bonnema, Joe Moss. (8)

#### Committee Reports

None.

#### Public Comment

1. John Teeples-Georgetown Township

#### Additional Business

- A. Administrator's Report-Ben Wetmore, Interim County Administrator, gave the Administrator update.
- B. Chairman's Update-Chairperson Moss gave an update.

#### Adjournment at Call of the Chairperson

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

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

JOE MOSS, Chairperson  
Of the Board of Commissioners



**PROPOSED  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER SESSION – FIRST DAY**

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 9:02 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, Chris Kleinjans, Doug Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Joe Moss, Kendra Wenzel, Rebekah Curran, Sylvia Rhodea, Roger Belknap, Roger Bergman, Allison Miedema. (11)

Correspondence

None.

Public Comment

Public comments were made by the following:

1. Doug Zylstra-City of Holland
2. Michael Johnson-Spring Lake Township
3. Ken Willison-Spring Lake Township
4. Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones-Spring Lake Township
5. Mike Sabatino-Port Sheldon Township
6. Becky Patrick-Allendale Township
7. Chuck Lane-Chester Township
8. Betsy Ludwick-Chester Township
9. Nancy Pochran-Georgetown Township
10. Dan Zimmer-Port Sheldon Township
11. Sheila Dettloff-Holland Township
12. Karen Obits-Spring Lake Township
13. Janet Joiner-Ferrysburg
14. Dan Callan-Park Township
15. Melanie Scholten-Park Township
16. Kim Nagy-Georgetown Township
17. Molly Ziegler-Spring Lake Township
18. David Barnosky-Port Sheldon Township
19. Geri McCaleb-West Olive
20. Virginia Greenlee-Park Township

Approval of Agenda

B/C 24-215

Kendra Wenzel moved to approve the agenda.

The motion passed.

Consent Resolutions

Commissioner Zylstra requested to move 7B (Post-Execution Ratification) from Consent to 8J of Agenda and Action Requests.

Chairperson Moss requested to remove Consent Item 7A (approval of minutes) and place on the agenda for the Board of Commissioners meeting on December 19, 2024.

B/C 24-216 Sylvia Rhodea moved to approve the following Consent Resolutions.

- A. To approve the application resolution for the Michigan Coastal Management program for funding assistance with design and engineering for access improvements at Rosy Mound Natural Area.
- B. To approve the creation of a capital project for Veteran Services alterations in the Jail Complex.
- C. To approve the general claims in the amount of \$47,390,498.09 as presented by the summary report for October 21, 2024 through November 15, 2024.
- D. To approve the 1 year contract with Genoa Healthcare, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.
- E. To approve the contract for Cisco Subscription Services with Sentinel Technologies, Inc. including Cisco Enterprise Agreement, Cisco Solution Technology Integrator (STI) ACTS, Cisco Flex, and Flex Contact Center, as well as Cisco Hourly Services.
- F. To approve the Amendment adding a 5-year software agreement of the OpenGov Procurement Software.
- G. To approve the 1 year contract with Building Men for Life in the amount not to exceed \$61,388.00.
- H. To approve the 1 year contract with 70x7 Life Recovery in the amount not to exceed \$43,679.00.
- I. To receive for information the 2024 Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission Strategic Plan Presentation.
- J. To approve the request from Parks & Recreation to realign and add new positions as part of the Parks 2024 Strategic Plan as approved by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission at a cost of \$388,329.
- K. To approve the FY2024 and FY2025 budget adjustments per the attached schedule.

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

Agenda and Action Requests

B/C 24-217 Sylvia Rhodea moved to approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Agreement for the Care, Management, and Maintenance of Land located at Crockery Lake, and appropriate \$563,404.00 from the General Fund balance, Monsanto reserve for the purpose of funding this Agreement.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Allison Miedema, Kendra Wenzel, Gretchen Cosby, Sylvia Rhodea, Roger Belknap, Joe Moss. (6)

Nays: Jacob Bonnema, Chris Kleinjans, Roger Bergman, Rebekah Curran, Doug Zylstra. (5)

B/C 24-218 Doug Zylstra moved to send the contract back to Corporate Counsel to change the contract with either Dr. Jones or the Crockery Creek Lake Association.

Sylvia Rhodea called to question at 10:23 a.m.

The call to question passed by the following votes: Yeas: Allison Miedema, Kendra Wenzel, Gretchen Cosby, Roger Bergman, Jacob Bonnema, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss. (7)

Nays: Roger Belknap, Doug Zylstra, Chris Kleinjans. (3)

Absent at vote: Rebekah Curran (1)

The motion B/C 24-218 failed by the following votes: Nays: Gretchen Cosby, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss. (7)

Yeas: Roger Bergman, Doug Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Chris Kleinjans. (4)

B/C 24-219 Roger Belknap moved to appropriate funds and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the partnership agreement between Ottawa County and Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity to support site development and construction costs for housing development.

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

B/C 24-220 Gretchen Cosby moved to appropriate funds and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the partnership agreement between Ottawa County and Jubilee Ministries Inc to support site development and construction costs for housing development.

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

B/C 24-221 Gretchen Cosby moved to approve and appropriate a Board Initiatives grant in the amount of \$750,000 for the Ottawa County Recovery Court, for the purpose of continuity of service of a 20+ year proven program which meets social/human services needs.

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

B/C 24-222 Allison Miedema moved to approve the request from Circuit Court to upgrade the Adult Drug Court Coordinator to a Recovery Court Director, upgrade the Recovery Court Case Manager to a Recovery Court Senior Probation Officer, and to add a 1.0 FTE Recovery Court Probation Officer at a cost of \$132,901.

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

B/C 24-223 Gretchen Cosby moved to go into closed session at 11:26 a.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, as requested by Senior Executive Aide Jordan Epperson (requires 2/3 vote).

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

B/C 24-224 Roger Bergman moved to come out of closed session at 12:56 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, as requested by Senior Executive Aide Jordan Epperson.

The motion passed.

The meeting was called back to order at 12:58 p.m.

B/C 24-225 Allison Miedema moved to approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson as discussed in closed session.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Gretchen Cosby, Roger Bergman, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Chris Kleinjans, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss. (9)

Nays: Doug Zylstra and Jacob Bonnema. (2)

B/C 24-226 Gretchen Cosby moved to go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, as requested by Interim Administrator Benjamin R. Wetmore (requires 2/3 vote).

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

B/C 24-227 Roger Bergman moved to come out of closed session at 2:09 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, as requested by Interim Administrator Benjamin R. Wetmore (requires 2/3 vote).

The motion passed.

The meeting resumed at 2:14 p.m.

B/C 24-228 Roger Belknap moved to approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin R. Wetmore as discussed in closed session.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Roger Belknap, Allison Miedema, Kendra Wenzel, Gretchen Cosby, Sylvia Rhodea, Chris Kleinjans, Joe Moss. (7)

Nays: Rebekah Curran, Doug Zylstra, Roger Bergman, Jacob Bonnema. (4)

B/C 24-229 Rebekah Curran moved to approve the request from Probate Court to add 1.0 FTE Deputy Probate Register at a cost of \$80,617 and appropriate necessary funds.

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

B/C 24-230 Sylvia Rhodea moved to approve and authorize the Board Chairperson/Clerk to sign Kallman Legal Group, PLLC's Second Amendment to Agreement for Legal Services.

The motion passed by the following votes: Yeas: Roger Belknap, Gretchen Cosby, Allison Miedema, Sylvia Rhodea, Kendra Wenzel, Joe Moss. (6)

Nays: Doug Zylstra, Roger Bergman, Chris Kleinjans, Jacob Bonnema, Rebekah Curran. (5)

B/C 24-231 Doug Zylstra moved to amend the agreement in motion B/C 24-230 to change the sentence in paragraph 1 on page 4 that begins with "If the County incurs...." to "If

Corporation Counsel deems there is a need to exceed the \$24,940.80 per month, they need prior authorization from Fiscal Services to do so.”

The motion failed by the following votes: Nays: Gretchen Cosby, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Sylvia Rhodea, Kendra Wenzel, Roger Belknap, Joe Moss. (7)

Yeas: Chris Kleinjans, Doug Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Roger Bergman. (4)

B/C 24-232 Doug Zylstra moved to amend the agreement in motion B/C 24-230 to include a 5% prepaid discount.

The motion failed by the following votes: Nays: Kendra Wenzel, Rebekah Curran, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Allison Miedema, Gretchen Cosby, Joe Moss. (7)

Yeas: Doug Zylstra, Chris Kleinjans, Roger Bergman, Jacob Bonnema. (4)

B/C 24-233 Doug Zylstra moved to amend the agreement in motion B/C 24-230 to strike the last paragraph of Section 8.

The motion failed by the following votes: Nays: Roger Belknap, Rebekah Curran, Gretchen Cosby, Sylvia Rhodea, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Joe Moss. (7)

Yeas: Jacob Bonnema, Doug Zylstra, Chris Kleinjans, Roger Bergman. (4)

B/C 24-234 Roger Belknap moved to ratify all contracts for the period of November 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024 currently pending on the post-execution ratification list as authorized under Section IV(D)(2) of the Ottawa County Contracting Authorization and Form Policy.

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

B/C 24-235 Doug Zylstra moved to delay the contract with Predictive Index in motion B/C 24-234 for the time being.

The motion failed by the following votes: Nays: Gretchen Cosby, Roger Bergman, Kendra Wenzel, Allison Miedema, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss. (7)

Yeas: Doug Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Rebekah Curran, Chris Kleinjans. (4)

#### Committee Reports

None.

#### Public Comment

1. Dan Zimmer-Port Sheldon Township
2. Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones-Spring Lake Township
3. Betsy Ludwick-Chester Township

4. Harvey Nikkel-Georgetown Township
5. Sheila Dettloff-Holland Township
6. Karen Obits-Spring Lake Township
7. Roger Bergman-County Commissioner

Online Public Comment

1. Joseph Parnell McCarter-Georgetown Township
2. Joe Spaulding-Holland Township

Additional Business

- A. Administrator's Report-Ben Wetmore, Interim County Administrator, gave the Administrator update.
- B. Chairman's Update-Chairperson Moss gave an update.

Adjournment at Call of the Chairperson

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

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

JOE MOSS, Chairperson  
Of the Board of Commissioners

# Board Ratification Contracts

**Report Date Range:** 12/1/2024 - 12/19/2024

**'Revenue' Total Amount:** \$286,238.00

**'Expense' Total Amount:** \$268,626.60

CONTRACT	REQUESTED DATE	APPROVED DATE	REQUESTING AGENCY	VENDOR/3RD PARTY	CONTRACT AMOUNT	MULTI YEAR CONTRACT	REVENUE /EXPENSE	PURPOSE
2468	10/22/2024	12/03/2024	DC PROBATION/COMM CORRECTIONS	REACH FOR RECOVERY	\$12,500.00	NO	EXPENSE	TO APPROVE THE FY2025 SERVICE CONTRACT WITH REACH FOR RECOVERY FOR TREATMENT SERVICES PROVIDED TO SOBRIETY TREATMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.
2483	11/04/2024	12/02/2024	PUBLIC HEALTH	MICHIGAN DEPT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MDARD)	\$28,000.00	NO	REVENUE	The purpose of the MDARD Clean Sweep Grant Agreement is to assist in the cost of up to \$28,000 to properly dispose of pesticides from local farmers, businesses, and residents at no cost. MDARD's MAEAP will cover the cost of Ottawa County's vendor to dispose of pesticide disposal and labor/transportation related to pesticide disposal.
2484	11/06/2024	12/02/2024	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	BUIST ELECTRIC, INC	\$12,924.00	NO	EXPENSE	to provide a sound masking and background music system.
2490	11/07/2024	12/02/2024	PARKS AND RECREATION	AUTUMN RIDGE STONE AND LANDSCAPING	\$52,500.00	YES	EXPENSE	To provide snow plowing services at various parks as needed
2491	11/07/2024	12/02/2024	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	PEOPLE DRIVEN TECHNOLOGIES	\$10,000.00	NO	EXPENSE	to provide access control management (ACM) consulting services.
2494	11/12/2024	12/02/2024	DC PROBATION/COMM CORRECTIONS	GRAND RAPIDS THERAPY GROUP	\$37,500.00	NO	EXPENSE	Approval of the FY2025 contract with Grand Rapids Therapy Group to provide treatment services to the Sobriety Treatment Program participants. Services are provided through grant funding from the Office of Highway Safety Planning.



2495	11/12/2024	12/02/2024	DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC IMPACT	METRO SIGN, INC	\$44,506.00	NO	EXPENSE	To sign the contract for interpretive display fabrication and installation between Ottawa County and Metro Sign, Inc as part of the Fillmore Complex Native Landscaping Demonstration Project
2496	11/18/2024	12/02/2024	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	TOTAL ENERGY SYSTEMS, LLC	\$7,806.00	YES	EXPENSE	to provide generator planned preventative maintenance.
2503	11/21/2024	12/02/2024	PARKS AND RECREATION	MCCORMICK SAND, INC.	\$21,690.60	NO	EXPENSE	Amendment to existing construction contract
2504	11/21/2024	12/02/2024	TREASURER	SITE WORK SOLUTIONS, INC.	\$30,000.00	NO	EXPENSE	Site restoration services and removal of metal grain bin at 19686 Main St., Conklin.
2505	11/26/2024	12/03/2024	PARKS AND RECREATION	FEENSTRA AND ASSOCIATES INC	\$3,200.00	NO	EXPENSE	Property line survey and staking at the Pigeon River Open Space
2506	11/27/2024	12/03/2024	PARKS AND RECREATION	NOAH'S ARK LAWN CARE	\$36,000.00	YES	EXPENSE	Snow Plowing of the Parks in the eastern region of the County
2507	12/02/2024	12/03/2024	DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC IMPACT	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT)	\$258,238.00	NO	REVENUE	To approve and sign the Project Authorization with Michigan Department of Transportation for the FY2025 Specialized Services Operation Assistance Program
0	11/25/2024	11/25/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	PINE REST CHRISTIAN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES		N/A	N/A	INPATIENT COMMON CONTRACT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	PT SOLUTIONS, INC.		N/A	N/A	VENDOR AGREEMENT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	SONDER CENTER FOR NEURODEVELOPMENT LLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	STATE OF MICHIGAN DBA MICHIGAN REHABILITATION SERV		N/A	N/A	INTERAGENCY CASH TRANSFER AGREEMENT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	BUILDING MEN FOR LIFE		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	CENTRIA HEALTHCARE, LLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	DAVID R FRANZBLAU		N/A	N/A	TRANSFER OF FUNDS AGREEMENT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	DEVELOPMENTAL ENHANCEMENT, PLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	ENTIVA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	FOREST VIEW HOSPITAL		N/A	N/A	INPATIENT COMMON CONTRACT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	ABA GOLDEN STEPS MI LLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	HAVENWYK HOSPITAL DBA CEDAR CREEK HOSPITAL		N/A	N/A	INPATIENT COMMON CONTRACT
0	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	HOLLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL		N/A	N/A	INPATIENT COMMON CONTRACT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	HOPE DISCOVERY ABA SERVICES		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT

0	11/26/2024	11/26/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	MERCY HEALTH PARTNERS DBA TRINITY HEALTH MUSKEGON		N/A	N/A	INPATIENT COMMON CONTRACT
0	11/22/2024	11/22/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	VITALCORE HEALTH SERVICES		N/A	N/A	VENDOR AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	ANNA LUELLEN		N/A	N/A	BAA
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	ANNA LUELLEN		N/A	N/A	VENDOR AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE INSTITUTION, LLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	BENJAMIN'S HOPE		N/A	N/A	SERVICE AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	BERGMARK CONSULTING, LLC DBA WAYPOINTS		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	COMMUNITY HEALING CENTERS		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	DAVID'S HOUSE MINISTRIES		N/A	N/A	SERVICE AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	GEORGETOWN HARMONY HOMES, INC. DBA HARMONY COMMUNI		N/A	N/A	SERVICE AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	KENT COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY DBA NETWORK180		N/A	N/A	VENDOR ISSUED AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	LAKESHORE ADVOCACY SERVICE, LLC		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	MOKA CORPORATION		N/A	N/A	SERVICE AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	PCE		N/A	N/A	SERVICE AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS CORPORATION		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	PRS DBA REBOUND HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	PT SOLUTIONS, INC.		N/A	N/A	VENDOR ISSUED AGREEMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	QONVERGE, LLC DBA REVEL MARKETING		N/A	N/A	AMENDMENT
0	12/03/2024	12/03/2024	COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	UOFM BOARD OF REGENTS		N/A	N/A	VENDOR ISSUED AGREEMENT

# Michael Bronkema

Committee: Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board

Seat: Agricultural

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## Education

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School

Holland Christian High

Degree

n/a

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Shady Side Farm Inc.

Position

manager /owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Keeping a diversified running. Growing Heirloom grains corn einkorn and spelt, along with sheep and cows, and 20 varieties of dry beans.

Previous Employer

Position

Van Der Meulen Builders

Crew leader

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Manage building site and workers

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

62

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I've served on this board since it was formed. I've also been on other boards Ottawa County Farm Bureau, Michigan Sheep Producers and Church

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to keep serving here as I have a preserved farm in Ottawa County. Ottawa County is a great place for growing many different types of crops as a grower of some of these and a direct marketer of local foods I see the need to preserve more farmland in our county.

# Scott Muellerleile

Committee: Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board

Seat: Agricultural

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors of Science Magna Cum Laude

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Countryside Greenhouse

Position

Nursery Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee all aspects of nursery operations, including staff management, inventory control, and customer relations. Successfully improve staff morale, workplace culture, and job education through consistent engagement and training.

Develop and implement efficient processes to enhance productivity, profitability, and customer satisfaction, tailoring strategies to meet both operational goals and client needs.

Collaborate with team members at every level to assess challenges and implement solutions, ensuring smooth operations and continuous improvement.

Manage supply chain logistics, including procurement of horticultural products and monitoring inventory levels to optimize availability and reduce waste.

Maintain a focus on long-term business sustainability through proactive planning, resource management, and financial oversight.

Previous Employer

Position

Menards

Human Resources Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Coordinated recruitment, interviews and orientation for new hires. Managed applicant profiles, vetting prospects and providing feedback for qualification to hiring managers. This ensured optimal selections, maximizing effectiveness on the floor.

Reviewed performance of new hires, segmented by duration over time and training. Discussed profiles with evaluation managers, determining action plans for improvement and communication. Facilitated team member training and development, utilizing corporate training programs effectively.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



While I have not previously served on a government or civic board, my professional experience has equipped me with many of the key skills required for effective board service. As a nursery manager, I regularly collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from staff to customers, and work on long-term planning and resource management?skills that are essential for board-level decision-making.

I have also developed a strong ability to assess challenges, implement solutions, and balance multiple interests to achieve sustainable outcomes. These experiences have prepared me to effectively contribute to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, bringing a fresh perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, community-focused solutions.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for the Agriculture Preservation, Groundwater/Scientific Community, and Land Bank Authority Board because of my strong connection to nature and natural drive for sustainability. In college, I studied chemistry, which helped me develop an analytical mindset that aids in understanding the scientific factors involved in land and groundwater management.

As a nursery manager, and someone who spends a significant amount of time outdoors through landscaping and other activities, I've gained a deep appreciation for the careful balance between human activity and environmental preservation. I am committed to promoting sustainable practices that align with the long-term goals of protecting our county's agricultural land and water resources. My collaborative approach and dedication to evidence-based decision-making would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission.

# Kelly Goward

Committee: Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board

Seat: Local Conservation

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## Education

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School

Ball State University

Degree

Master of Science

School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

Bachelor of Science

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ODC Network

Position

Land & Water Director

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Direct a team responsible for carrying out the conservation mission of the ODC Network including Project Clarity, the Macatawa River Greenway, the Kalamazoo River Greenway, and community sustainability initiatives. This includes overseeing implementation of the Macatawa Watershed Management Plan and assisting local municipalities in maintaining compliance with their EGLE stormwater permits. Responsibilities include managing and evaluating team members, hiring and supervising interns, setting and tracking program budgets, securing and managing grants, and organizing and executing educational programs. I also serve on a leadership team that provides counsel and support to the Executive Director.

Previous Employer

Position

Macatawa Area Coordinating Council

Environmental Program Manager

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for overseeing implementation of the Macatawa Watershed Management Plan and assisting local municipalities in maintaining compliance with their EGLE stormwater permits. Responsibilities included creating and distributing public education materials, planning and delivering programs and events, writing and managing grants, overseeing water quality restoration project implementation, and maintaining communication with local community stakeholders.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

38

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have served on the Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Board since 2022 and am currently serving as the Vice Chair. I served on the Ottawa County Solid Waste Planning Committee (now Materials Management Planning Committee) since 2020, the entire time as the Chair. I currently serve on the Materials Management Planning Committee as was re-elected Chair of the reorganized committee. My professional career in conservation includes working with and facilitating various groups of stakeholders, and that experience helped prepare me to serve in leadership roles on the Ottawa County Committees. I have also served in leadership roles (chairperson) on several committees at the church where I am a member and serve in a leadership role (treasurer) on the board of a professional organization.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Farmland preservation is a critical issue in Ottawa County as the county tries to balance being one of the most diverse agricultural counties with also being one of the fastest developing counties in the state. Preserving farmland serves to maintain the aesthetic character of the county while supporting a rich economy and providing citizens access to locally produced food and unique on-farm experiences. From a conservation perspective, working with farmers to implement practices that support water quality goals is much more cost effective and produces greater environmental outcomes than working with developers intent on covering productive soil with asphalt and concrete. Of course, development has a place in our County, but not taking valuable farmland out of production. It is in our best interest to protect future quality of life in Ottawa County to help farmers keep their farmland in production.

# Jennifer L Jermalowicz-Jones

Committee: Ottawa County Agricultural Preservation Board

Seat: Local Conservation

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## Education

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School

Michigan State University

Degree

PhD Water Resource Studies/Community Sustainabili

School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

MS Biology/Aquatic Ecology

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Restorative Lake Sciences

Position

Owner, Director

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversight of 120 lake restoration projects throughout Michigan and the Midwest. Working with farmers to reduce runoff that impacts lake water quality and on best management practices for soil conservation and maximization of crop yield. Evaluation of community sustainability metrics to determine which resources are lacking and need to be enhanced for long-term betterment.

Previous Employer

Position

Muskegon Community College

Professor of Microbiology

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Instruction of human and environmental microbiology to college students. Laboratory practicum of microbial evaluations and practical applications.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



This is listed on my CV. Currently, I am a sworn member of the Michigamme River Basin Authority, Tax Increment Finance Authority Board in Marquette County, MI since 2022 and also served as a Science Advisor on the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Board of Directors for 16 years. I have also served on other boards as listed on my CV.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a strong background in Water Resources, land use, and Conservation. My strong academic and applied background in these disciplines could be used to assist the County in preservation of our agricultural resources. As a local scientist involved in a recent referendum to protect our local blueberry farms from development, I am passionate about protecting our needed farms at the County scale. I received the prestigious Gilbert W Mouser scholarship from MSU in 2021 in Environmental Conservation. The skills needed for that award included the ability to understand the metrics needed to measure the need for land and water conservation, and also strategies for optimization of resource protection and retention. These aspects are key for sustainable communities.

# Jared Schuitema

Committee: Ottawa County Building Authority

Seat: Member

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## Education

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School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelors of Science

School

Trinity Christian College

Degree

Undergrad Transfer

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Bellabay Realty Sw LLC

Position

Realtor/Associate Broker

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Assisting buyers, sellers, and investors in all real estate activities in Ottawa, Muskegon, Kent, and Allegan Township

- ? Rookie of the Year 2019
- ? Top 10 out of 200+ agents 5 out of the last 6 years
- ? Annually produce and manage over \$13 million in new business every year
- ? Former recruiter for entire brokerage
- ? Manage large group of referral partners
- ? Extremely knowledgeable of homes, values, and evaluations

Previous Employer

Position

West Michigan Works!

Business Solutions Assistant Manager

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- ? Assist in creating policy and processes for entire organization
- ? Instrumental in creating talent pipelines for multiple industries
- ? Manage Business Solutions Representatives for 7 counties
- ? Training manager for new hires joining team
- ? Create and maintain relationships with partners, training providers, and economic developers
- ? Coach/mentor/evaluate staff with strategic planning and vision
- ? Managed over \$2 Million in State and Federal Grants

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

36

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: Max length: 500

Wife is employed as Allendale Township Trustee currently

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)

Currently the chair of the Ottawa County Housing Commission. Really enjoying the work being done and would love to continue along with the projects in process.

Chaired numerous boards, including: Coopersville Chamber of Commerce, Deacon Board - Cottonwood Church. I have been a member of the Hudsonville/Jenison Community Foundation, GRAR Government Committee, GRAR MLS Policy Committee and the Business Resource Team Member Board through the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce. I have also been a member of many chamber organizations and non-profits.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Currently the chair of the Ottawa County Housing Commission. Really enjoying the work being done and would love to continue along with the projects in process. I have a unique knowledge set regarding housing and local municipalities. I would be a useful source of information for both the Housing commission and the Landbank Authority in Allendale Township.

# Joel Studebaker

Committee: Ottawa County Building Authority

Seat: Member

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## Education

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School

Cornerstone University

Degree

B.A. in Accounting

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Self-employed

Position

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

We help local businesses with advertising in West Michigan

Previous Employer

Position

Pregis Films

Finance Director

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Manage Finance, Administration, Human Resources for West Michigan division of Pregis, a global packaging company.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

6

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



I currently serve as the Chair of the Board of the PRC of Grand Rapids and on the Executive Committee of the Ottawa GOP.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe the Building Authority is an important piece of our county and I have the capacity to serve in this role and want to serve the community in more of a direct manner. I have past experience with property investment and management and have a business mindset that is needed in all aspects of Ottawa County government and believe I would be qualified and add value to this board.

# Dan Winiarski

Committee: Ottawa County Building Authority

Seat: Member

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## Education

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School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

Master of Science in Accounting

School

Spring Arbor University

Degree

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Purity Cylinder Gases (16+ years)

Position

AP/AR/Billing Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee the accounts payable, accounts receivable, and billing departments. Hire new employees for these positions, actively manage the staff, create & implement policies for these departments, and assist the President, Controller, Operations Manager, and Sales Manager in developing, improving, and measuring goals, policies, and procedures for all areas of the company. Plan, organize, and facilitate the weekly team meetings for the AP, AR, and Billing departments. Train new employees. Provide feedback and detailed reports to the owners for these departments. Plan, track, and manage quarterly goals for these departments. Create schedules to cover for employee vacations and other absences. Perform day-to-day operations in all these departments, as needed, to backup the staff and to test policies & procedures. Attend all Human Resources staff meetings, IT Department staff meetings, and quarterly Branch Manager meetings, to facilitate cross-departmental cooperation and communication.

Previous Employer

Position

Continental Linen Services (3+ years)

AP Clerk --> AP Manager

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Began employment as the accounts payable clerk, entering invoices, processing check runs, and assisting with billing and accounts receivable as needed. Was promoted to position of overseeing the company's ERP computer system, training new employees how to use it, and managing the accounts payable functions. Also helped to implement a large project to add RFID technology to all the company's rental assets.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

13

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have served as a Deacon on my church council twice (2013 - 2016 and 2020 - 2023), and served as the chair of the finance committee during both of those terms. I also served on the executive committee of council. I was delegated to serve as my church's representative at the regional (classis) level numerous times during those years. I was also delegated to serve as our region's representative at the international assembly (synod) in 2023, and served on an advisory committee at that Synod, tasked with reviewing the denominations rules and code of conduct. I also serve on the Education Committee for my church.

I was elected to the position of Precinct Delegate for the Republican Party for Georgetown Township in 2022 and 2024. I have served on the executive committee of the Ottawa County GOP since 2022. I have attended many county conventions and was delegated to the district convention in 2024.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I know that it is vital for "normal" people who are outside the sphere of government to be involved in an advisory role for those who are within the sphere of government. That is how our Republic was designed. I have worked in the private sector my entire life, in every area from retail to professional sports to radio to factory work. I bring the perspective of the common person. I have a strong aptitude for critical thinking, short- and long-term planning, asking important questions, overseeing projects, and managing finances. I have a master's degree in accounting, and almost 2 decades of experience managing people and processes.



Kaasen Electric

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Ran the day to day operations of a residential / light commercial electrical

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

61

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



I am currently on the Holland Township zoning board of appeals and the board of directors for Cellulose Insulation Manufactures Association as well as the BOD for Building Performance Institute.

I am the current secretary for ASTM C-16 (thermal insulation) and task group chair of several ASTM standards.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have been in construction my entire adult life. For over the last 15 years I have been employed by the one of the largest cellulose manufacturers in the US. In that capacity I work with codes and standards as well as teach continuing education courses for Code officials and architects. I have much to offer in the realm of residential housing and construction.

# Alison El-Cassabgui

Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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## Education

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School

Oklahoma State University

Degree

Public Relations

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ChargePoint

Position

Site Research Data Specialist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Current responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluation of customer requirements related to development and deployment of EVSE charging solutions;
- Leverage available funding to lower capital expenditures for customers;
- Implement strategic initiatives cross-functionally related to relationship development;

Previous Employer

Holland Board of Public Works

Position

Electric Distribution Planner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Plan and schedule major capital improvement projects, customer expansion projects, line extensions and major outages by working closely with Engineering, Line Crew, Operations & Maintenance and Warehouse personnel.
- Lead weekly planning meetings with internal and external stakeholders to accomplish project coordination and pertinent timing for customer needs.
- Manage work with vendors, contractors and internal procurement specialists to obtain parts and services required for projects, outages and daily operations.
- Solicit feedback from internal department personnel to track compliance, project statuses and ways to implement cross-functional improvements.
- Create and maintain SOPs for complex work flows, from project conception through project completion, including warehouse and inventory monitoring during supply chain challenges.
- Prepare RFPs, contracts and budgets for Electric Distribution expenses and capital improvements.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

9

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Previous experience includes four years of serving on OCCAA's Advisory Board, with the most recent term including Advisory Board Chair. Additional experience includes:

- Panel Leadership for United Way's Community Investment Process;
- Marketing & Communications Committee Member for the West Michigan Regional Airport Authority;
- Ombudsman for spouses and family members of service members in the United States Coast Guard;
- West Coast Chamber Leadership Alumni

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a transplant to Ottawa County in 2015 due to military relocation, it was important to me to become involved in my community. Having previously been involved in United Way, it was important to me to leverage my expertise in strategic planning and analysis when I was presented the opportunity to join OCCAA's Board in 2019. Through two board terms, I've had the privilege to be involved with OCCAA's strategic planning sessions led by their talented and underrecognized staff. We collectively evaluated how best to spread awareness, along with provide clarification to stakeholders on how their mission both benefited and worked in conjunction with other local organizations. I'd like to continue providing this support, along with developing new strategies to continuously improve OCCAA and keep their mission top of mind.

# Alexandra Marie-Kajal Darland

Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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## Education

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School

Black River Public School

Degree

High School Degree

School

Baker College

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Yellow Lime Creative

Position

Marketing Strategist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Strategic Development: Insights into the needs of small businesses, non-profits, and community-focused organizations to develop comprehensive marketing plans. Align strategies with each client's objectives to boost brand awareness, engagement, and growth.

Branding & Messaging: Help clients establish or refine their brand voice and positioning, ensuring consistency across all marketing channels. Collaborate closely with creative teams to produce compelling content that resonates with target audiences.

Content Strategy: Work with designers and content creators to deliver high-quality content that elevates client messaging and drives engagement. Support clients in developing a consistent narrative that aligns with their values and market positioning.

Client Relationships: Serve as the primary contact for assigned clients, offering guidance, feedback, and support. Build strong, long-term relationships by understanding their business needs and providing tailored marketing solutions.

## Previous Employer

Holland Area Visitors and Convention Bureau

## Position

Director of Events and Programming

## Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

As the Director of Events and Programming at the Holland Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (HACVB), I led the planning, execution, and evaluation of a wide range of community events, festivals, and programs designed to promote tourism and enhance the visitor experience in Holland, Michigan. I worked closely with local municipalities, non-profits, and key stakeholders to ensure these events showcased Holland's unique culture while driving economic growth and fostering community engagement. One of my most notable accomplishments was co-creating "Magic at the Mill", an immersive winter event that transformed Windmill Island Gardens into a holiday wonderland, attracting visitors from across the region during the off-peak season and boosting local business participation.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

32

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



City of Holland- International Festival- Advisory Board  
2019 -Present  
Holland Public Museum - Events Committee 2019-Present  
Women of Color Give- Investor & Membership and Events  
Committee 2021-Present  
I AM ACADEMY- Juneteenth Freedom Festival Events  
Committee 2023  
City of Holland- Ice Rink- Honorary Campaign Committee 2023  
Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP)- Fiesta Committee  
2023- Present  
Lakeshore Non-Profit Alliance- BIPOC Affinity Group Lead2023- Present  
City of Holland-South Shore Business Improvement

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am applying for the Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board because I am passionate about supporting the well-being of our community, particularly our most vulnerable population. Through my experience in community engagement and economic development, especially at the Holland Area Visitors Bureau, I have gained valuable insight into the unique strengths of Ottawa County. I am acutely aware of how wonderful this community is, but I am equally passionate about helping to make improvements that ensure opportunities and resources are accessible to all residents. My work has involved creating events that foster community connection and support local businesses, and I believe these skills will allow me to contribute meaningfully to the board.

# Randy L Kortering

Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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## Education

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School	Degree
Grandy Valley State University	MBA

School	Degree
Michigan Tech University	BSME

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Retired - self employed as consultant	None

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

During my retirement, I served as a consultant to the Ottawa United Way. I facilitated the merger with the Allegan United Way, developed their Shared Services model for supporting smaller non-profit organizations and assisted in the replacement of their Operating System. I also served in an Operational Role and during that time was actively involved in Housing Next and ARPA funding decisions (Housing and DayCare).

Previous Employer

Haworth

Position

Global Vice President/Officer for Information Services

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I was a Haworth Officer/Global Vice President for 8 years. Prior to that, I served in roles as Information Services Director, Program Manager, Plant Operations Director and Purchasing Director. I began my career as an engineer at Haworth. I worked for Haworth for 35 years before retiring in 2018.

Prior to Haworth, I worked at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Illinois for 5 years.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

62

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

I am the Chairman of the Holland Township Planning Commission. I have been on the Commission for 7 years.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I served on the Ottawa County Waste Management Board for 1 year. I resigned when Michigan implemented a new rule that stated I could no longer serve on the board because I was not the Township representative nor from the industry.

I was involved with the ARPA committees recommending plans to use the ARPA funds for Housing and Child Care/other in 2022.

I served on the Ottawa County United Way Board for 12 years; the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Lakeshore Board for 3 years.

I have served on our church board multiple times including co-leading 2 major building projects.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to serve my community beyond my current Holland Township Role. I have the time, being retired, and a strong skillset in leadership, project management, problem solving individual development from my multiple roles at Haworth. I am fortunate that I do not need to work in my retirement and therefore am able and willing to spend my time and use my skills in other ways.

# Susan L Ouellette

## Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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### Education

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School

GVSU

Degree

Masters in Nursing

School

University of Michigan

Degree

BSN

### Employment Background

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Current Employer

Corewell Health

Position

Clinical Data Analyst

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Clinical Data Analyst ? Value Analysis Team, Supply Chain

Responsible for knowledge generation based on clinical outcomes data.

- ? Make recommendation on clinical outcomes for product evaluations, trials
- ? Provide expertise in design of product evaluations
- ? Transform clinical findings into corrected, nuanced, ordered and simplified forms
- ? Report findings, provide trending analysis and recommendations based on data reductions

Previous Employer

GVSU

Position

Academic Community Liaison

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic Community Liaison

Responsible for placement of KCON under-graduate and graduate students into clinical rotations.

- ? Administrative support West MI Clinical Placement Consortium
- ? Clinical site selection and vetting
- ? Develop, maintain and coordinate preceptor panel and activities
- ? Coordination student clinical rotation placements, IT Access requests
- ? Maintenance of KCON Clinical Site information ? Faculty and Student.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

3

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



I currently serve on the Georgetown Township Zoning Board of Appeals. I have also served as an Early Poll Worker for Ottawa County, as well as Election Day Poll worker for Georgetown Township

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As the stated goal for this Board is to offer advice on "basic goals, policies, and procedures for the CAA-funded programs, and recommends needed changes to best serve Ottawa County residents eligible for services, including senior citizens, low income, and individuals with barriers to self-efficiency" I feel that I am uniquely qualified to serve. I am a Registered Nurse (for decades) and I have worked in the role of Case/Care Manager for several years for Corewell Health. Additionally, I support my Mother -- who is 97 and living in assisted living, by advocating for her continuing care needs.

There are so many residents of Ottawa County who do not know about the benefits they may qualify for, and there is a lack of community support to meet those needs. I'd like an opportunity to maybe do something about that mismatch.?

# Cynthia A Scholten

## Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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### Education

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School

Arkansas State University

Degree

Master's Public Administration

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelors Business Administration

### Employment Background

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Current Employer

Haworth

Position

Commodity Planner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Planning material and working with vendors on delivery issues, supply, etc.
- ? Understanding complex data and assisting with reporting
- ? Working with cross-functional teams on various issues including supplier quality, delivery and new projects
- ? Recently completed Lean training

Previous Employer

City of Grand Rapids

Position

Purchasing Agent

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Led operation of the impound lot and purchasing department in the second largest city in Michigan
- ? Managed, supervised, and mentored 4 full-time and 5 contract employees
- ? Prepared and managed budget (combined of over \$1MM) including a revenue account
- ? Lead cross-functional team to create policy
- ? Represented department at Commission meetings presenting the bid list and forecasting report.
- ? Facilitated auctions, coordinating with internal and external teams
- ? Evaluated all purchases for the City
- ? Created and analyzed bids, RFQ's and RFP's, and managed contracts (risk)
- ? Reviewed Ordinances and proposed changes to the purchase thresholds
- ? Represented the City in many cohorts and alliances
- ? Created procedure for more oversight with money handling and checks and balances.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

My significant other works for Allegan County Drain Commission

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was a board member with Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a Masters Degree in Public Administration, several certifications pertaining to government including purchasing, planning and zoning. I have also taken additional training through Michigan State (Water School) and through MEDA on Economic Development. I am interested in serving my community

# Larry Jackson

## Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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### Education

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School

Devry

Degree

Bachelors

School

N/A

Degree

N/a

### Employment Background

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Current Employer

ITC Inc

Position

System Administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Determines the goals and objectives of IT within broad outlines provided by executive management and provides necessary technical leadership and project coordination

Prepares long- and short-range plans for application selection, systems development, and acquisition of the resources needed to support them; ensures responsiveness of long-range plans to corporate objective

Sets and ensures compliance (in both. the US and China) to policies including Computer Acceptable Use policy, Approved Software list and Hardware Standard list

Manages outside vendor contracts and activities including (but not limited to) managed service provider, phone vendor, and managed print services

Manages financial aspects of the IT department including purchasing, budgeting and budget review

Active Directory/Azure object management and configuration for all users in the US and China

Manages Active Directory Sites and services, Config/troubleshoot issues, GPO management, and manages all object in US

Previous Employer

West Rock

Position

IT Field Manager

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Provide service desk support via ServiceNow.  
Monitor Uptime across plants via network monitoring  
Grant/Remove access for leavers and joiners to the company via Office 365.  
Break fix issue on desktops, printers, network equipment across sites.  
Update and maintain all SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) SAAS (O365/Microsoft 365 Products)  
Active Directory/Azure object management and configuration for all plants.  
Assist with managing network equipment, configuration, and troubleshooting across all plants.  
Configured Insite and Autopilot for seamless deployment of new devices for users.  
Maintain Meraki Cisco equipment  
Provide support on all ERP applications.  
Scripting in PowerShell to automate processes while managing infrastructure

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

6

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: Max length: 500

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)



Veterans Board, Office of Compensation.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*



# Pete Vissar

## Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Private Sector

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### Education

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School

University of Denver

Degree

Masters in Environmental Policy and Management; Environmental

School

Baker College

Degree

Bachelors in Business Administration; Marketing. Minc

### Employment Background

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Current Employer

EDU Staff/ Coopersville Public Schools

Position

Support Staff

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Leadership acumen, with a focus on mentoring, training and guiding teams to achieve project objectives and growth initiatives for K-12th.
- Broad range of communication tactics; written and verbal. Created and maintained a welcoming, friendly, engaging, and nurturing classroom environment. Handled escalated situations, in-depth issues, by utilizing strong mediation and time management skills. Worked with students diagnosed with learning disabilities, anxiety, and other disorders
- Comfortable maintaining high work standards in fast-paced environments. Worked within collaborated problem-solving teams; data teams, positive behavioral support teams and child study teams
- Integrated digital media technology into a learning curriculum to make the material more engaging. Microsoft word, Excel, Google Docs, Microsoft Teams, PowerPoint

## Previous Employer

The Energy Alliance Group of Michigan

## Position

Business Development Manager

## Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- Collaborated with diverse stakeholders; funders, government organizations, nonprofits, academic, farmers, private & philanthropists on sustainable strategies for renewable energy & water conservation practices using PACE financing for projects \$250,000 and above
- Experienced in researching energy policies and building codes for commercial, industrial, multifamily, non-profit buildings, and agricultural applications. This includes purchase power agreements, engineering-based tax incentives, specialized cost recovery programs, utility & natural gas choice programs
- Confident self-starter that can adept to relationship building. Worked directly with Managing Director of Engagement and Corporate Responsibilities to develop opportunities, partnerships and external sponsors through sustainable models and connected clients to resources
- Maintained strong client relationships through effective communication, addressing concerns, and providing regular project updates

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

4 years working with the Energy Alliance Group promoting and educating county officials and business owners on Michigan Public Act 270; Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE). 4 years as a volunteer grant reviewer for the EPA focusing on community development through federal grants for the the Great Lakes, 66 Tribal Nations, North East, South West regions of the U.S. to fund a wide range of projects; improvements in food systems, human health, environmental protection, ecosystem health, air pollution, conservation stewardship, water and soil management. 4 years of Public Relations experience with the Michigan Good Food Charter helping community-based organizations, food hubs, farm cooperatives with outreach and training. 3 years as a board member for Grand Rapids Vegfest. For 5 straight years, we provided the public with a one-day event where 85-100 small businesses could sell food, showcase their products, and make connections with other businesses and event sponsors.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for Ottawa County's Community Action Agency Advisory Board because I really enjoy working and helping out those who are in need. My passion for community development has led me on an adventure of a lifetime. Many people look at my background and assume that I have no direction and just bounce from job to job. The truth is, I planned it to be that way. The elders I grew up with told me to "go out and learn as much as you can, while you can, and one day, all that knowledge you obtained would give you the insight, value and vision needed to become a successful leader." Well that is exactly what I did. What I bring is a cross-disciplinary way of thinking. Organization, planning, documenting, follow-through, communications and identifying issues before they occurred are primary skills, I have developed over the years which has giving me the ability to communicate clearly with youth, teens, adults, investors, policymakers and regulators.

# Molly Jo Brouwer

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board**

**Seat: Public Sector**

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## Education

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School

Calvin University

Degree

BA, major in Psychology

School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

Master of Social Work

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa County

Position

Public Health Social Worker

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide social work services for families enrolled in the Maternal and Infant Health Program. We primarily provide home visits to during pregnancy and then throughout the infant's first year for eligible clients. Each client enrolled in the program is offered sw services which include referring to community resources, providing support and encouraging actions that help facilitate positive outcomes for families.

Previous Employer

Muskegon County

Position

Family Counselor

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provided individual counseling and conducted divorce adjustment support groups

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

52

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

Just me. I have worked for Ottawa County since 1997.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*



I am currently serving on the OCCAA Board as a Public Sector representative, and have been on the board since 2019.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a social worker with the Ottawa County Maternal and Infant Health Program I visit families in their homes and see first hand the important impact of the services provided by OCCAA. It has been a privilege to serve on the board since 2019 and to do what I can to support these vital services. As a home visitor, I think I bring an important first hand point of view to the board regarding needs in the community.

I was interviewed and approved to serve on the advisory board a couple of months ago. I like serving on this board because I have worked with the Community Action Agency in my tenure with the City of Holland. My experiences were positive and I had reached out to OCCAA (Ottawa County Community Action Agency) to inquire about open positions. An opening became available and I was invited to apply.

I work with a variety of residents in our community. The more I know about opportunities in the community, I am more able to serve the residents of our city.

# Pete Vissar

## Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Public Sector

---

### Education

---

School

University of Denver

Degree

Masters in Environmental Policy and Management; Environmental

School

Baker College

Degree

Bachelors in Business Administration; Marketing. Minc

### Employment Background

---

Current Employer

EDU Staff/ Coopersville Public Schools

Position

Support Staff

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Leadership acumen, with a focus on mentoring, training and guiding teams to achieve project objectives and growth initiatives for K-12th.
- Broad range of communication tactics; written and verbal. Created and maintained a welcoming, friendly, engaging, and nurturing classroom environment. Handled escalated situations, in-depth issues, by utilizing strong mediation and time management skills. Worked with students diagnosed with learning disabilities, anxiety, and other disorders
- Comfortable maintaining high work standards in fast-paced environments. Worked within collaborated problem-solving teams; data teams, positive behavioral support teams and child study teams
- Integrated digital media technology into a learning curriculum to make the material more engaging. Microsoft word, Excel, Google Docs, Microsoft Teams, PowerPoint

## Previous Employer

The Energy Alliance Group of Michigan

## Position

Business Development Manager

## Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- Collaborated with diverse stakeholders; funders, government organizations, nonprofits, academic, farmers, private & philanthropists on sustainable strategies for renewable energy & water conservation practices using PACE financing for projects \$250,000 and above
- Experienced in researching energy policies and building codes for commercial, industrial, multifamily, non-profit buildings, and agricultural applications. This includes purchase power agreements, engineering-based tax incentives, specialized cost recovery programs, utility & natural gas choice programs
- Confident self-starter that can adept to relationship building. Worked directly with Managing Director of Engagement and Corporate Responsibilities to develop opportunities, partnerships and external sponsors through sustainable models and connected clients to resources
- Maintained strong client relationships through effective communication, addressing concerns, and providing regular project updates

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: Max length: 500

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)

4 years working with the Energy Alliance Group promoting and educating county officials and business owners on Michigan Public Act 270; Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE). 4 years as a volunteer grant reviewer for the EPA focusing on community development through federal grants for the the Great Lakes, 66 Tribal Nations, North East, South West regions of the U.S. to fund a wide range of projects; improvements in food systems, human health, environmental protection, ecosystem health, air pollution, conservation stewardship, water and soil management. 4 years of Public Relations experience with the Michigan Good Food Charter helping community-based organizations, food hubs, farm cooperatives with outreach and training. 3 years as a board member for Grand Rapids Vegfest. For 5 straight years, we provided the public with a one-day event where 85-100 small businesses could sell food, showcase their products, and make connections with other businesses and event sponsors.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for Ottawa County's Community Action Agency Advisory Board because I really enjoy working and helping out those who are in need. My passion for community development has led me on an adventure of a lifetime. Many people look at my background and assume that I have no direction and just bounce from job to job. The truth is, I planned it to be that way. The elders I grew up with told me to "go out and learn as much as you can, while you can, and one day, all that knowledge you obtained would give you the insight, value and vision needed to become a successful leader." Well that is exactly what I did. What I bring is a cross-disciplinary way of thinking. Organization, planning, documenting, follow-through, communications and identifying issues before they occurred are primary skills, I have developed over the years which has giving me the ability to communicate clearly with youth, teens, adults, investors, policymakers and regulators.

# Cynthia A Scholten

## Committee: Ottawa County Community Action Agency Advisory Board

Seat: Public Sector

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### Education

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School

Arkansas State University

Degree

Master's Public Administration

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelors Business Administration

### Employment Background

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Current Employer

Haworth

Position

Commodity Planner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Planning material and working with vendors on delivery issues, supply, etc.
- ? Understanding complex data and assisting with reporting
- ? Working with cross-functional teams on various issues including supplier quality, accounting, delivery, and new projects
- ? Recently completed Lean training



## Previous Employer

City of Grand Rapids

## Position

Purchasing Agent

## Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- ? Led operation of the impound lot and purchasing department in the second largest city in Michigan
- ? Managed, supervised, and mentored 4 full-time and 5 contract employees
- ? Prepared and managed budget (combined of over \$1MM) including a revenue account
- ? Lead cross-functional team to create policy
- ? Represented department at Commission meetings presenting the bid list and forecasting report.
- ? Facilitated auctions, coordinating with internal and external teams
- ? Evaluated all purchases for the City
- ? Created and analyzed bids, RFQ's and RFP's, and managed contracts (risk)
- ? Reviewed Ordinances and proposed changes to the purchase thresholds
- ? Represented the City in many cohorts and alliances
- ? Created procedure for more oversight with money handling and checks and balances.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

My significant other is employed by Allegan County Drain Commission

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was a board member for Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration and two certifications in governmental purchasing. I'm also certified in planning and zoning and have taken the Michigan State Water School training, MEDA Economic Development training, and MiPlace training. I have a passion for government! I have a big passion to assist in the community that I live. I was a board member and I have a lot of business experience that I think could be helpful to a board.

# Paula Jean Creswell

Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Seat: Business Community

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## Education

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School	Davenport College of Business	Degree	
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School		Degree	
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## Employment Background

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Current Employer	70x7 Life Recovery	Position	Program Director
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Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Direct and supervise our Restorative Hope Church and Cards For Prisoners programs.

Previous Employer

Position

Georgetown Senior Center

Administrative Coordinator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Planned and implemented activities for senior citizens at the Georgetown Senior Center

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

36

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

David Creswell, son. Employed by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

On the advisory board for Healing Communities for 2 years.  
Currently on the advisory board for 70x7 Life Recovery.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be more engaged in my community and feel this is an area I will be able to contribute.

# Anna Christine White

Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Seat: Defense Attorney

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## Education

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School

Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Degree

JD

School

Hope College

Degree

BA (Social Work, Spanish)

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa County Office of the Public Defender

Position

Assistant Public Defender III

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Representing indigent clients from arraignment through sentencing
- ? Handling cases of all kinds, with a focus on felony matters and capital offenses
- ? Participating as a team member on treatment court teams for Sobriety Treatment Court and the 1090 (Mental Health) Treatment Court
- ? Assisting with supervision and training for Social Workers
- ? Providing mentorship and training for other attorneys within the office through formal trainings and second chair opportunities

Previous Employer

Position



Hann Persinger, P.C.

Associate Attorney

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Practiced in areas of criminal defense on both appointed and privately retained cases
- ? Provided mediation services for domestic and civil disputes

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

18

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I currently serve as the 20th Circuit representative in the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly and have just joined the Legal Deserts sub-committee to assist in meeting the needs of counties with inadequate legal services. I also currently serve as President of the Board of Directors for Compassionate Heart Ministries, as an elder at the Fearless Family of Churches, as a board member with Movement West Michigan, as a member of Women Who Care, and as the chair of the Seeds of Change team. In the past I have served as the President of the Board of the Ottawa County Bar Association, as President of the Board of Midtown Counseling Services, as a board member of Latin Americans United for Progress, and as a board member for Holland Teen Court. On these teams I have been able to lead the board in setting short and long term goals, addressing budgets and funding needs, and also managing staffing and other issues.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am passionate about the mission of this board, namely monitoring programs aimed to reduce prison commitments and to better serve those involved in the criminal justice system. My previous department head, Nichole Derks, served on this team and shared often about her experience. Having practiced criminal defense in this county for about 12 years now, I would love an opportunity to take part in addressing systemic issues and needs.

# Christine Tober

Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Seat: Defense Attorney

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## Education

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School

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Degree

Juris Doctor

School

Western Michigan University

Degree

BA

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa County Office of the Public Defender

Position

Assistant Public Defender III

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Currently a trial attorney managing full caseload representing individuals in felony cases and mentoring junior attorneys to foster professional growth and increase effectiveness in the courtroom.
- Collaborated with Public Defender to evaluate and restructure legal assistant duties to optimize workflow.
- Participate with another assistant public defender interviewing and monitoring law student externs at the public defender office.
- Teamed with group of 5 coworkers to assess and implement procedures on defenderData.
- Assigned defense attorney member of Grand Haven District Court sobriety treatment court program attending meetings and courtroom sessions with participants.
- Assisted planning and participated in 2 expungement clinics for Michigan residents.
- Organized staff to volunteer in the community at Kids Food Basket to pack nutritious sack suppers for children in Ottawa County.

Previous Employer

Position

Kent County Office of the Defender

Staff Attorney

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

- Daily communicated with clients, negotiated with prosecutors, and persuasively argued to judges
- Critically reviewed discovery, diligently prepared for jury trials, and passionately advocated at sentencing
- Proficient in office scheduling and maintained office law library resources for staff attorneys

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

5

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

- For 8+ years I served as the defense attorney member on the Kent County Community Corrections Advisory Board. I attended meetings, monitored participating programs, reviewed and approved annual grant proposal.

-For 2 years I served on the board of American Youth Soccer Organization - Section 571 as registrar. I attended meetings, registered players, communicated with parents and coaches, and assisted in forming teams.

-I collaborated with other parents organizing annual fundraising auction when children attended City High/Middle School in Grand Rapids. I communicated with local businesses to collect donations, organized facility to hold auction, and set up baskets and tables for auction night.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a criminal defense attorney, I witness firsthand how the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) positively impacts the citizens of Ottawa County by reducing recidivism and upholding community safety. Having served on Kent County's CCAB in the past, I know the value of working with other stakeholders to obtain funding through the grant process and monitoring the organizations providing community corrections resources. I would be honored to serve as the defense attorney member on the Ottawa County CCAB.

# AMANDA SHEFFIELD

Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Seat: General Public

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## Education

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School

Michigan State University

Degree

Masters in Social Work

School

University of Phoenix

Degree

MS in Justice and Security Administration

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa County Community Mental Health

Position

Mental Health Clinician (Deflection, Diversion and Re-

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provides quality direct care encompassing clinical assessment, crisis stabilization, and case management as needed for diversion and re-entry program. Assists Community Mental Health staff in coordinating with justice entities and diverting eligible community members from justice involvement. Works with Diversion Council member agencies to implement effective strategies for jail diversion and community re-entry in Ottawa County.

Previous Employer

Position



**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Provided crisis services to the community through co-response model, responding with Law Enforcement Officers to calls for service (911 calls). Completed crisis assessments, mental status examinations, safety assessments/planning and other crisis interventions. Connected individuals and families to resources and community agencies as appropriate. Completed follow up services to those who have had law enforcement contact to assure safety and provide connection to assistance and resources. Provided brief case management services. Provided extensive mental health and crisis intervention training and education to law enforcement officers, security and other related agencies and providers. Assisted in the creation and maintenance of the Crisis Intervention Team. Collaborated with police agencies, hospitals, and other community partners. Participated in justice diversion efforts. Provided training on mental health petitions and Mental Health First Aid. Trained other Clinician's.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

44

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

I am currently employed by Community Mental Health, I have worked for Ottawa County for 23 years (58th District Court, Probate Court, Community Mental Health).

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have not served directly on any civic or government boards to date. I have served on the 20th Circuit Court Strategic Planning Committee and am currently serving on both the Diversion Council and Crisis Intervention Team Steering Committee.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have over 20 years of professional experience in court and mental health settings. I have assisted in the creation of our CIT and DDR teams through community mental health. I am applying for this community position because I am a lifetime Ottawa County resident being born and raised in Grand Haven. I have a vested interest in the safety and health of my community members and of those professionals who assist in keeping our communities safe and healthy.

# Larry Jackson

Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Seat: General Public

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## Education

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School

Devry

Degree

Network and Communications Management BS

School

ITT Tech

Degree

Computer Network Management AS

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ITC Inc.

Position

System Administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Determines the goals and objectives of IT within broad outlines provided by executive management and provides necessary technical leadership and project coordination

Prepares long- and short-range plans for application selection, systems development, and acquisition of the resources needed to support them; ensures responsiveness of long-range plans to corporate objectives

Sets and ensures compliance (in both. the US and China) to policies including Computer Acceptable Use policy, Approved Software list and Hardware Standard list

? Manages outside vendor contracts and activities including (but not limited to) managed service provider, phone vendor, and managed print services

Manages financial aspects of the IT department including purchasing, budgeting and budget review

Benchmarks, analyzes, reports on, and makes recommendations for the improvement and growth of the IT infrastructure and IT systems for all ITC locations

Manage ITC ERP and related systems

Previous Employer

Position

Westrock

IT Field Service Lead

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide service desk support via Service  
Monitor Uptime across plants via network monitoring tools.  
Grant/Remove access for leavers and joiners to the company via Office 365.  
Break fix issue on desktops, printers, network equipment across sites.  
Update and maintain all SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)  
SAAS (O365/Microsoft 365 Products)  
Configured Insite and Autopilot for seamless deployment of new devices for users.  
Maintain Meraki Cisco equipment  
Provide support on all ERP applications.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Office of Compensations

Ottawa County Veterans Affairs Committee/War Veteran

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would love to serve the constituents of Ottawa County in any way I can and serving on these boards will allow me to do that. I can also serve different constituency using the skills I've acquired over my 22+ year professional career.

# Caleb Worpel

Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

Seat: Media Sector

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## Education

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School

Grand Rapids Community College

Degree

Associate in Arts

School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

Multimedia Journalism

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Grand Valley State University

Position

Photojournalist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Shoot, edit and submit appropriate and attractive photographs to accompany news stories as assigned.

Handle and complete multiple photographic assignments by scheduled deadlines.

Provide hands-on experience in creation, processing and submission of print-based and digital photographs for newspaper and website.

Demonstrate knowledge of photography principles and spot-news coverage.

Practice knowledge of Adobe software, visual platforms and social media.

Develop advertising, customer relationships and peer interaction concepts.

Previous Employer

Position



Self

Independent Photographer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I am offer services specifically related to photojournalism and investigative reporting, however I can, and still do, weddings, seniors, families and other personal projects.

<https://calebworpel.format.com>

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

5

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was the founding member and President of the Creekside Shores, where Summergreen golf course used to be, Homeowners Association from 2019 to 2022. I am also the current Treasurer for LakerVets - a student board for veteran students at GVSU. In addition to my military experience, I have extensive government experience with the Social Security Administration where I worked for 2 years in an extremely challenging, customer facing role before returning to GVSU to pursue a graduate degree.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

My political and photojournalism aspirations are fueled by a desire to create equitable opportunities, inspire change and serve social justice to underserved communities with little to no voice. I am deeply committed to fostering civic engagement and empowerment. My dedication to public service extends into government realm, where I have actively championed the rights of disabled veterans and other marginalized communities.

# Kelly J Boeve

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Seat: Service Areas (CMH, PH, Sub Abuse, Com Alt Prog)**

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## Education

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School

Hope College

Degree

BA - Clinical Psychology

School

Central Michigan University

Degree

MA - Clinical Psychology

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Ottawa County Community Mental Health

Position

SUD Services Program Coordinator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

As program coordinator for substance abuse services I supervise the daily activities of our substance use services clinicians, the utilization management team and the COSSUP team located in the jail. The SUD services team is responsible for providing outpatient clinical services for consumers diagnosed with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The COSSUP team provides group counseling, individual counseling, assessment, recovery coaching and MAT services to inmates currently incarcerated in Ottawa County Jail.

Previous Employer

Position

Family Outreach Center

Jail Mental Health

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

As a jail mental health clinician I provided assessments to inmates booking into Kent County jail to determine their housing risk level and need for mental health services. I provided crisis intervention services to inmates who were experiencing mental health crises, counseling services to those with severe mental illness, and also provided trainings for staff of Kent County Jail on topics related to mental health.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

49

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I served on the Community Corrections Advisory Board from 2015-2021 when I rescinded my seat to Matt Lowe after leaving a previous position at mental health court coordinator.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I enjoy being a part of county government and feel that I am able to represent the substance abuse and mental health services to the board due to my long experience in working with both the substance abuse and mental health field.

# Tim Piers

**Committee: Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Seat: Service Areas (CMH, PH, Sub Abuse, Com Alt Prog)**

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## Education

---

School

GVSU

Degree

MSW

School

GVSU

Degree

BSW

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa County

Position

Program Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

In my current role, I oversee and support our county Crisis Intervention Team, co-responder program, and a pilot program for intensive case management of justice-involved or at-risk community members.

Previous Employer

Position



R3 Continuum

Crisis Interventionist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provided crisis intervention services for individuals across North America who experienced a critical incident in their workplace.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

42

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have served on the CCAB since 2019.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

In my work with Community Mental Health, I've observed the importance of cross-sector collaboration for ensuring the systems in our community function efficiently, effectively, and in the best interest of the citizens of Ottawa. Our justice and mental health systems are top-notch and serve the community best when they coordinate services and adapt to changing trends. Serving on the CCAB has been a great opportunity to connect with county leaders in these areas, share updates, and work together to serve Ottawa County.

# Peggy Fakler

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

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## Education

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School

Hope College

Degree

Bachelor of Arts

School

Holland High School

Degree

High school diploma

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Retired from The Arc Advocacy & Resource Center o

Position

Executive Director and Special Education Advocate

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Performed duties of Executive Director of a nonprofit. Provided information and referral on community resources to parents and family members of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Represented the point of view and interests of individuals with IDD on community committees and the Ottawa Area ISD Transition Network Team. Assisted parents of students with IEP's and 504 Plans with special education advocacy. Helped parents understand options pertaining to guardianship.

Previous Employer

Position

Little Red Shoe House

Store manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Supervising and training employees, submitting weekly sales records, selling shoes to customers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

60

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served as president of SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) Council. Did presentations in community on Mandated Reporter.

Served on OAISD Transition Network Team. Represented the viewpoint of parents of students with special needs.

Served on CMH Millage Steering Committee. The Arc was involved in the millage effort at the inception.

Served on the board of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan, as an officer for 4 years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Throughout my career at The Arc I was involved in many efforts to make Ottawa County a better place to live for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As an Arc employee I attended many CMH board meetings because I was interested in how our members and families would be affected by CMH programs. Now that I am retired, I would like to serve on the CMH board to have a broader influence in the community. I hope our CMH will continue to offer excellent services for people with IDD.

# Robert Davis

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

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## Education

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School

Marycrest College

Degree

BA History

School

University of California at Berkeley

Degree

MSW

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired

Position

Consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Both before and after retirement I have consulted with numerous agencies , non profits and religious organizations in regards to mental health issues, program development and leadership strategies over the past 20 years.

Previous Employer

Position



Self

Mental health clinician.

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Managed a full time private practice within a large group practice for 25+ years in Grand Rapids providing a wide array of Mental health services.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

34

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served as vice President of the Winfield Park school board 1975-1977. Member of the Behavioral health advisory committee at Priority Health 2004-2009. Member of the Medical Affairs Committee Priority Health 2009-20014. President of Claystone Clinical Associates 2006-2007. CEO of Claystone Clinical Associates 2008-20014. Co-founder of Mens ministry at Holy Redeemer parish 1997-present.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

In my retirement I'd like to maintain a service oriented purpose and meaning to my community using my gifts , experience and ,talent developed in over 35 years of practice. Mental Health is a huge and emerging challenge to all communities and I'm willing to serve in addressing those issues.

# Debra Deater

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

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## Education

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School	Degree
L.C. Mohr High School	General

School	Degree
N/a	N/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Goodwill Industries of West Michigan	Job Coach

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

I work with individuals with disabilities seeking employment in the communities they live. I provide support, training and advocacy. I currently work with 2 gentlemen at Hope College.

Previous Employer

Position

The Shoreline Center

Registered Behavior Technician

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I implemented BCBA goals and objectives with children who have autism.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

20

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have not served on a board yet but with my experience I bring a wealth of knowledge both as a family member of a person served and as a member of the public

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a parent of a person served and a lifelong advocate I would bring a wealth of personal knowledge and experience to the members of the board and the community.

# Leah Fountain

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

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## Education

---

School

Allendale Public High School

Degree

High School Diploma, 1995

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelor of Business Administration, 1999

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Stay at Home Mom

Position

Chief of Staff for Household :)

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Does pretty much everything!

Previous Employer

Position



U.S. House of Representative, House Permanent Sele

Executive Assistant to the Staff Director

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Handled Staff Directors schedule and provided administrative support to Committee Staff of 18.  
Maintained Staff Director's schedule  
Managed office supplies and answered phones  
Sorted and distributed mail to appropriate staff  
Handled room scheduling for staff, both Majority and Minority

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

33

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

I lived in Ottawa County from the time I was born in 1977 to August of 2004 when I moved to Washington, DC.  
I moved back to Ottawa County in 2018 and currently live in Jenison.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

From a young age, I have been interested in serving and representing others. I was a Secretary in two different Student Congresses?first in high school at Allendale and later at Grace Bible College (now Grace Christian University). Additionally, I was a member of the Ottawa County Republican Party, serving on their Executive Committee as the Treasurer from 2003-2004.

In 2004, I moved to Washington, DC, where I was part of multiple congressional offices, contributing to their administrative teams. My role required me to liaise with many constituents, hearing their stories and connecting them to resources and navigating federal services.

Currently, I am a deacon at Fair Haven Church and a member of the Campus Care team. This team is responsible for benevolence, where I help those in need and refer them to various community organizations. Our goal is to provide immediate assistance and connect individuals with resources for ongoing support.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

My first child, Joshua, was born with Down Syndrome in 2013. That diagnosis launched my husband and I down a path of advocacy for him and others with disabilities. It was a daunting experience, dealing with medical concerns, navigating early childhood services, managing finances, waivers, PT, OT, speech therapy?the list goes on. Getting connected to a new community of caregivers was incredibly helpful, as we all had similar stories, needs, and frustrations. He will soon be a recipient of Community Mental Health services and that is why I would like to be considered for this appointment. I view it as an opportunity to help advocate for him and others in this community, understand the services provided, connect with those who serve in these roles, and learn about what is working well and what challenges CMH is facing. I would consider it an honor to be appointed and be apart of this board, sharing my perspectives.

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# Mark Stephenson

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

---

## Education

---

School

Calvin College

Degree

BA

School

Calvin Theological Seminary

Degree

MDiv, ThM

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Position

Associate Chaplain (part time)

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide emotional and spiritual support to patients, families and employees regarding their personal, religious, or philosophical needs in accordance with Pine Rest's mission and values.

Serve individuals that are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Provide support and input for the holistic care of the persons served.

Offer supportive care so employees can continue to work effectively.

Previous Employer

Position

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Director of Disability Concerns

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Recruited, trained, and equipped Regional and Church Disability Advocates across North America, and supervised up to four staff in the work

Spoke at churches, classis meetings, and conferences across North America

Oversaw and wrote an online blog and resource site for churches and edited a quarterly newsletter

Led teams to organize conferences

Consulted with church leaders about various situations involving people with disabilities

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

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If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

\*Pathways to Promise (pathways2promise.org) - board member and board president. 2006 to present. National organization that equips diverse communities to create safe, equitable, healing connections for mental wellness. Interim Executive Director, February to May 2023

\*Harbor House Ministries (harborhouseministries.org) - Beacon Guardian Advisory Council Chair. 2005 to present. Facilitate meetings of guardians. Our daughter Nicole has lived at Harbor House since November 2005

\*Friendship Ministries (now part of withministries.org) - board member. 2013 to 2020. Write curriculum and give leadership to Christian content provider for people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)

\*Special Education Ministry (hollandsem.com) - board member and chair. 1997 to 2014. Group provides people with and without IDD to grow in faith and friendship

\*South Olive Christian School (sochristian.org) - board president. 2007 to 2009.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Gratitude, experience, and eagerness to serve. As the father of a 37-year-old daughter, Nicole, who lives joyfully with severe, multiple disabilities, as a family member of persons who have experienced mental health challenges, as a pastor who has counseled many people, as an advocate with people with disabilities, as a board member of an organization that helps faith communities support people with mental health challenges, and as a mental health chaplain, I am grateful for the supports Nicole has received through the decades, and I understand the need for supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people with mental health challenges so that they can live their best lives and contribute well to the Ottawa county community.

# Melissa Warthen

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

---

## Education

---

School

Degree

School

Degree

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Position

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Previous Employer

Position



Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*



# Mickayla M Pastor

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat K

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## Education

---

School

Degree

School

Degree

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Position

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Previous Employer

Position

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

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Yes  No

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*



# Robert Davis

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

---

School

Marycrest College

Degree

BA History

School

University of California at Berkeley

Degree

MSW

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired

Position

Consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Both before and after retirement I have consulted with numerous agencies , non profits and religious organizations in regards to mental health issues, program development and leadership strategies over the past 20 years.

Previous Employer

Position



Self

Mental health clinician.

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Managed a full time private practice within a large group practice for 25+ years in Grand Rapids providing a wide array of Mental health services.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

34

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served as vice President of the Winfield Park school board 1975-1977. Member of the Behavioral health advisory committee at Priority Health 2004-2009. Member of the Medical Affairs Committee Priority Health 2009-20014. President of Claystone Clinical Associates 2006-2007. CEO of Claystone Clinical Associates 2008-20014. Co-founder of Mens ministry at Holy Redeemer parish 1997-present.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

In my retirement I'd like to maintain a service oriented purpose and meaning to my community using my gifts , experience and ,talent developed in over 35 years of practice. Mental Health is a huge and emerging challenge to all communities and I'm willing to serve in addressing those issues.

# Ryan Attema

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

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School

Davenport University

Degree

Networking Technologies - A.A.S.

School

Davenport University

Degree

Cyber Defense - B.S.

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

USDA-OIG

Position

IT Specialist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

IT Cyber Security Audits and Inspections. This involves agency selection, fieldwork, report writing, and publishing of audit findings.

Previous Employer

Position

Defense Logistics Agency

IT Support Tech

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

IT Help Desk Support

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

26

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

Myself - The Federal Government

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

My experience on boards and committees has been in private situations like church planning committees and Cadet planning committees.

Most of the groups I've been involved has been planning for either year long events that happen weekly or for large events involving dozens of staff and hundreds of participants.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I'm in the unique situation where I have been involved with CHM from helping family members navigate the system as well as myself. Since i've seen things from the recipients side and have experience in reviewing program requirements in audits, I believe i'm in a great position to help direct the CMH board.

# Judith Ellen Cohen

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

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School

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Degree

BA , 1974 Psychology major, Sociology minor.

School

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Degree

MA in Clinical Psychology, August, 1977. (60 credit-h

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired now. Was employed by HealthWest in MKG.

Position

Psychologist for CMH Outpatient; Psychologist for CM

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I spent 44 years doing the work I loved! I had a passion for clinical work with children and especially teenagers! As a Psychologist I worked several years with seriously mentally ill adults and seriously emotionally disturbed youth providing individual and family therapy, psychological testing, and provided emergency psychiatric services and 24 hour on-call. I worked with schools, agencies, and community-at-large agencies regarding my consumers and also providing consultation and education. I was the liaison for Juvenile Court and the inpatient psychiatric facilities, and also coordinated intakes for all outpatient staff. In May, 1984 I moved into the newly created CMH Youth Services Program. There I worked exclusively providing individual and family therapy with adolescents with serious emotional disturbances. I participated in numerous Committees inside and outside of CMH and took on administrative and supervisory duties as assigned by the Program Supervisor.

Previous Employer

Position



HealthWest (previously known as Community Mental

Last position was Provider Network Manager effective

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

In December, 1988 I was promoted to be the Program Supervisor of the CMH Youth Services program which included outpatient, monitoring inpatient services, scheduling emergency services for my staff until we transferred the work over to the Adult ES department. I and another staff spent some time training those staff on dealing with youth emergencies. The Youth Services program was accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations in 1997. I provided clinical and programmatic supervision and leadership for up to 15 staff including Masters level Social Workers and Psychologists, Psychiatrists, and Bachelors level Client Services Managers (now known as Supports Coordinators and CSMs). In October, 1999 I moved into working with contracts and with our providers of all contracted services. I spent the last 20 years working with the Board of CMH clarifying contracts, explaining needs of consumer services and assuring quality of care by providers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

47

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I served as the Secretary of my Temple for approximately 20 years and in the past couple of years, I transitioned into a Trustee position where I continue to serve on the Board. I would have continued as Secretary except I developed carpal tunnel and have since had difficulty taking notes by hand for long periods of time. I did not have a laptop at the time. I have also served as the Treasurer of our Temple Sisterhood since 1992. I am very familiar with the CMH Board Meetings as I attended and participated in them for 20 years. We had Committee meetings for Personnel, Recipient Rights, and Finance (Personnel and RR met one after the other in the first week; Finance Meeting usually met the third week, and the Full Board was held the last week of the month). The Committee Reports were reviewed by the Full Board along with the Director's report. Board meetings were one hour in length, however, we usually had shorter Full Board meetings unless there was a presentation by staff.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am a very detail oriented person who understands the MH Code and mental health contracts and worked well with our attorneys if I had concerns. I always had very cooperative and collaborative working relationships with our county attorneys and other county staff. I am trustworthy, honest, caring and compassionate, and above all a team player. I worked hard to gain the trust and respect of our Board members and leadership. I am very interested in continuing to provide oversight and assistance to CMH Board members and CMH leadership to provide the quality of services that are medically necessary for our consumers at the most reasonable costs within our budget. There is also a need for assisting MI/DD consumers living with their elderly parents who are becoming less able to care for their adult child. I was a major leader of our early PIHP, and worked to help HealthWest become a CCBHC. I believe I have a lot to offer as a Board member for OCCMH.

# Kristi Drooger

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

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School	Degree
Western Governors University	MBA in Healthcare Administrator

School	Degree
Roosevelt University	MA in Community Counseling

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Health Management Associates	Senior Consultant

**Responsibilities:** (Max length: 1000)

Provide expertise on Medicaid compliance, care delivery, and analysis to a range of clients, including state Medicaid programs, Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare managed care plans, accountable care entities including accountable care organizations and performing provider systems, community-based organizations, consumer-based organizations, and foundations

Previous Employer

Position

Lakeshore Regional Entity

Waiver Director

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

- < Provided clinical leadership and oversight in the areas of compliance, quality improvement, utilization management, and clinical services
- < Enacted CCBHC demonstration sites and reported on quality and reporting standards
- < Provided compliance oversight including audits, claims verification, quality improvement, and utilization management reviews
- < Managed provider network capacity and needs
- < Implemented evidenced-based practices such as Applied Behavior Analysis and state/federal programs such as the HCBS Final Rule Transition
- < Managed the Waiver Support Application and Waiver Team
- < Provided waiver services trainings

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

10

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have served on the board for my neighborhood association for four years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am an experienced mental health professional with a passion for providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. I have spent much of my earlier career working with individuals with Autism and advocating for services. Most recently I have worked as a Senior Consultant where I engage public and private sector clients to support various system initiatives and analytic and strategic efforts to achieve client goals. I have 20 years' experience in the administration of behavioral health services and am experienced in quality improvement, policy development, federal compliance, utilization management, program development, and provider network capacity. I believe my background and experience will allow me to provide distinctive support to the Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board in establishing which policies to implement and determining strategic leadership.

# Debra Deater

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

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School

L.C. Mohr High School

Degree

General

School

N/a

Degree

N/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Goodwill Industries of West Michigan

Position

Job Coach

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I work with individuals with disabilities seeking employment in the communities they live. I provide support, training and advocacy. I currently work with 2 gentlemen at Hope College.

Previous Employer

Position



The Shoreline Center

Registered Behavior Technician

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I implemented BCBA goals and objectives with children who have autism.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

20

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Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have not served on a board yet but with my experience I bring a wealth of knowledge both as a family member of a person served and as a member of the public

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a parent of a person served and a lifelong advocate I would bring a wealth of personal knowledge and experience to the members of the board and the community.

# Peggy Fakler

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

---

## Education

---

School

Hope College

Degree

Bachelor of Arts

School

Holland High School

Degree

High school diploma

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired from The Arc Advocacy & Resource Center o

Position

Executive Director and Special Education Advocate

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Performed duties of Executive Director of a nonprofit. Provided information and referral on community resources to parents and family members of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Represented the point of view and interests of individuals with IDD on community committees and the Ottawa Area ISD Transition Network Team. Assisted parents of students with IEP's and 504 Plans with special education advocacy. Helped parents understand options pertaining to guardianship.

Previous Employer

Position

Little Red Shoe House

Store manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Supervising and training employees, submitting weekly sales records, selling shoes to customers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

60

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Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served as president of SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) Council. Did presentations in community on Mandated Reporter.

Served on OAISD Transition Network Team. Represented the viewpoint of parents of students with special needs.

Served on CMH Millage Steering Committee. The Arc was involved in the millage effort at the inception.

Served on the board of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan, as an officer for 4 years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Throughout my career at The Arc I was involved in many efforts to make Ottawa County a better place to live for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As an Arc employee I attended many CMH board meetings because I was interested in how our members and families would be affected by CMH programs. Now that I am retired, I would like to serve on the CMH board to have a broader influence in the community. I hope our CMH will continue to offer excellent services for people with IDD.

# Leah Fountain

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

---

School

Allendale Public High School

Degree

High School Diploma, 1995

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelor of Business Administration, 1999

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Stay at Home Mom

Position

Chief of Staff for Household :)

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Does pretty much everything!

Previous Employer

Position



U.S. House of Representative, House Permanent Sele

Executive Assistant to the Staff Director

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Handled Staff Directors schedule and provided administrative support to Committee Staff of 18.  
Maintained Staff Director's schedule  
Managed office supplies and answered phones  
Sorted and distributed mail to appropriate staff  
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## Other Information

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If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

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I moved back to Ottawa County in 2018 and currently live in Jenison.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

From a young age, I have been interested in serving and representing others. I was a Secretary in two different Student Congresses?first in high school at Allendale and later at Grace Bible College (now Grace Christian University). Additionally, I was a member of the Ottawa County Republican Party, serving on their Executive Committee as the Treasurer from 2003-2004.

In 2004, I moved to Washington, DC, where I was part of multiple congressional offices, contributing to their administrative teams. My role required me to liaise with many constituents, hearing their stories and connecting them to resources and navigating federal services.

Currently, I am a deacon at Fair Haven Church and a member of the Campus Care team. This team is responsible for benevolence, where I help those in need and refer them to various community organizations. Our goal is to provide immediate assistance and connect individuals with resources for ongoing support.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

My first child, Joshua, was born with Down Syndrome in 2013. That diagnosis launched my husband and I down a path of advocacy for him and others with disabilities. It was a daunting experience, dealing with medical concerns, navigating early childhood services, managing finances, waivers, PT, OT, speech therapy?the list goes on. Getting connected to a new community of caregivers was incredibly helpful, as we all had similar stories, needs, and frustrations. He will soon be a recipient of Community Mental Health services and that is why I would like to be considered for this appointment. I view it as an opportunity to help advocate for him and others in this community, understand the services provided, connect with those who serve in these roles, and learn about what is working well and what challenges CMH is facing. I would consider it an honor to be appointed and be apart of this board, sharing my perspectives.

I would consider it an honor to be appointed and look fo

# Mark Stephenson

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

---

School

Calvin College

Degree

BA

School

Calvin Theological Seminary

Degree

MDiv, ThM

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Position

Associate Chaplain (part time)

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide emotional and spiritual support to patients, families and employees regarding their personal, religious, or philosophical needs in accordance with Pine Rest's mission and values.

Serve individuals that are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Provide support and input for the holistic care of the persons served.

Offer supportive care so employees can continue to work effectively.

Previous Employer

Position

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Director of Disability Concerns

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Recruited, trained, and equipped Regional and Church Disability Advocates across North America, and supervised up to four staff in the work

Spoke at churches, classis meetings, and conferences across North America

Oversaw and wrote an online blog and resource site for churches and edited a quarterly newsletter

Led teams to organize conferences

Consulted with church leaders about various situations involving people with disabilities

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

54

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

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\*Special Education Ministry (hollandsem.com) - board member and chair. 1997 to 2014. Group provides people with and without IDD to grow in faith and friendship

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If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Gratitude, experience, and eagerness to serve. As the father of a 37-year-old daughter, Nicole, who lives joyfully with severe, multiple disabilities, as a family member of persons who have experienced mental health challenges, as a pastor who has counseled many people, as an advocate with people with disabilities, as a board member of an organization that helps faith communities support people with mental health challenges, and as a mental health chaplain, I am grateful for the supports Nicole has received through the decades, and I understand the need for supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people with mental health challenges so that they can live their best lives and contribute well to the Ottawa county community.

# Lavonne (Vonnie) Vanderzwaag

Committee: Ottawa County Community Mental Health Board

Seat: Seat L

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## Education

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School

Grand Valley University

Degree

BA psychology/special Education, MA Early Childhood

School

Western Michigan University

Degree

MA Adapted physical education

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired

Position

School administration

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Please see below

Previous Employer

Position



Ottawa Area Intermediate School District

Teacher, administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Director of Early Childhood services-directed the work of early childhood special education and general education staff during early childhood expansion. Hired staff, evaluated staff, coordinated work with agencies.  
Director of Ottawa Area Center-Directed work of all staff, teamed with parents of students and staff from outside agencies to determine best plan for their child. Worked with Michigan Department of Education in developing a system for identification and education for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

66

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I served on the CMHOC board for 9 years, ending in the spring of 2024.

I served of the board of Life Services System.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for this appointment because I want to do what I can to insure appropriate options exist for the children, young people, and adults (along with their families) who need them. I have seen the value of these services and I have seen what happens when there are few to no services available.

# Randy L Kortering

**Committee: Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee**

**Seat: Private Sector**

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## Education

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School

Grandy Valley State University

Degree

MBA

School

Michigan Tech University

Degree

BSME

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired - self employed as consultant

Position

None

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

During my retirement, I served as a consultant to the Ottawa United Way. I facilitated the merger with the Allegan United Way, developed their Shared Services model for supporting smaller non-profit organizations and assisted in the replacement of their Operating System. I also served in an Operational Role and during that time was actively involved in Housing Next and ARPA funding decisions (Housing and DayCare).

Previous Employer

Haworth

Position

Global Vice President/Officer for Information Services

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I was a Haworth Officer/Global Vice President for 8 years. Prior to that, I served in roles as Information Services Director, Program Manager, Plant Operations Director and Purchasing Director. I began my career as an engineer at Haworth. I worked for Haworth for 35 years before retiring in 2018.

Prior to Haworth, I worked at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Illinois for 5 years.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

62

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

I am the Chairman of the Holland Township Planning Commission. I have been on the Commission for 7 years.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I served on the Ottawa County Waste Management Board for 1 year. I resigned when Michigan implemented a new rule that stated I could no longer serve on the board because I was not the Township representative nor from the industry.

I was involved with the ARPA committees recommending plans to use the ARPA funds for Housing and Child Care/other in 2022.

I served on the Ottawa County United Way Board for 12 years; the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Lakeshore Board for 3 years.

I have served on our church board multiple times including co-leading 2 major building projects.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to serve my community beyond my current Holland Township Role. I have the time, being retired, and a strong skillset in leadership, project management, problem solving individual development from my multiple roles at Haworth. I am fortunate that I do not need to work in my retirement and therefore am able and willing to spend my time and use my skills in other ways.

# Benjamin M Genser

Committee: Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Seat: Private Sector

## Education

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Bachelor of Science (BS)

## Employment Background

Current Employer

JPMorgan Chase Bank

Position

Vice President - Investments

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Financial Planning

- o Analyze market data and key economic indicators to provide data-based advice using long term market assumptions
- o Ensure proposed investment solutions fulfill client needs and objectives in the short, medium and long term through a holistic goals-based planning approach
- o Manage high net worth relationships by earning trust, thoroughly understanding client needs, delivering targeted advice, developing thoughtful solutions and maintaining an exceptional client experience

Portfolio Management

- o Quantitative analysis
- o Portfolio optimization
- o Strategic fund management



## Previous Employer

Capital Financial Management

## Position

Management Consultant

## Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

### Organizational Effectiveness

- o Strategic planning
- o Process & systems improvement
- o Project management
- o Risk mitigation

### Corporate Finance

- o Financial modeling and data analysis
- o Audit and assurance
- o Financial valuation and appraisal

### HR Management

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: Max length: 500

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)

- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS)
- University of Michigan Healthcare Administration Program Advisory Board

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am a wealth management professional with 18 years of private sector leadership experience in financial services, business consulting, and advisory. With a BS and MBA from the University of Michigan, I offer comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and investment advisory services to families and businesses across West Michigan.

I am passionate about giving back to the community and believe my professional experience, educational background, and deep commitment to public service uniquely positions me to contribute effectively to the commission/committee/authority. I would be honored to serve and partner with others dedicated to supporting our community's well-being.

Thank you for considering my application.

# Benjamin M Genser

Committee: Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Seat: Director

## Education

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Bachelor of Science (BS)

## Employment Background

Current Employer

JPMorgan Chase Bank

Position

Vice President - Investments

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Financial Planning

- o Analyze market data and key economic indicators to provide data-based advice using long term market assumptions
- o Ensure proposed investment solutions fulfill client needs and objectives in the short, medium and long term through a holistic goals-based planning approach
- o Manage high net worth relationships by earning trust, thoroughly understanding client needs, delivering targeted advice, developing thoughtful solutions and maintaining an exceptional client experience

Portfolio Management

- o Quantitative analysis
- o Portfolio optimization
- o Strategic fund management

Previous Employer

Capital Financial Management

Position

Management Consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Organizational Effectiveness

- o Strategic planning
- o Process & systems improvement
- o Project management
- o Risk mitigation

Corporate Finance

- o Financial modeling and data analysis
- o Audit and assurance
- o Financial valuation and appraisal

HR Management

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## Other Information

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

- Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS)
- University of Michigan Healthcare Administration Program Advisory Board

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am a wealth management professional with 18 years of private sector leadership experience in financial services, business consulting, and advisory. With a BS and MBA from the University of Michigan, I offer comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and investment advisory services to families and businesses across West Michigan.

I am passionate about giving back to the community and believe my professional experience, educational background, and deep commitment to public service uniquely positions me to contribute effectively to the commission/committee/authority. I would be honored to serve and partner with others dedicated to supporting our community's well-being.

Thank you for considering my application.

# Elizabeth M Butler

Committee: Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Seat: Director

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors in Accountancy

School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Masters of Business Administration

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Seaver Industrial Finishing

Position

Controller

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

In this position, I prepare monthly and yearly financial statements for two closely held industrial finishing companies in Grand Haven, Seaver Industrial Finishing Company and Seaver Finishing E-Coat Division. I manage the accounting team, overseeing all the daily operations including cash management. Financial projections are prepared for decision making purposes.



## Previous Employer

Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, F

## Position

Director of Economic Development Strategic Directic

## Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

I was the Economic Developer for the City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Charter Township, the Village of Spring Lake, Spring Lake Township, and the City of Ferrysburg. I assisted businesses with a wide variety of needs, including expansions, relocations, training grants, and utilizing Public Act Tools as incentives. I was the Ex-Officio member of the City of Grand Haven EDC/BRA, and I also attended the City of Ferrysburg BRA meetings to offer Economic Development insights. I worked with several business groups in Grand Haven, including the Downtown Merchants, Centertown Merchants, East End Merchants, and the DDA while also working with the Village of Spring Lake DDA.

Each year, I coordinated many business retention visits and advocated for businesses of all sizes.

During 2023, I assisted businesses with \$50 Million in private investment, 480-500 projected new jobs added, \$1.6 Million in Grant Assistance, and \$1.9 Million in Tax Abatements for the next 10-12 years.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

29

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was the Ex Officio (non-voting) member of the City of Grand Haven EDC/BRA board, and acted in a similar role for the City of Ferrysburg for their BRA. All Revolving Loan Fund applications were submitted to me, where I performed the financial analysis on the information submitted prior to reviewing as a full board.

I often presented to governmental councils and boards, either informational or requesting a vote for a State of Michigan Public Act tool.

I am currently on the Board of Directors for First Priority of the Lakeshore, a local non-profit.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am passionate about Economic Development and my community. I recently made a career shift back into Finance and Accounting. As a part of that decision making process, I decided that I would seek out volunteer opportunities to give back to my community. The opportunity to impact my whole County fits perfectly. The balance between industrial, farmland, housing, redevelopment, and green space is very important to the health of our County.

# Rachel Donaldson

Committee: Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Seat: Director

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## Education

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School	Degree
Oakland University	Master of Public Administration

School	Degree
Oakland University	Bachelor of Science - Finance

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Michigan Economic Development Corporation	Managing Director, Global Business Attraction

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

As Managing Director of Global Business Attraction, I am leading the team of individuals supporting national and international businesses looking to expand into Michigan. Our team is partnering with local partners and communities to understand their goals for growth and supporting those goals by finding new company expansion opportunities.

Previous Employer

Oakland University

Position

Business Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Supported the technology-based start up community through our efforts at the business incubator. Tracked and communicated a diverse range of socioeconomic statistics, and authored reports to internal and external stakeholders that outlined the incubator's effectiveness and need for continued funding and growth. Managed millions of dollars in grant funding through public and private sources.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

4

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

Yes, my husband is an Assistant County Prosecutor, John Donaldson.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

In my role as Managing Director, I am presenting to the Michigan Strategic Fund, as well as local boards in Michigan.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I want to be considered for this appointment because of my passion for economic development and the future of Ottawa County. As a mom of two young children, I want to see Ottawa County continue to grow sustainably and be a place that future generations choose to live and raise their families.

# Scott Muellerleile

Committee: Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Seat: Director

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelor's of Science Magna Cum Laude

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Countryside Greenhouse

Position

Nursery Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee all aspects of nursery operations, including staff management, inventory control, and customer relations. Successfully improve staff morale, workplace culture, and job education through consistent engagement and training.

Develop and implement efficient processes to enhance productivity, profitability, and customer satisfaction, tailoring strategies to meet both operational goals and client needs.

Collaborate with team members at every level to assess challenges and implement solutions, ensuring smooth operations and continuous improvement.

Manage supply chain logistics, including procurement of horticultural products and monitoring inventory levels to optimize availability and reduce waste.

Maintain a focus on long-term business sustainability through proactive planning, resource management, and financial oversight.



Previous Employer

Menards

Position

Human Resources Coordinator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Coordinated recruitment, interviews and orientation for new hires. Managed applicant profiles, vetting prospects and providing feedback for qualification to hiring managers. This ensured optimal selections, maximizing effectiveness on the floor.

Reviewed performance of new hires, segmented by duration over time and training. Discussed profiles with evaluation managers, determining action plans for improvement and communication. Facilitated team member training and development, utilizing corporate training programs effectively.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

While I have not previously served on a government or civic board, my professional experience has equipped me with many of the key skills required for effective board service. As a nursery manager, I regularly collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from staff to customers, and work on long-term planning and resource management?skills that are essential for board-level decision-making.

I have also developed a strong ability to assess challenges, implement solutions, and balance multiple interests to achieve sustainable outcomes. These experiences have prepared me to effectively contribute to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, bringing a fresh perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, community-focused solutions.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I'd like to be considered for the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority because I'd like to be part of the solution in turning otherwise unusable properties into productive opportunities that benefit the community. It's an important chance to contribute to revitalizing spaces that can bring long-term value to the area.

# Anne B Saliers

**Committee: Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**

**Seat: Director**

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## Education

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School

Iowa State University

Degree

Bachelor of Arts

School

University of Connecticut

Degree

MBA

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired

Position

Volunteer

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Current volunteer work includes:

- City of Holland Brownfield Redevelopment Authority member
- Community Foundation Holland/Zeeland Area Scholarship Selection Committee member
- Kids Hope USA mentor
- City of Holland Holland in Bloom Committee member

**Previous Employer**

Holland Board of Public Works, 2011-2021

**Position**

Community Energy Services Manager

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Provided overall strategic leadership, management, and community outreach for the municipal utility's conservation and energy waste reduction programs by leading program design, delivery, and administration, including compliance reporting to the Michigan Public Service Commission. Developed the first-in-Michigan utility on-bill loan program, which grew to over \$2 million in loans for City of Holland residents to make energy efficiency upgrades on their homes. Operationalized the 501(c)3 Holland Energy Fund. Staff liaison to the Holland Community Energy Plan, Sustainability, and Holland in Bloom committees.

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## Other Information

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

17

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Appointed by Holland City Council to the City of Holland Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in 2024  
Appointed by Ottawa County Commissioners to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee in 2022 for a one-year term  
Appointed by Mayor Bliss to the City of Grand Rapids Energy Advisory Committee. Served 2018-2021  
Served as Joint Committee Chair for the ANSI/BIFMA e3 furniture sustainability standard from 2012-2015  
Achieved the American Public Power Association Energy Efficiency Management certification in 2012  
Employed by The Right Place, Inc. economic development agency as Innovation Director from 2007-2010 under a U.S. Department of Labor WIRED grant  
Prior to that I was in marketing and product management, employed by Steelcase, American Seating, and Izzy Design  
Board member of Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity from 2014-2020  
Board member of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council from 2009-2011

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Yes    No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for this appointment to continue to use my skills and background to help others, serve the community, meet and work alongside other knowledgeable people, and continue learning. I would bring well-rounded economic development, business, and community perspectives for contributing to the Authority. It would be an extension at the county level of the work I am currently doing at the municipal level.

# Cynthia A Scholten

Committee: Ottawa County Economic Development Corporation & Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Seat: Director

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## Education

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School

Arkansas State University

Degree

Master's Public Administration

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelors Business Administration

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Haworth

Position

Commodity Planner

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- ? Planning material and working with vendors on delivery issues, supply, etc.
- ? Understanding complex data and assisting with reporting
- ? Working with cross-functional teams on various issues including supplier quality, accounting, delivery, and new projects
- ? Recently completed Lean training



## Previous Employer

City of Grand Rapids

## Position

Purchasing Agent

## Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- ? Led operation of the impound lot and purchasing department in the second largest city in Michigan
- ? Managed, supervised, and mentored 4 full-time and 5 contract employees
- ? Prepared and managed budget (combined of over \$1MM) including a revenue account
- ? Lead cross-functional team to create policy
- ? Represented department at Commission meetings presenting the bid list and forecasting report.
- ? Facilitated auctions, coordinating with internal and external teams
- ? Evaluated all purchases for the City
- ? Created and analyzed bids, RFQ's and RFP's, and managed contracts (risk)
- ? Reviewed Ordinances and proposed changes to the purchase thresholds
- ? Represented the City in many cohorts and alliances
- ? Created procedure for more oversight with money handling and checks and balances.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

My significant other is employed by Allegan County Drain Commission

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was a board member for Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration and two certifications in governmental purchasing. I'm also certified in planning and zoning and have taken the Michigan State Water School training, MEDA Economic Development training, and MiPlace training. I have a passion for government! I have a big passion to assist in the community that I live. I was a board member and I have a lot of business experience that I think could be helpful to a board.

# Curtis William Carini

Committee: Ottawa County Environmental Health Appeals Board

Seat: General Public

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## Education

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School

West Ottawa

Degree

High School diploma

School

Grand Valley, Michigan State

Degree

Attended Grand Valley for 2 years and then took clas:

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Carini & Associates Realtors

Position

Founder Broker

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I've helped over 1000 people make good decisions with buying-selling and renting real estate for 37 years. Our office typically has about 10 agents that I help with questions and giving good advice. I started Carini & Associates Realtors in 1990

We also own Organic Blueberries located at 6882 152nd Ave. West Olive, MI 49460

Previous Employer

Position

Carini Blueberries

Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

This was my parents farm and I did what ever needed to be done. We also raised animals.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

62

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Fundraising for the Boy Scouts. The Fair housing board of West Michigan. Different boards for the association of Realtors.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe it's important to listen and then participate with well thought out, educated and common sense ideas. That will not only help people for today, but also for the generations to come. If our forefathers weren't looking out for us years ago, where would we be today? I'm glad they were and I want to do the same for future generations!

# David Kraker

Committee: Ottawa County Environmental Health Appeals Board

Seat: General Public

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## Education

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School

Ferris Satet University

Degree

B.S. Environmental Health

School

GVSU

Degree

Studies In Public Administration, Did not complete th

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired

Position

Retired

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Where to begin? Seems like busier now than when working. Lots of time with grandkids and their activities. Enjoy wood working hobby.

Previous Employer

Position



Kent County Health Department

Supervising Sanitarian, Director of Environmental Health

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

37 years' experience in Public Health Environmental Health.

Approx. 7 years with the Mid Michigan District Health Department as a General Sanitarian. Primary duties included Evaluating, inspecting, and permitting onsite water and wastewater disposal systems in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Approximately 20 years with the Kent County Health Department as Supervising Sanitarian in the General Environmental Health Section. Duties included staff supervision, problem solving, program management, code planning, development, implementation, evaluation and enforcement. Considerable experience in soils evaluation to determine suitability for onsite wastewater disposal systems.

Approximately 10 years with the Kent County Health Department as Director of Environmental Health.

## Other Information

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

66

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: (Max length: 500)

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)

Served two terms on First Allendale Christian Reformed Church Council.  
Previous Ottawa County Planning Commission Board member.  
Previously served on the Ottawa County Health Department Appeals Board  
Currently served two terms on the Ottawa County Ground Water Advisory Board.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I feel a duty give back to the community where my education, training and experience can best be utilized.

Considerable experience in sit evaluation to determine suitability for onsite water supply and/or wastewater systems (both conventional and alternative).

# George E. Pio

Committee: Ottawa County Environmental Health Appeals Board

Seat: General Public

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## Education

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School	Degree
Eastern Michigan University	B.S., Biology

School	Degree
University of Michigan	MPH, Environmental Health

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
None	Retired

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Lawn maintenance, snow shoveling, window cleaning, trash removal, and numerous miscellaneous tasks as frequently assigned by my loving wife of 57 years.

Previous Employer

Position

Kent County Health Department, Grand Rapids, MI

Director of Environmental Health

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

I was Director of Environmental Health from 1979 through 1994. In this position, I was responsible for administration of services in several program areas, including food service sanitation, on-site sewage disposal, swimming pool sanitation, housing sanitation, animal control, bathing beach sanitation, and toxic substance regulation. During my tenure, my department was one of the first in Michigan to offer an on-going voluntary training program in food service sanitation for local food service establishments. My department also developed a comprehensive on-site sewage disposal regulation that was cited as a model for other local health departments by the Michigan Department of Public Health.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

81

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

While employed with Kent County Health Department, I served on a variety of boards and committees. These include the Michigan Department of Public Health Engineering Advisory Committee, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Standards Committee, The City of Grand Rapids Emergency Preparedness Committee, and the Michigan Department of Public Health Swimming Pool Sanitation Advisory Committee. I am also a past-president of the Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators. In more recent years, I have served as a member of my subdivision association's board of directors.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to offer my formal training and practical experience to help promote and maintain a high level of sanitation in businesses and establishments serving Ottawa County residents and guests.

# Sarah Bowman

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Ag/Conservation Technical Assistance

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## Education

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School

Green Mountain College

Degree

Master of Science in Environmental Science - Conserv

School

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

Degree

Bachelor of Science in Water Resources

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa Conservation District

Position

Watershed & Conservation Specialist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provides technical assistance, conservation planning, and financial assistance to producers and residential homeowners in Ottawa County, MI. Provides custom agricultural and septic best management practice recommendations and habitat improvements with a focus on water conservation practices (for both surface and groundwater conservation). Conducts water quality and habitat monitoring. Assists with both District and program-specific event planning, education, and outreach. Applies for and manage grants to develop conservation district programs and provide cost-share assistance to local producers. Serves as a liaison between the agricultural community and other conservation partners.

Previous Employer

Position



Gallatin Conservation District

Natural Resources Specialist

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

This position required comprehensive knowledge of many natural resource topics, including water resource management, invasive species control, soil science, agricultural and rangeland management, pollinator and wildlife habitat, forestry, and land use planning. Developed adult and youth education programs. Managed and promoted technical and financial assistance programs for producers. Conducted water quality monitoring with partner organization stream teams. Used multiple outreach techniques to advertise programs to the public. Developed and distributed monthly water supply outlook reports. Applied for and managed grants to support partner projects and develop conservation district programs. Assisted with annual plant sale. Served as a liaison with partner organizations and stakeholders throughout Gallatin County, MT.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

0

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

This would be my first time serving on a government board or something of a similar manner, but I have worked for three conservation districts and one watershed group, all of which had boards that I served under and participated in meetings. Since starting work with the Ottawa Conservation District, I have regularly attended a number of Township, County, Farm Bureau, and other similar board meetings and am knowledgeable of how they operate.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I currently work for the Ottawa Conservation District, focusing my efforts mostly on surface and groundwater quality and quantity. I have attended the Ottawa County Groundwater Board meetings a number of times with Alex Svoboda (previous board member) to provide additional information to the board on Ottawa Conservation District resources and activities, so I am familiar with the work of the board. I have actively worked to promote awareness of the local groundwater issues in Ottawa County to the public through public presentations, working with students, and social media campaigns. I also actively work on the Ottawa Conservation District's Farmland & Water Quality Conservation Initiative. The main focus's of this project include improving habitat, protecting Ottawa County's groundwater and surface water resources, as well as preserving manageable farm land. Currently we are working with farmers to improve their irrigation efficiency so they can use less groundwater.

# David Kraker

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: At Large

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## Education

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School	Degree
Hudsonville High School	graduate

School	Degree
Ferris State University	BS Environmental Health

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Retired	Retired

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Stay active with family, church, social and woodworking activities.  
Feels like busier now more than ever

Previous Employer

Position

Kent County Health Department

Supervising Sanitarian, Director of Environmental Hea

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Supervising Sanitarian. Supervise max. of 11 staff. Direct General Environmental Health staff, review work, consult with public, participate in planning, development implementation and review of program activities. Conduct staff performance reviews. Keen interest in on site waste disposal and groundwater programs.

Promoted to Director of Environmental including Public Health Laboratory and Animal Control programs. Responsible for completion of all activities in these programs in compliance with Public Health laws, rules and regulations.

Participate with Administration in budget development, implementation and review. Worked closely with Department Administration conducting program development, reviews, and audits implementing changes as necessary.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

66

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Appointed by Governor's office to serve as Public Health representative on the former Michigan Well drillers Advisory Board.

Served two terms on our church council.

Member of Michigan Environmental Health Association, elected to serve a term on board of directors for the organization.

Member of Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Directors Association.

Served on the Ottawa County Environmental Health Appeals Board

Member of the former Ottawa County Planning Commission.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Throughout my career I have had an interest and learned about the many varied aspects of groundwater including; availability, movement, protection, contamination, and well installation.

As a longtime resident of Allendale Township, I am familiar with ground water issues facing the Township and Ottawa County in general. Ground water is one of our greatest resources. It deserves considerable research, preservation and implementation strategies.

I have previously served on the Groundwater Board and consider it a privilege to continue to be a part of this valuable activity. I can easily say that the expertise and experience of Board Members is one of the best I have been involved with in my career.

I feel that my ground water interest, activities and Public Health experience will be an asset to this Board. I will be honored to continue to serve on this essential Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

# David William Creswell

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: At Large

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## Education

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School	Degree
Michigan State University	Environmental Studies and Sustainability
School	Degree
N/A	N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Develc	Pesticide Inspector

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Completing inspections and investigations relating to pesticide use across all industries, as well as providing compliance assistance to ensure the use of pesticides in a manner that protects people, the environment, and the agricultural systems of Michigan.

Previous Employer

Position



City of Wyoming

Utilities Locating and GIS Specialist

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Completed utilities location for MissDig for municipal water and sewer lines, utilized ArcGIS to map locations for city utilities. Previously, I worked for Plumbers Waste Group installing and maintaining septic systems and servicing water lines.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

26

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

I am an employee the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I am employed as a pesticide inspector.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

None. I work for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I grew up and continue to live in Ottawa County. I have always been interested in water and would like to be part of the process that ensures all residents have access to safe water for drinking, irrigation of crops, washing, and personal hygiene.

# Derrick Jay Muilenburg

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: At Large

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## Education

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School	Degree
Iowa State University	B.S. Management Information Systems / Transportatio
School	Degree
N/A	N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Lineage	Sr Data Scientist

**Responsibilities:** (Max length: 1000)

Helping feed the world by innovating and optimizing cold-storage supply chains. Lineage is the world's largest cold storage warehousing provider. In my role as Sr Data Scientist I'm responsible for improving efficiency within our transportation network using transportation optimization and simulation.

In addition to transportation routing I have responsibility for strategic network design modeling for future and current clients. These studies involve very large datasets and are used for planning capital deployment, reducing cost and improving customer service.

This role requires high levels of skill in data processing, analyzing complex interactions within supply chains and systems and the ability to discern key findings among the large output dataset.

Previous Employer

Position

E2Open (formerly Blujay Solutions)

Manager, Optimization Services

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for delivering innovative solutions involving Network Modeling/Design and Transportation Simulation. Supporting world class transportation services through data visualization and analytics.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

12

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I serve at our church on the audio production team once a month. I have assisted in set building for the musicals at Cityside Middle School for several years. I have coached TTQ (a substance abuse prevention program and running club for elementary aged boys). I served as team manager and backup coach for youth soccer for over 3 years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Groundwater is a critical resource for our economy and our residents. As the population of Ottawa County continues to grow it is vital that we monitor, plan and react to any threats regarding our water supply. We have all seen firsthand the impacts that droughts and changes in weather patterns can have on agriculture, leisure activities and even property value. As a resident of Ottawa County I have a vested interest in the success and maintenance of this often overlooked resource.

My professional background requires me to rapidly understand complex interactions in our customers supply chains. I feel that this skill will assist me greatly in becoming a valuable contributor to this board if selected. The current members of this board have a wealth of professional knowledge and I would be honored to help them as we collectively navigate current and future challenges to ensure the growth, success and happiness of Ottawa County.

# Cynthia A Scholten

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: At Large

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## Education

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School

Arkansas State University

Degree

Master's Public Administration

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelors Business Administration

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Haworth

Position

Commodity Planner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Planning material and working with vendors on delivery issues, supply, etc.
- ? Understanding complex data and assisting with reporting
- ? Working with cross-functional teams on various issues including supplier quality, delivery and new projects
- ? Recently completed Lean training

Previous Employer

Position



City of Grand Rapids

Purchasing Agent

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- ? Led operation of the impound lot and purchasing department in the second largest city in Michigan
- ? Managed, supervised, and mentored 4 full-time and 5 contract employees
- ? Prepared and managed budget (combined of over \$1MM) including a revenue account
- ? Lead cross-functional team to create policy
- ? Represented department at Commission meetings presenting the bid list and forecasting report.
- ? Facilitated auctions, coordinating with internal and external teams
- ? Evaluated all purchases for the City
- ? Created and analyzed bids, RFQ's and RFP's, and managed contracts (risk)
- ? Reviewed Ordinances and proposed changes to the purchase thresholds
- ? Represented the City in many cohorts and alliances
- ? Created procedure for more oversight with money handling and checks and balances.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: Max length: 500

My significant other works for Allegan County Drain Commission

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)

I was a board member with Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a Masters Degree in Public Administration, several certifications pertaining to government including purchasing, planning and zoning. I have also taken additional training through Michigan State (Water School) and through MEDA on Economic Development. I am interested in serving my community

# Larry Jackson

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: At Large

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## Education

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School

Devry

Degree

Network and Communications Management BS

School

ITT Tech

Degree

Computer Network Management AS

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ITC Inc.

Position

System Administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Determines the goals and objectives of IT within broad outlines provided by executive management and provides necessary technical leadership and project coordination

Prepares long- and short-range plans for application selection, systems development, and acquisition of the resources needed to support them; ensures responsiveness of long-range plans to corporate objectives

Sets and ensures compliance (in both. the US and China) to policies including Computer Acceptable Use policy, Approved Software list and Hardware Standard list

? Manages outside vendor contracts and activities including (but not limited to) managed service provider, phone vendor, and managed print services

Manages financial aspects of the IT department including purchasing, budgeting and budget review

Benchmarks, analyzes, reports on, and makes recommendations for the improvement and growth of the IT infrastructure and IT systems for all ITC locations

Manage ITC ERP and related systems

Previous Employer

Position

Westrock

IT Field Service Lead

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide service desk support via Service  
Monitor Uptime across plants via network monitoring tools.  
Grant/Remove access for leavers and joiners to the company via Office 365.  
Break fix issue on desktops, printers, network equipment across sites.  
Update and maintain all SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)  
SAAS (O365/Microsoft 365 Products)  
Configured Insite and Autopilot for seamless deployment of new devices for users.  
Maintain Meraki Cisco equipment  
Provide support on all ERP applications.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Office of Compensations

Ottawa County Veterans Affairs Committee/War Veteran

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would love to serve the constituents of Ottawa County in any way I can and serving on these boards will allow me to do that. I can also serve different constituency using the skills I've acquired over my 22+ year professional career.

# Scott Muellerleile

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Local Business/Agriculture

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors of Science Magna Cum Laude

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Countryside Greenhouse

Position

Nursery Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee all aspects of nursery operations, including staff management, inventory control, and customer relations. Successfully improve staff morale, workplace culture, and job education through consistent engagement and training.

Develop and implement efficient processes to enhance productivity, profitability, and customer satisfaction, tailoring strategies to meet both operational goals and client needs.

Collaborate with team members at every level to assess challenges and implement solutions, ensuring smooth operations and continuous improvement.

Manage supply chain logistics, including procurement of horticultural products and monitoring inventory levels to optimize availability and reduce waste.

Maintain a focus on long-term business sustainability through proactive planning, resource management, and financial oversight.

Previous Employer

Position



Menards

Human Resources Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Coordinated recruitment, interviews and orientation for new hires. Managed applicant profiles, vetting prospects and providing feedback for qualification to hiring managers. This ensured optimal selections, maximizing effectiveness on the floor.

Reviewed performance of new hires, segmented by duration over time and training. Discussed profiles with evaluation managers, determining action plans for improvement and communication. Facilitated team member training and development, utilizing corporate training programs effectively.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

While I have not previously served on a government or civic board, my professional experience has equipped me with many of the key skills required for effective board service. As a nursery manager, I regularly collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from staff to customers, and work on long-term planning and resource management?skills that are essential for board-level decision-making.

I have also developed a strong ability to assess challenges, implement solutions, and balance multiple interests to achieve sustainable outcomes. These experiences have prepared me to effectively contribute to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, bringing a fresh perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, community-focused solutions.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for the Agriculture Preservation, Groundwater/Scientific Community, and Land Bank Authority Board because of my strong connection to nature and natural drive for sustainability. In college, I studied chemistry, which helped me develop an analytical mindset that aids in understanding the scientific factors involved in land and groundwater management.

As a nursery manager, and someone who spends a significant amount of time outdoors through landscaping and other activities, I've gained a deep appreciation for the careful balance between human activity and environmental preservation. I am committed to promoting sustainable practices that align with the long-term goals of protecting our county's agricultural land and water resources. My collaborative approach and dedication to evidence-based decision-making would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission.

# Dean Arthur Smith

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Local Unit of Government

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## Education

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School

Grandville High School

Degree

Diploma-1970

School

N/A

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Retired

Position

CEO

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Wife's "to-do" list. Maintain hobby farm.

Previous Employer

Position

Pfeiffer Management Services

Service Director

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Managed automotive service departments at two dealerships and a tire and auto center under the Pfeiffer umbrella. Worked there forty-two years. Responsible for all activities related to daily operations.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

45

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

1994-circa 2008. Jamestown Township Planning Commission. Member, Secretary, Vice-Chair  
2014-Present. Jamestown Township Planning Commission. Member, Chair Person  
Circa 1999-Present. Grand Rapids Community College Automotive Advisory Committee. Member, Chair Person

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I really enjoy my involvement in public policy. I am retired and have the time to do justice to the responsibilities inherent with this position. Have endeavored to make my retirement about serving my family, church, community, and other folks. Am also familiar with the ground water issues in Ottawa County, especially the Marshall Formation where the rate of depletion has increased over the last thirty-five years from around 13.5 inches to 17 inches per year. We spent a year in Jamestown on groundwater fact-finding resulting in ten ordinances being changed to require public water in all new developments with a public or private road.

# Curtis William Carini

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Real Estate/Development

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## Education

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School

West Ottawa

Degree

High School diploma

School

Grand Valley, Michigan State

Degree

Attended Grand Valley for 2 years and then took agri

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Carini & Associates Realtors

Position

Founder Broker

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

With 37 years of experience in real estate, I have guided over 1,000 clients to make informed decisions in buying, selling, renting, and investing. As the founder of Carini & Associates Realtors (established in 1990), I have mentored a team of 10 agents, providing expert advice and strategic guidance. My dedication to professional development is reflected in completing thousands of hours of real estate education, earning certifications, and teaching numerous industry courses.

Beyond real estate, I own and operate Organic Blueberries, a family-friendly farm in West Olive, where visitors enjoy fresh produce and a relaxing rural experience. My entrepreneurial journey also included running a successful landscaping and snowplowing business and managing summer rentals on Lake Michigan, combining hospitality with a commitment to excellent customer experiences.

Previous Employer

Position



Carini Blueberries

Manager

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

This was my parents farm and I did what ever needed to be done. We also raised animals and Christmas trees. I've also worked for other farmers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

62

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Fundraising for the Boy Scouts. The Fair housing board of West Michigan. Different boards for the association of Realtors.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe it's important to listen and then participate with well thought out, educated and common sense ideas. That will not only help people for today, but also for the generations to come. If our forefathers weren't looking out for us years ago, where would we be today? I'm glad they were and I want to do the same for future generations!

# Lacey Bereza

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Real Estate/Development

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## Education

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School	Degree
Jenison High School	Diploma

School	Degree
Western Michigan University	N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Keller Williams Rivertown	Associate Broker

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Residential real estate sales

Previous Employer

Position

Shapiro Bag, co

bookkeeper

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

managed the book of business and processed payroll

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

16

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

no experience on government boards. I was previously on the elementary parent club and I'm currently on the GRAR West chapter board and GRARLA

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I'm interested in serving the community and putting my experience to work.

# Kelly Kuiper

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Real Estate/Development

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## Education

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School

Caledonia High School

Degree

HS Diploma

School

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Degree

BGS - Independent Study (Community Development)

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Eastbrook Homes

Position

Manager of Land Planning and Entitlement

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

As the Manager of Land Planning and Entitlement at Eastbrook Homes, I:

- Manage multiple one to five million dollar projects at a single time for residential land development and home construction from initial property research through construction of site improvements.
- Coordinate a diverse team of outside professionals including Professional Surveyors, Professional Engineers, Geologists, Environmental Professionals, Title Company teams, and others as needed.
- Manage the entitlement/permitting process for each land development project and secure any and all necessary permitting through various local, County, and State agencies, including Drain/Water Resource Commissions, Road Commissions, Plat Boards, EGLE, and MDOT.
- Complete detailed property research and analysis to determine feasibility of land development on vacant land, including using Adobe Photoshop to create conceptual layouts, and ultimately creating preliminary cost analysis for the potential project.

Previous Employer

Position



Great Lakes Excavating Service/Stillwater Capital

Director of Land Development

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

- Managed 5-10 multi-million dollar projects, for both internal and external single-family residential projects from initial research through site improvement construction.
- Managed 5-10 multi-million dollar projects, for both internal and external mineral mining projects including securing all necessary local, County, and State (EGLE) permits and managing all monthly, quarterly, and annual monitoring reports.
- Developed and implemented a monthly mining site inspection program and trained Foremen.
- Led weekly internal meetings with Operations Managers and Site Superintendents to coordinate budgets and schedules for all projects.
- Coordinated a diverse team of outside professionals including Professional Surveyors, Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Appraisers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

9

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Caledonia Township Planning Commission, 2010-2012

Caledonia Township Trustee, 2012-2016

Ottawa County Board of Commissioners (District 6), 2016-2018

Georgetown Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 2020-2022

Georgetown Township Planning Commission, 2022-present

\*Recently elected as Georgetown Township Clerk, term to start November 2024

I have also served as an election inspector in both Caledonia Township and Georgetown Township since 2010.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe that serving on local board and commissions is the perfect marriage of my professional skills and my personal interests. I began my career in local government and while I eventually transferred to the private sector, that experience has dramatically shaped my life. I pride myself on my great depth and breadth of understanding of local, County, and State ordinances, rules, and regulations and whole heartedly believe that I can utilize those skills and knowledge to make my world a better place by volunteering my time to boards and committees that directly influence the world around them, like a Planning Commission. In my free time, my family spends as much time as possible in our local Township and County parks. We have almost completed our goal of 50 parks and/or hikes this calendar year, and a surprising new favorite has emerged: Riverside Park. I am eager to be considered for an appointment to the County to continue serving my greater community.

# Jennifer L Jermalowicz-Jones

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Scientific Community

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## Education

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School

Michigan State University

Degree

PhD Water Resource Studies/Community Sustainabili

School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

MS Biology/Aquatic Ecology

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Restorative Lake Sciences

Position

Owner, Director

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversight and restoration of over 120 inland lakes throughout the Midwest and Michigan. Working with riparians on BMPs to protect state waters and groundwater resources. Conducting research on the relationships between groundwater withdrawals and lake levels and impacts on water quality and resources. Previous research on impacts of groundwater on lake trophic status and productivity.

Previous Employer

Position

Muskegon Community College

Professor of Microbiology

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Instruction of human and environmental microbiology at the College level. Laboratory practicum on different types of microbes and their impacts on human health and the environment.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I currently serve on the Michigamme River Basin Authority Board Tax Increment Finance Authority and was sworn in during 2022. I also served as a Science Advisor on the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Board of Directors for 16 years. I have served on other boards listed on my attached CV.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am passionate about protecting a finite and rapidly disappearing resource. In the face of uncertainty relative to groundwater aquifer yields and delineation, it is important to study scientifically sound methods for these determinations in order to strategize protection and potential rationing of this resource. Groundwater affects many aspects of human and animal life through sustenance, crop irrigation and maintenance, lake level normalization, and much more. Our County is encountering substantial development and growth and thus this area of research is vital for long-term sustainability and protection of this form of natural capital.

# Sara Pearson

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Scientific Community

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Masters Degree in Earth Science

School

Aquinas College

Degree

Bachelors Degree in Geography and Environmental St

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Michigan Geological Survey

Position

Director

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Lead a team of scientists and researchers at the Michigan Geological Survey working to better understand Michigan's geological resources including comprehensive mapping and data collection and preservation and make them publicly available. Geological resources include many of Michigan's valuable resources from earth materials to water. The goal is to provide this scientific information that can be used by communities to inform decisions about their use, management, and protection. Additionally, I oversee the development of education and outreach programs at MGS to teach a wide variety of individuals and groups about Michigan's geology, resources, and their significance to them.

Previous Employer

Position



Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

Source Water Protection Unit Manager

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

As the Source Water Protection Unit Manager in the Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division at EGLE, my role was to oversee geologists and environmental quality professionals working in Michigan's well construction, contaminant investigation, and source water protection programs. The Well Construction Program was administered in partnership with the local health departments in the permitting of drinking water wells across the state. The Contaminant Investigation Program was also administered in partnership with the local health departments and EGLE's Remediation and Redevelopment Division. The staff in this unit coordinated the sampling of drinking water wells for contaminants of concern in areas of contamination and worked to provide alternative water sources when wells were found to be contaminated. The Source Water Protection Program included aquifer assessments for community supplies and a grant program aimed at providing resources for communities to protect water supplies.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

0

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

My experience has been in working for the governmental agency and working with the government boards and citizens. I have participated and presented at public meetings as a geologist at EGLE working on contaminated properties to provide information to the community about the contaminants and actions being taken by the department. I have served on boards for professional and science-based organizations including the American Institute of Professional Geologists, Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council, and Western Michigan University's Geological and Environmental Sciences Advisory Board.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a professional hydrogeologist and new director of the Michigan Geological Survey, I have the scientific experience and knowledge to provide the perspective on groundwater related issues that the county is facing. My aim is to continue and foster the partnership with MGS that my predecessor, Director John Yellich, has built with the community. I am familiar with the groundwater concerns in the county and envision an opportunity to assist county leaders by providing the information needed to help with decision making for Ottawa County's communities.

# David A Wardwell

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Scientific Community

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

M.S. Hydrogeology

School

Denison University

Degree

B.A. Geology

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Dune Technologies, LLC

Position

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Dune Technologies, LLC, in conjunction with the companies it represents, provides technical solutions to challenges faced by the environmental engineering/consulting community. Dune is a valuable partner to consultants and providers of environmental sensor instrumentation, site characterization and in-situ remediation technologies, as we have intimate knowledge of leading edge technologies, their appropriate applicability, advantages and limitations. Dune Technologies has a philosophy and goal of unsurpassed technological innovation and customer support.

• The focus and purpose of Dune is to help consultants by providing rapid & accurate in-situ remedial estimates (24 hours), so informed decisions can be made and provided to your clients quickly. Dune evaluates more than 100 sites per year, and has more than 25 years of in-situ remedial experience. The ultimate goal is to support your organization in conducting the most efficient and effective remedial solution available.

Previous Employer

Position

In-Situ, Inc.

Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Selling water level and water quality instrumentation

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

8

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have never:

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am concerned about Ottawa County water resources, and I want to help the county make the best possible decisions with science and data that is trustworthy. I have a technical and technological background that no one else has in West Michigan, and it will be of great help the the county.

# Scott Muellerleile

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Scientific Community

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors of Science Magna Cum Laude

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Countryside Greenhouse

Position

Nursery Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee all aspects of nursery operations, including staff management, inventory control, and customer relations. Successfully improve staff morale, workplace culture, and job education through consistent engagement and training.

Develop and implement efficient processes to enhance productivity, profitability, and customer satisfaction, tailoring strategies to meet both operational goals and client needs.

Collaborate with team members at every level to assess challenges and implement solutions, ensuring smooth operations and continuous improvement.

Manage supply chain logistics, including procurement of horticultural products and monitoring inventory levels to optimize availability and reduce waste.

Maintain a focus on long-term business sustainability through proactive planning, resource management, and financial oversight.

Previous Employer

Position



Menards

Human Resources Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Coordinated recruitment, interviews and orientation for new hires. Managed applicant profiles, vetting prospects and providing feedback for qualification to hiring managers. This ensured optimal selections, maximizing effectiveness on the floor.

Reviewed performance of new hires, segmented by duration over time and training. Discussed profiles with evaluation managers, determining action plans for improvement and communication. Facilitated team member training and development, utilizing corporate training programs effectively.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

While I have not previously served on a government or civic board, my professional experience has equipped me with many of the key skills required for effective board service. As a nursery manager, I regularly collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from staff to customers, and work on long-term planning and resource management?skills that are essential for board-level decision-making.

I have also developed a strong ability to assess challenges, implement solutions, and balance multiple interests to achieve sustainable outcomes. These experiences have prepared me to effectively contribute to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, bringing a fresh perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, community-focused solutions.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for the Agriculture Preservation, Groundwater/Scientific Community, and Land Bank Authority Board because of my strong connection to nature and natural drive for sustainability. In college, I studied chemistry, which helped me develop an analytical mindset that aids in understanding the scientific factors involved in land and groundwater management.

As a nursery manager, and someone who spends a significant amount of time outdoors through landscaping and other activities, I've gained a deep appreciation for the careful balance between human activity and environmental preservation. I am committed to promoting sustainable practices that align with the long-term goals of protecting our county's agricultural land and water resources. My collaborative approach and dedication to evidence-based decision-making would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission.

# Pat Staskiewicz

Committee: Ottawa County Groundwater Board

Seat: Utilities/Engineering

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## Education

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School	Degree
Michigan State University	B.S., Civil Engineering
School	Degree
N.A.	N.A.

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Ottawa County Road Commission	Public Utilities Director

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Manage Public Utilities Department at the OCRC. Assist the local units in planning, financing, designing, constructing, and maintaining public water and wastewater systems within Ottawa County. I have been at the OCRC for over 32 years, with the last 10 as Director and the previous time as the Public Utilities Engineer.

Previous Employer

Position

N.A.

N.A.

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Started with the OCRC after graduating from college. Worked for a few weeks at Sun Chemical as a temp as I was looking for work after college.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

55

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

My son works for the City of Grand Rapids as a water treatment plant operator.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Currently on O.C. GW Board. Currently the public water supply representative for the Water Use Advisory Council for the state of Michigan. I served on the American Water Works board for the Michigan Section as a trustee, chair-elect, chair, past-chair, director and for the international AWWA board as a director and then a vice president (2 years). I am a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Michigan and also hold drinking water operator licenses: a distribution license (S-1) and limited treatment license (D-2) in the State of Michigan.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Yes. I believe my responsibilities within Ottawa County, coupled with my knowledge and experience in the water industry, will be valuable to the Groundwater Board as the county continues to struggle with solutions to our groundwater challenges.

# Amanda Murray

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Representative OC Econ. Dev. Corp.

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## Education

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School

Washington State University

Degree

Bachelors in Business Administration

School

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Degree

Master in Urban and Regional Planning

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Lakeshore Advantage

Position

Vice President of Business Solutions

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Led the business attraction strategy, site selection, RFP development and incentive negotiations.
- ? Led business retention strategy, expansion projects, and incentive negotiations.
- ? Oversaw the entrepreneurship strategy and team development.
- ? Accountable for primary & secondary research, strategy & reporting.
- ? Managed, mentored, and coached the business solutions team.
- ? Maintained strategic service providers, local and state partners relationships.
- ? Worked frequently with internal and external cross-functional teams, executive leadership and other community partners to support area companies in their need to expand and grow in the region.

Previous Employer

Position



Williamson Inc

Vice President, Economic Development

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Conducted visits to key national markets to meet with site location consultants and market the county for corporate relocation and expansion projects.
- ? Worked closely with state, regional and local officials to promote the area and assist existing companies in expanding.
- ? Facilitated key meetings for prospective company executives with city and state leaders, assisted with city, county, and state incentive package negotiations, performed site selection search and analysis according to prospect site requirements, and conducted site tours for prospect visits.
- ? Managed a \$900,000+ economic development budget.
- ? Presented to local and regional groups and organizations.
- ? Developed award winning material to improve regional and national visibility for attracting new business prospects and inform business leaders about key trends and growth projections.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

0

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Great Lakes Commercial Finance Board, Treasurer, 2022-present
- ? Michigan Economic Development Association (MEDA), Member
- ? International Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), Member
- ? Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce, Board Member, 2018 ? 2020
- ? West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC), 2018 ? 2022
- ? WMRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, Member, 2018 ? 2022
- ? Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign Trade Zone (KOM-FTZ) Board, Vice-Chair, 2018 ? present
- ? Ottawa County Land Bank Authority, Board Member, 2018 - present
- ? Tennessee District Export Council, Board Member 2014-2015
- ? North Tennessee Workforce Development Board, Board Member 2014-2015
- ? Williamson County Young Professionals Council, Board Chair 2014, Board Vice-Chair 2013, Board member 2012

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Yes    No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have worked in economic development for over a decade. I lead many economic development efforts currently in Ottawa County and can lend my expertise to help the Land Bank Authority make the best decisions possible.

# Benjamin M Genser

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Representative OC Econ. Dev. Corp.

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## Education

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School

University of Michigan

Degree

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Bachelor of Science (BS)

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

JPMorgan Chase Bank

Position

Vice President - Investments

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

### Financial Planning

- o Analyze market data and key economic indicators to provide data-based advice using long term market assumptions
- o Ensure proposed investment solutions fulfill client needs and objectives in the short, medium and long term through a holistic goals-based planning approach
- o Manage high net worth relationships by earning trust, thoroughly understanding client needs, delivering targeted advice, developing thoughtful solutions and maintaining an exceptional client experience

### Portfolio Management

- o Quantitative analysis
- o Portfolio optimization
- o Strategic fund management

Previous Employer

Position

Capital Financial Management

Management Consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Organizational Effectiveness

- Strategic planning
- Process & systems improvement
- Project management
- Risk mitigation

Corporate Finance

- Financial modeling and data analysis
- Audit and assurance
- Financial valuation and appraisal

HR Management

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS)
- University of Michigan Healthcare Administration Program Advisory Board

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am a wealth management professional with 18 years of private sector leadership experience in financial services, business consulting, and advisory. With a BS and MBA from the University of Michigan, I offer comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and investment advisory services to families and businesses across West Michigan.

I am passionate about giving back to the community and believe my professional experience, educational background, and deep commitment to public service uniquely positions me to contribute effectively to the commission/committee/authority. I would be honored to serve and partner with others dedicated to supporting our community's well-being.

Thank you for considering my application.

# Laurie Vanhaisma

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Township Representative

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## Education

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School

Davenport University

Degree

Did not complete my last half year.

School

Calvin Christian High School

Degree

Graduated College Prep and Business

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Jamestown Charter Township

Position

Supervisor

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Moderate board and annual meetings, maintain records of supervisor's office, develop and oversee township budget, appoint Planning Commission members, appoint ZBA members, call special meetings, appoint and oversee deputy supervisor, oversee township pathways, oversee the construction of our township park, respond to residents and developers who have concerns and/or questions, oversee the water/sewer department, and any other thing that comes across my desk on a weekly basis.

Previous Employer

Position



Railside Travel LLC

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Put together travel packages for clients including airfare, cruises, all inclusive vacations, honeymoons, group travel hunting groups.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

47

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Hudsonville Area Chamber of Commerce. I was the Director for twenty years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am always interested in being involved with local government and boards. I believe it's vital that residents know what is happening where they live and be engaged. I think that my experience as Supervisor of Jamestown Charter Township and my experience with township land development gives me the kind of knowledge that would enable me to effectively serve on the Ottawa County Land Bank Authority.

# Thomas W Oonk

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Township Representative

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## Education

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School

Ferris State College

Degree

BS Accounting

School

Zeeland High School

Degree

High School Diploma

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Zeeland Charter Township

Position

Supervisor

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for the day to day operations of the township as well as chairing the board meetings.

Previous Employer

Position

Herman Miller Inc

Contract Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Negotiate large project pricing opportunities to ensure satisfactory profitability. Negotiate Terms and conditions of long term contracts with customers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

69

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have served on the Zeeland Charter Township Board for over 20 years. I have also served on various non profit boards such as Good Samaritan Ministries and my church board.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I was asked to serve on this board four years ago and it has been a very interesting board to serve on. Over the last year we were able to assist in a number of projects across the county to make our communities better places to live and I would like to continue this service.

# Lacey Bereza

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Township Representative

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## Education

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School

Jenison High School

Degree

Diploma

School

Western Michigan University

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Keller Williams Rivertown

Position

Associate Broker

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Residential real estate sales

Previous Employer

Position



Shapiro Bag, co

bookkeeper

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

managed the book of business and processed payroll

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

16

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

no experience on government boards. I was previously on the elementary parent club and I'm currently on the GRAR West chapter board and GRARLA

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I'm interested in serving the community and putting my experience to work.

# Scott Muellerleile

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Township Representative

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## Education

---

School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors of Science Magna Cum Laude

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Countryside Greenhouse

Position

Nursery Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee all aspects of nursery operations, including staff management, inventory control, and customer relations. Successfully improve staff morale, workplace culture, and job education through consistent engagement and training.

Develop and implement efficient processes to enhance productivity, profitability, and customer satisfaction, tailoring strategies to meet both operational goals and client needs.

Collaborate with team members at every level to assess challenges and implement solutions, ensuring smooth operations and continuous improvement.

Manage supply chain logistics, including procurement of horticultural products and monitoring inventory levels to optimize availability and reduce waste.

Maintain a focus on long-term business sustainability through proactive planning, resource management, and financial oversight.

Previous Employer

Position

Menards

Human Resources Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Coordinated recruitment, interviews and orientation for new hires. Managed applicant profiles, vetting prospects and providing feedback for qualification to hiring managers. This ensured optimal selections, maximizing effectiveness on the floor.

Reviewed performance of new hires, segmented by duration over time and training. Discussed profiles with evaluation managers, determining action plans for improvement and communication. Facilitated team member training and development, utilizing corporate training programs effectively.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

While I have not previously served on a government or civic board, my professional experience has equipped me with many of the key skills required for effective board service. As a nursery manager, I regularly collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from staff to customers, and work on long-term planning and resource management?skills that are essential for board-level decision-making.

I have also developed a strong ability to assess challenges, implement solutions, and balance multiple interests to achieve sustainable outcomes. These experiences have prepared me to effectively contribute to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, bringing a fresh perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, community-focused solutions.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for the Agriculture Preservation, Groundwater/Scientific Community, and Land Bank Authority Board because of my strong connection to nature and natural drive for sustainability. In college, I studied chemistry, which helped me develop an analytical mindset that aids in understanding the scientific factors involved in land and groundwater management.

As a nursery manager, and someone who spends a significant amount of time outdoors through landscaping and other activities, I've gained a deep appreciation for the careful balance between human activity and environmental preservation. I am committed to promoting sustainable practices that align with the long-term goals of protecting our county's agricultural land and water resources. My collaborative approach and dedication to evidence-based decision-making would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission.

# Larry Jackson

Committee: Ottawa County Land Bank Authority

Seat: Township Representative

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## Education

---

School

Devry

Degree

Bachelors

School

N/A

Degree

N/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ITC Inc

Position

System Administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Determines the goals and objectives of IT within broad outlines provided by executive management and provides necessary technical leadership and project coordination

Prepares long- and short-range plans for application selection, systems development, and acquisition of the resources needed to support them; ensures responsiveness of long-range plans to corporate objective

Sets and ensures compliance (in both. the US and China) to policies including Computer Acceptable Use policy, Approved Software list and Hardware Standard list

Manages outside vendor contracts and activities including (but not limited to) managed service provider, phone vendor, and managed print services

Manages financial aspects of the IT department including purchasing, budgeting and budget review

Active Directory/Azure object management and configuration for all users in the US and China

Manages Active Directory Sites and services, Config/troubleshoot issues, GPO management, and manages all object in US

Previous Employer

Position



West Rock

IT Field Manager

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide service desk support via ServiceNow.  
Monitor Uptime across plants via network monitoring  
Grant/Remove access for leavers and joiners to the company via Office 365.  
Break fix issue on desktops, printers, network equipment across sites.  
Update and maintain all SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) SAAS (O365/Microsoft 365 Products)  
Active Directory/Azure object management and configuration for all plants.  
Assist with managing network equipment, configuration, and troubleshooting across all plants.  
Configured Insite and Autopilot for seamless deployment of new devices for users.  
Maintain Meraki Cisco equipment  
Provide support on all ERP applications.  
Scripting in PowerShell to automate processes while managing infrastructure

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

6

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Veterans Board, Office of Compensation.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*



# Martin Harris

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

University of Michigan

Degree

Master of Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineer

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Bachelor of Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineer

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

MillerKnoll, Inc

Position

Senior Product Development Engineer, Global Seating

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I am responsible for the creation and development of components for performance seating products, beginning with the initial concept generation and continuing through mass production launch. This includes iterative part prototyping and design, design for manufacturing (DFM) and design for the environment (DFE), testing to assure performance criteria are met, working with suppliers to prepare tooling for launch, and working with our operations team to prepare the team for the manufacturing and assembly phase.

I am also a member (and former lead) of MillerKnoll's Sustainability Business Resource Group, and serve as the liaison for projects with the Ottawa County Parks.

Previous Employer

Position

Herman Miller, Inc

Options Engineer

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

I created custom engineering information to adapt Herman Miller's existing product portfolio to fit the needs of our diverse customers. As a part of this role I worked daily in Pro Engineer, created and modified bills of material in Baan, and documented work in Lotus Notes and PDMLink. I also performed feasibility analyses when necessary, and worked with my team to continually improve our engineering process through the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) process.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

8

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was a founding board member of Velo Kids here in Holland. This is a nonprofit dedicated to getting kids on bikes while teaching bike skills, safety, and stewardship. I served Velo Kids from 2017-2023 as we grew from a scrappy brand-new organization with no structure and one program to a flourishing registered nonprofit with a host of varied programming around the calendar. This included forming a board, hiring staff and coaches, and setting the direction for Velo Kids to ensure manageable growth year over year and a clear connection and commitment to the Velo Kids mission each time new programming was considered.

I have also served on the Alumni Advisory Board for the University of Michigan College of Engineering Honors Program since it was founded. I was a member of the first graduating class from this program in 2015, and the program director convened an alumni board a few years later to act as a sounding board and source of steering input for changes to the growing program.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe that the parks in Ottawa County are among the best county-level parks in the country, and I believe this is due to a consistently high level of commitment to their excellence from every level of stakeholder in our community. Since moving to Ottawa County in 2016, I have considered myself an avid user and admirer of our parks system through mountain biking, trail running, hiking, beachgoing, and general adventuring with my wife and two young kids.

I was afforded the opportunity for a deeper level of engagement with the Ottawa County Parks system this year as a member of the special Advisory Committee to aid the drafting of the OCPRC's new strategic plan. I found this process highly rewarding, and it gave me personal clarity that I wanted to pursue a greater level of engagement and service to the Parks in the future. An appointment to the OCPRC is an opportunity that I would be honored to fulfill, and that I think I have a well-positioned background to step into.

# Fred Cizauskas

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Ferris State University

Degree

BS Marketing

School

East Kentwood High School

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

ProvisionAI

Position

Chief Marketing Officer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

A Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) has many responsibilities, including:

Marketing strategy: Responsible for developing and leading the company's marketing strategy. This includes aligning marketing activities with the company's vision, mission, and business objectives.

Brand management: Ensure all marketing efforts help establish the company's desired brand.

Digital marketing: Using a combination of SEO, social media, paid ads, email, and content marketing to achieve marketing goals.

Performance measurement: Measures ROI and performance to identify what's working well and what's not. This allows us to adjust their tactics and strategies.

Budget management: Helps allocate the budget to make economic decisions for the business.

Innovation catalyst: Uses data and intelligence to create breakthroughs and advance the growth agenda.

Managing the marketing team: Manages the worldwide marketing team.

Previous Employer

Position



ThermoAnalytics

Director of Marketing

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Developing marketing plans: Create annual marketing plans and approve campaigns

Managing budgets: Set and review budgets for their department

Analyzing data: Research and analyze marketing trends and use data to evaluate campaigns

Leading teams: Manage a team of marketing and sales professionals and motivate them to achieve goals

Building relationships: Create and maintain client relationships and work with other directors

Identifying growth opportunities: Analyze consumer behavior and identify market opportunities

Driving brand awareness: Build brand awareness through marketing efforts

Contributing to strategic vision: Offer creative marketing solutions and contribute to the company's strategic vision

Recruiting and training: Recruit, hire, and train staff members within their department

Measuring ROI: Measure the return on investment of various advertising methods

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

2.5

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have served on multiple Association boards over the last 20 years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I spend significant time exploring the parks and green spaces in Ottawa County. I'm passionate about ensuring that our park systems are managed to maximize their benefit for the entire community. Ottawa County has so much to offer, and I want to ensure that both residents and visitors have the best possible experience when enjoying our parks.

# Justin T Drooger

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors of Business Administration

School

Grand Haven High School

Degree

Graduate with Honors

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Fremont Insurance

Position

Business Consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I.T. Department

My position consists mostly of Business Analyst duties working with both our legacy and next generation insurance systems that operate our Property and Casualty insurance operations. I work with both the end users and the system developers to implement systems, make enhancements, triage and fix bugs, and assist with testing and other Quality Assurance duties. Fremont Insurance is a small, regional insurance carrier offering Farm, Commercial, and Personal lines of insurance mostly in Michigan.

Previous Employer

Position

Progressive Insurance

Claims Representative

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Auto Claims Field Adjuster

My position consisted of claim investigation, damage assessment, repair negotiation with vendors, total loss settlement assessment and negotiation, and documentation of primarily automobile but also fixed property damages.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

10

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I am currently the Treasurer for my neighborhood homeowners association.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Because I am nobody special.

I am a regular, middle class homeowner and resident of Ottawa County. I hold no aspirations to political office. This isn't a stepping stone to anywhere. I am not a business owner trying to network through a government post. I am simply an avid user of Ottawa County Parks. I spend considerable time and miles each week walking and running with my dogs on trails and visiting the beach. I use our parks all four seasons and appreciate what each offers. My home borders an Ottawa County Park, North Ottawa Dunes. I care about the quality of our parks, the health of our resources, and the access that each resident is entitled to. I want to serve on the board to speak for the average resident who goes about his business, uses our parks for exercise and leisure, and wants them preserved for his children and grandchildren to enjoy.

# Jane Frauenheim

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Alma College

Degree

Bachelor of Arts

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

N/A

Position

N/A

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

N/A

Previous Employer

Position



West Ottawa Public Schools

Costume Designer and Expense Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Worked within a tight timeline.

Managed a team of 4 student and 10 adult volunteers per show assigning appropriate tasks based on abilities and availability.

Kept within the constraints of the costume budget.

Read the script and worked with the director to determine what costumes were needed for each character and the vision for each production.

Created and updated spreadsheets with expense data by department.

Gathered expenses for the 7 theater departments for each show and submitted to the school district for reimbursement.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

27

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Idlewood Beach Improvement Association - 2 three year terms - president (2 years), secretary (1 year), treasurer (2 years)

Facilitated meetings, collected dues, paid association bills, and coordinated neighborhood events.

West Ottawa Drama Boosters - 1 four year term - president (3 years)

Was liaison with the theater department, met show deadlines, organized expenses and helped coordinate concessions during theatrical productions.

University of Michigan Alumni Association Holland, MI - 1 five year term

Organized social events, reviewed scholarship applications and awarded scholarships.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe in the important role that parks play in a community's health and well being. Being part of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission would allow me to contribute my skills of project management, collaboration and volunteer management along with my passion for the great outdoors to help preserve, protect and grow the wonderful recreation opportunities available within Ottawa County.

# Nathan Hoekstra

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

B.S., Journalism

School

University of Illinois - Springfield

Degree

M.A., Public Affairs

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Rockford Construction

Position

Marketing Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I'm responsible for managing the marketing and public relations efforts for Rockford Construction, a large commercial contractor in Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Florida. I manage a team that responds to requests for proposals, builds brand awareness, and seeks out public relations opportunities, all skills I can bring to the Parks and Rec board to help spread awareness about our amazing county resources.

Previous Employer

Position

Grand Valley State University

Associate Director, Digital Content

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I was responsible for all aspects of digital communication for the university, including website, social media, Grand Valley Magazine, as well as PR and marketing efforts for any interesting stories or communications efforts.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I currently serve as a general member on the diversity and access committee for Hudsonville Public Schools and have served in that role for the past two years, successfully working with the committee to come up with recommendations for the school board on programs to reduce bullying and bias incidents against other students. In the past I served as treasurer and secretary for the alumni board of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honors society, as well as various other positions in support of other social organizations.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a resident who moved to Ottawa County in 2001 and chose to make it the place where I live and raise my family, I am passionate about maintaining excellent quality of life in our county. I believe that my experience and skill set would be well-placed on the County Parks and Recreation Commission. I think our parks specifically are an underappreciated aspect of our county's resources and believe that some additional marketing assistance could help already great parks and parks staff see better returns on investment, as well as drive interest among donors to enhance the offerings already in place.

# James A. Kober

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Michigan State University

Degree

BS

School

Michigan State University

Degree

DVM

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Self

Position

Owner, Alpine Pork, LLC

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Owner operator of Alpine Pork, LLC. This is a 4,200 head swine grow out facility. Pigs come in at three weeks of age weighing 12-14 pounds and remain there until they reach market size of 280-290 pounds. This takes roughly 5 months. I do not own the pigs. I supply the facilities, the labor, and the utilities. My contract partner owns the pigs, supplies the feed, and does the trucking for incoming and outgoing pigs. Once all of the pigs have been marketed, the entire facility is washed and disinfected prior to the next group comes in.

Previous Employer

Position



Swine Veterinary Services, LLC

owner, veterinarian

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

I was the owner/operator of this swine only veterinary practice for 27 years. My clients ranged from one (pet) pig to thousands of commercial pigs. My clients were primarily in west Michigan and northern Indiana. I supplied health, welfare, nutritional, environmental, and economic advice to the clients. I started this veterinary practice in 1993 and owned it until I sold it at the end of 2020.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

None on governmental boards.

I serve on three committees through the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association).

I served on the board of Trustees at the First Presbyterian Church, Grand Haven, Michigan for over 10 years.

I am a graduate of the inaugural class of the Ottawa County Master Naturalist Program.

I was in charge of the "goats for controlling invasive species" program in Ottawa county for two years.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I grew up on a fruit and livestock farm in west Michigan, so I have always been outside enjoying nature and the environment. Even though my career path has been in the animal world, I have spent my free time outdoors enjoying nature. I am avid hiker, biker, kayaker, and winter enthusiast so have visited many of the Ottawa county parks. They are second to none! After completing the Master Naturalist program, I have been interested in helping maintain, grow, and administer the Ottawa county parks program.

# Joseph Kowalkowski

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Miami University

Degree

Supply Chain Management

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Pace Industries

Position

Materials Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for inbound, internal, and outbound logistics and product. Oversee shipping and receiving, material handlers, customer service and production schedulers.

Previous Employer

Position

Textron

Inventory Control Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for shipping, receiving, material handlers, yard, and stockroom teams, both union and non union positions.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

3

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

Yes, wife works for Ottawa County CMH

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have never worked on any government boards. Have worked with ultimate frisbee boards in both Ohio and Michigan to help grow and promote the sport in a safe and encouraging environment.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to get involved in local government or groups to help promote positive environment and change. I know Ottawa county has gone through a lot of change since we first moved here. I would like to help to give back and help build a positive future for our children to live in.

# Kelly Kuiper

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Caledonia High School

Degree

HS Diploma

School

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Degree

BGS - Independent Study (Community Development)

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Eastbrook Homes

Position

Manager of Land Planning and Entitlement

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

As the Manager of Land Planning and Entitlement at Eastbrook Homes, I:

- Manage multiple one to five million dollar projects at a single time for residential land development and home construction from initial property research through construction of site improvements.
- Coordinate a diverse team of outside professionals including Professional Surveyors, Professional Engineers, Geologists, Environmental Professionals, Title Company teams, and others as needed.
- Manage the entitlement/permitting process for each land development project and secure any and all necessary permitting through various local, County, and State agencies, including Drain/Water Resource Commissions, Road Commissions, Plat Boards, EGLE, and MDOT.
- Complete detailed property research and analysis to determine feasibility of land development on vacant land, including using Adobe Photoshop to create conceptual layouts, and ultimately creating preliminary cost analysis for the potential project.

Previous Employer

Position



Great Lakes Excavating Service/Stillwater Capital

Director of Land Development

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Managed 5-10 multi-million dollar projects, for both internal and external single-family residential projects from initial research through site improvement construction.
- Managed 5-10 multi-million dollar projects, for both internal and external mineral mining projects including securing all necessary local, County, and State (EGLE) permits and managing all monthly, quarterly, and annual monitoring reports.
- Developed and implemented a monthly mining site inspection program and trained Foremen.
- Led weekly internal meetings with Operations Managers and Site Superintendents to coordinate budgets and schedules for all projects.
- Coordinated a diverse team of outside professionals including Professional Surveyors, Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Appraisers.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

9

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Caledonia Township Planning Commission, 2010-2012

Caledonia Township Trustee, 2012-2016

Ottawa County Board of Commissioners (District 6), 2016-2018

Georgetown Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 2020-2022

Georgetown Township Planning Commission, 2022-present

\*Recently elected as Georgetown Township Clerk, term to start November 2024

I have also served as an election inspector in both Caledonia Township and Georgetown Township since 2010.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I believe that serving on local board and commissions is the perfect marriage of my professional skills and my personal interests. I began my career in local government and while I eventually transferred to the private sector, that experience has dramatically shaped my life. I pride myself on my great depth and breadth of understanding of local, County, and State ordinances, rules, and regulations and whole heartedly believe that I can utilize those skills and knowledge to make my world a better place by volunteering my time to boards and committees that directly influence the world around them, like a Planning Commission. In my free time, my family spends as much time as possible in our local Township and County parks. We have almost completed our goal of 50 parks and/or hikes this calendar year, and a surprising new favorite has emerged: Riverside Park. I am eager to be considered for an appointment to the County to continue serving my greater community.

# Scott Muellerleile

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Western Michigan University

Degree

Bachelors Science Magna Cum Laude

School

n/a

Degree

n/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Countryside Greenhouse

Position

Nursery Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee all aspects of nursery operations, including staff management, inventory control, and customer relations. Successfully improve staff morale, workplace culture, and job education through consistent engagement and training.

Develop and implement efficient processes to enhance productivity, profitability, and customer satisfaction, tailoring strategies to meet both operational goals and client needs.

Collaborate with team members at every level to assess challenges and implement solutions, ensuring smooth operations and continuous improvement.

Manage supply chain logistics, including procurement of horticultural products and monitoring inventory levels to optimize availability and reduce waste.

Maintain a focus on long-term business sustainability through proactive planning, resource management, and financial oversight.

Previous Employer

Position

Menards

Human Resources Coordinator

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Coordinated recruitment, interviews and orientation for new hires. Managed applicant profiles, vetting prospects and providing feedback for qualification to hiring managers. This ensured optimal selections, maximizing effectiveness on the floor.

Reviewed performance of new hires, segmented by duration over time and training. Discussed profiles with evaluation managers, determining action plans for improvement and communication. Facilitated team member training and development, utilizing corporate training programs effectively.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

30

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

While I have not previously served on a government or civic board, my professional experience has equipped me with many of the key skills required for effective board service. As a nursery manager, I regularly collaborate with diverse stakeholders, from staff to customers, and work on long-term planning and resource management?skills that are essential for board-level decision-making.

I have also developed a strong ability to assess challenges, implement solutions, and balance multiple interests to achieve sustainable outcomes. These experiences have prepared me to effectively contribute to the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission, bringing a fresh perspective and a commitment to thoughtful, community-focused solutions.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would like to be considered for this appointment because I have a deep commitment to enhancing Ottawa County's parks and recreational resources. As a nursery manager, I oversee operations, staff, and resource management, with a focus on long-term sustainability. I believe this experience, particularly in balancing immediate needs with future growth, aligns well with the goals of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

I'm eager to contribute to efforts that promote conservation, improve accessibility, and foster community engagement, ensuring that our parks continue to serve all residents. My collaborative approach and ability to solve challenges with practical solutions will help the commission address both current and future needs. I see this role as an opportunity to give back to my community, supporting the growth and sustainability of Ottawa County's natural spaces for future generations.

# Malaythong Phan

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

---

School

Davenport University

Degree

Business Management

School

West Ottawa High School

Degree

General

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

LMCU

Position

Branch Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Daily operations of the branch including but not limited to member service, employee growth/development, community involvement.

Previous Employer

Position



United Federal Credit Union

Assistant Branch Manager II

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee daily branch operations including audits and member service.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

38

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

None

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I love the outdoors and have taken advantage of the beautiful parks in Ottawa county. I want to be able to help make an impact on this unique resource in Ottawa county bring awareness to everyone that can benefit from the wonderful Pure Michigan experience in Ottawa county.

# Kelly N Rice

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Degree

B.S. in Zoology

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

GEI Consultants

Position

Senior Ecologist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I am a certified Senior Professional Wetland Scientist (SPWS), specializing in ecological assessments and habitat management across wetland, upland, and riparian natural communities, as well as native landscaping and restoration design, wildlife and protected species surveys and habitat assessments, wetland delineations, invasive species control and management, technical report writing and review, ecological data analysis, large-scale project management, and regulatory compliance and permitting. I manage and perform ecological studies on multiple types of projects and properties including linear corridors, privately-owned tracts, and municipal, state, and federal lands. I have worked on natural resource projects across the country, assisting clients in over 20 states with ecological and regulatory compliance issues. Although I am primarily retired and currently serve in an on-call technical lead capacity, I have more than 34 years of ecological assessment and consulting experience.

Previous Employer

Position

Cardno JFNew

Senior Ecologist

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

I had very similar responsibilities while working for this firm. I conducted and managed the completion of natural community assessments, wetland delineations, wetland mitigation and site plan design, wildlife and protected species surveys and habitat assessments, and technical report writing and review for projects across the Midwest. I also led regulatory compliance and permitting efforts and project management out of our Michigan offices. While in this position, I spearheaded the development and implementation of a company-wide Project Management program which facilitated effective project completion (on time/within budget) and clear communication between staff and clients of varying backgrounds. This experience has allowed me to develop the ability to listen to multiple parties, consider varying end goals, and facilitate the development of mutually acceptable solutions to complex problems.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

21

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I currently serve as President of the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) and have filled this role since June 2020. I have been on the OCPRC since January 1, 2016.

Previously, I served on the Park West Civic Association (Orange Park, Florida) homeowner's association board and was elected President in the late 1990's/early 2000s.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I currently am the only member of the OCPRC with ecological or natural resource management experience, including certification as a Society of Wetland Scientists Senior Professional Wetland Scientist (<https://wetlandcert.org>). Since Ottawa County is a world class natural resource-based park system, it is critical that someone on the Commission possesses natural resource management experience and the technical skill set required to facilitate discussions, contribute during decision making processes, provide staff with technical support, and promote the continued success of the OCPRC into the future. Since many parks initiatives are multi-year or even multi-decade projects, I would like to continue in my position to provide continuity and historic perspective during discussions. Ottawa County has an exemplary parks department which is a model system for other communities, and I am very proud to be a part of this organization.

# Cynthia A Scholten

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Arkansas State University

Degree

Master's Public Administration

School

Davenport University

Degree

Bachelors Business Administration

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Haworth

Position

Commodity Planner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- ? Planning material and working with vendors on delivery issues, supply, etc.
- ? Understanding complex data and assisting with reporting
- ? Working with cross-functional teams on various issues including supplier quality, accounting, delivery, and new projects
- ? Recently completed Lean training

Previous Employer

Position



City of Grand Rapids

Purchasing Agent

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

- ? Led operation of the impound lot and purchasing department in the second largest city in Michigan
- ? Managed, supervised, and mentored 4 full-time and 5 contract employees
- ? Prepared and managed budget (combined of over \$1MM) including a revenue account
- ? Lead cross-functional team to create policy
- ? Represented department at Commission meetings presenting the bid list and forecasting report.
- ? Facilitated auctions, coordinating with internal and external teams
- ? Evaluated all purchases for the City
- ? Created and analyzed bids, RFQ's and RFP's, and managed contracts (risk)
- ? Reviewed Ordinances and proposed changes to the purchase thresholds
- ? Represented the City in many cohorts and alliances
- ? Created procedure for more oversight with money handling and checks and balances.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

23

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: Max length: 500

My significant other is employed by Allegan County Drain Commission

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? (Max length: 1000)

I was a board member for Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration and two certifications in governmental purchasing. I'm also certified in planning and zoning and have taken the Michigan State Water School training, MEDA Economic Development training, and MiPlace training. I have a passion for government! I have a big passion to assist in the community that I live. I was a board member and I have a lot of business experience that I think could be helpful to a board.

# Eric James Shake

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

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## Education

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School

Muskegon Community College

Degree

Associate - Applied Science

School

NA

Degree

NA

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

GHSP, Inc

Position

EHS Specialist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Environment, Health & Safety of employees in Industrial setting. Primary responsibilities are Environmental Compliance, ISO 14001:2015 management, ESG Assessments & Reporting, Sustainability program development, action item deployment and reporting. Building and delivering Health, Safety and Environmental (including biodiversity and ecological responsibility) trainings to plant population and management staff. Leading and managing the Adopt-A-Park program, working with Ottawa County Staff for Hemlock Crossing, as well as the first 3 years Ottawa Sands was open.

Previous Employer

Position

GHSP, Inc

Technical Services Technician

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Primary responsibilities included Environmental Compliance and Technical Department administration (Work order and Preventative Maintenance system). Minor responsibilities included; maintaining updated CAD drawings of facility layout, ISO 14001:2015 management, developing and delivering environmental trainings (including biodiversity and ecological responsibility) to the plant population and management staff. Working with Ottawa County staff on GHSP's adoption of Hemlock Crossing for the County Adopt-A-Park program.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

43

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

None currently. Mother and two Aunts retired from County positions.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have not yet been selected to serve on a board. I am currently an individual member of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. Individual member of the Ottawa County Conservation Network (WMCISMA) - Habitat & Restoration sub-committee.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am passionate about our park system. I lead the Adopt-a-Park program for my employer and volunteer regularly for work days and other volunteer opportunities. I love learning about ecology and biodiversity, understand it's importance and am deeply devoted to the visitor experiences of locals and visitors to this beautiful county we call home. I believe my voice and work ethic would help strengthen and sustain the Counties existing programs, policies and processes, while also offering unique perspectives and strategic vision to the future of the Parks and Recreation program.

# Joseph Sierawski

Committee: Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission

Seat: Public

---

## Education

---

School

GVSU Seidman School of Business

Degree

MBA

School

University of Detroit Mercy

Degree

BA

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Retired

Position

Currently working as part time consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Lean Manufacturing implementation

Previous Employer

Position



Haworth Inc

NPI - Project Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

NPI ( New Product Implementation ) , Supply Chain project lead.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

8

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Grandville City Councilman, two terms, 2000-2008

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

After retiring in 2021 from Haworth I joined the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation department as a part time non-benefitted seasonal Outdoor Educator based out of Hemlock Crossings for one year. I was and am an enthusiastic supporter of the Ottawa County Parks system and fervently believe our parks are the "crown jewels" of Ottawa County.

They require someone who would protect and promote the vitality and utilization of these valuable county resources for the benefit of all county residents - and I believe I can serve that purpose on the board if I'm fortunate enough to be selected.

# James C Miedema

Committee: Ottawa County Road Commission

Seat: Member

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## Education

---

School

Wayland Union

Degree

High School Deploma

School

Unity Christian

Degree

High School Deploma

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Ottawa County

Position

Road Commission

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Road Commission agenda

Previous Employer

Position

Jamestown Body and Frame

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Repair Automobiles

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

50

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Jamestown Township Trustee 10 Years  
Jamestown Township Supervisor 12 Years  
Ottawa County Planning Commission 12 Years  
Ottawa County Parks 8 Years  
Ottawa County 911 Policy Board 5 Years  
Ottawa County Road Commission 12 Years

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Because of my experience with township government and water and sewer programs. At this point I am the only candidate representing this part of the county. I have a vast knowledge with the roads and all of the safety issues. So therefore I believe I would be a good candidate to the road commission. I have a good working relationship with the current staff and managing director.

# Robert De Vries

Committee: Ottawa County Road Commission

Seat: Member

---

## Education

---

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Nu Wool LLC

Position

Director of prouct support & development

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Oversee product quality & develop new uses. Educate end users, architects & code officials. Monitor and be involved in material standards and building codes.

Previous Employer

Position



Kaasen Eectric

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Ran the day to day operations of a residential / light commercial electrical

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

61

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I am currently on the Holland Township zoning board of appeals and the board of directors for Cellulose Insulation Manufactures Association as well as the BOD for Building Performance Institute.

I am the current secretary for ASTM C-16 (thermal insulation) and task group chair of several ASTM standards

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have lived in Ottawa County all my life and have watched it grow. It's time I contributed my time and knowledge. Also, I travel a great deal. I have seen what works and what doesn't when it comes to traffic flow.

# Thomas J Elhart

Committee: Ottawa County Road Commission

Seat: Member

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## Education

---

School

Hope College

Degree

BA Business

School

Zeeland High School

Degree

High School Diploma

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Signature Associates

Position

Associate Broker

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Real-estate sales and Brokerage.

Previous Employer

Position

Universal Properties Inc Holland

Owner Associate Broker

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Real-Estate sales and Brokerage  
I still manage 254 rental units

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

66

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have been:

Past Zeeland Chamber of Commerce President and Board member.

Two time Zeeland Rotary President and Board member

Deacon Second Reformed Church Zeeland

Past Chairman and Board member of Holland Ducks Unlimited, MC for DU Banquet for 30 years.

12 Years Ottawa County Road Commission Board Member and Chairman for 2 years

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

The Board is spending my money and sometimes Boards forget where the money comes from and how it is spent.

I am a fiscal Hawk...

I have been an advocate of breaking the quote, "we always did it that way". I encourage, actually expect, thinking out of the box to solve problems.

I am not afraid to ask questions when or if I am concerned about what I am hearing or seeing.

I am a "trust but verify person" which is needed as a Board Member.

Because of my Sales background Customer Service, Customer relations are important to me. Customer relations

Start with the Board.

Public service is important to me...

# Troy Goodno

Committee: Ottawa County Road Commission

Seat: Member

---

## Education

---

School

Ferris State University

Degree

BS Product Design Engineering Technology

School

Ferris State University

Degree

AS Mechanical Engineering Technology

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

ASK Carpentry & Home Services, LLC

Position

owner/member

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

In 2022 I started a carpentry business focusing on finish trim carpentry, remodeling and custom cabinetry.

Previous Employer

Position



Royal Technologies Corporation

Ford Business Program Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I worked at Royal Technologies from 2013 to 2022. During that time I was a Project Engineer, Automotive Customer Engineering Manager and Ford Business Program Manager. I was responsible for working with customer engineers to prepare CAD designs to meet both their standards and Royal's standards and to complete CAD designs in time to kick-off all tooling to meet program timing deliverables and be ready for the Start of Production date. As the Engineering Manager I was responsible for these same activities by assigning project engineers to programs, managing their workloads and providing technical leadership, with the goal of on time launch of each program. I also prepared staffing resource plans based on sales forecasts and reported bi-weekly to the Operations and Leadership teams. As the Ford Business Program Manager I continued many of the same responsibilities while working with Royal Sales as a technical resource to grow the Ford account, expanding to new products to supply Ford.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

47

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I am currently a trustee for Chester Township. I was first elected in 2004 and have served the past 20 years. I also am a member of the Chester Township Planning Commission which I was first appointed to in 2008 serving the past 16 years, and I was a Zoning Board of Appeals member from 2002 to 2005. I am a candidate for Township Supervisor in the November general election and would be leaving the Planning Commission upon successfully being elected for Supervisor.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have served the residents of Chester Township for many years and look forward to continuing to serve in the next four years as the Supervisor. As a member of the Ottawa County Road Commission I believe I could use my experience in public service to benefit the county at large as well as provide representation for the northeast region of the county which currently does not have a representative on the Commission. My engineering background provided opportunities for problem solving; I don't generally seek to avoid challenges and do like to find the best solution to problems using critical thinking to consider options while seeking subject matter experts to make informed decisions. The 2024-2028 Strategic Improvement Plan notes a very large "unfunded needs" total of approximately \$470M; this is quite a challenge facing our county. As a member of the OCRC I would be able to contribute in some small way to address this challenge.

# Larry Jackson

Committee: Ottawa County Road Commission

Seat: Member

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## Education

---

School

Devry

Degree

Network and Communications Management BS

School

ITT Tech

Degree

Computer Network Management AS

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ITC Inc.

Position

System Administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Determines the goals and objectives of IT within broad outlines provided by executive management and provides necessary technical leadership and project coordination

Prepares long- and short-range plans for application selection, systems development, and acquisition of the resources needed to support them; ensures responsiveness of long-range plans to corporate objectives

Sets and ensures compliance (in both. the US and China) to policies including Computer Acceptable Use policy, Approved Software list and Hardware Standard list

? Manages outside vendor contracts and activities including (but not limited to) managed service provider, phone vendor, and managed print services

Manages financial aspects of the IT department including purchasing, budgeting and budget review

Benchmarks, analyzes, reports on, and makes recommendations for the improvement and growth of the IT infrastructure and IT systems for all ITC locations

Manage ITC ERP and related systems

Previous Employer

Position

Westrock

IT Field Service Lead

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide service desk support via Service  
Monitor Uptime across plants via network monitoring tools.  
Grant/Remove access for leavers and joiners to the company via Office 365.  
Break fix issue on desktops, printers, network equipment across sites.  
Update and maintain all SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)  
SAAS (O365/Microsoft 365 Products)  
Configured Insite and Autopilot for seamless deployment of new devices for users.  
Maintain Meraki Cisco equipment  
Provide support on all ERP applications.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Office of Compensations

Ottawa County Veterans Affairs Committee/War Veteran

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would love to serve the constituents of Ottawa County in any way I can and serving on these boards will allow me to do that. I can also serve different constituency using the skills I've acquired over my 22+ year professional career.

# Kenneth Styles

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School	Degree
The Citadel	Master of Business Administration (MBA)
School	Degree
College of Charleston	Bachelor of Science

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
General Motors (GM)	Manufacturing Optimization GPS Execution Lead

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Lead the design, construction, integration, plant installation, and successful launch of continuous improvement plant optimization projects valued at \$9.7M.

Serve as the conduit between internal engineering Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and automation vendors.

Provide the technical oversight, sequence of operations definition, manufacturing process definition, Statement of Requirements (SOR) definition and management, human factors management, material flow management, practical problem solving, risk management, and Safety Contract Management (SCM) for plant floor reconfigurations

Previous Employer

Position



GHSP

Principal QA Engineer

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Facilitated a successful Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Maturity Level 3 appraisal for the GHSP Software Department.

Spearheaded the effort to migrate from the CMMI process improvement model to the Automotive SPICE process improvement model.

Transformed all software development projects from Waterfall to the Scrum Framework that eliminated escaped defects that facilitated in a company cost avoidance of \$250,000.00.

Participated in GHSP's Organizational Excellence (OE) and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittees that facilitated obtaining and empowering diverse talent.

Managed two shift-by-wire product lines resulting in over \$24M in annual revenue.

Authored and refreshed existing GHSP process documentation that resulted in successful Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) and ASPICE Appraisals.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

6

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

OCCAA Board member from May 2024-present to fill an open position for a board member who abruptly resigned. I also served as the VP of Sponsorship for the West Michigan Chapter of the Project Management Institute from 2022-2024.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am an honorably discharged veteran of the US Navy that served from 1986-1994 and I know the challenges that face veterans today such as re-adjustment from military to civilian life. I have participated in Operation Desert Shield and am a member of both the VFW and the American Legion. I utilized the Montgomery GI Bill to help pay for my education and I utilized my veteran benefits to obtain several VA Loans for home ownership thus I have a practitioner's perspective with regards to VA services. I would like to give back to my fellow veterans to help them as they navigate life after the military.

# Gregory Steven Carlson

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Ottawa County Sheriff's Office

Position

Investigative Specialist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Member of Investigative Services Division. Provide law enforcement intelligence information

Previous Employer

Position

Department of Defence

Force Master Chief

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Retired from 30 years on active-duty service in January 2024. Senior Enlisted Advisor to Commander Naval Surface Forces for the manning, training, and equipage for U.S. Naval Surface Forces. Responsible for personnel policy implementation affecting 61,000 Sailors and 197 surface ships. Expert in executive communications, project planning, public speaking, and human resource management.

I'm 100% VA disabled combat veteran and a member of Grand Haven, American Legion.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

1

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Chaired several boards while on active duty, none as a civilian.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Official Naval biography:

<https://www.surfpac.navy.mil/Leaders/Biography/Article/2534927/>

# David Chesney

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School	Degree
Western Michigan University	Masters

School	Degree
Grand Valley State University	Bachelors of Arts

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Big Ten Conference	Evaluator

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Evaluate the performance of Football Game Officials.

Previous Employer

Position



Kentwood Public Schools

Middle School Principal

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for the daily operation of the school building. Hire and evaluate staff, oversee curriculum, budget, food service, transportation, athletics, etc.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

13

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served as a Board Member of the Grand Rapids Child Guidance Clinic. Throughout the tenure of a 32 year career in Education I attended and presented information at numerous School Board meetings.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a Vietnam War Veteran, I receive services from the VA Claims and VA Health systems. I have navigated through both systems. I believe my professional experience, as well as my experience with the Veterans' Administration qualifies me to be of service to other Veterans. I also serve as a football Referee for wheelchair football through Move United. Move United is a national adaptive sports organization through which many veteran amputees participate in sports.

# Dustin Martin Parlin

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

Zeeland high school

Degree

General

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Grand haven public school

Position

Teachers assistant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Help students guide through mental health issues

Previous Employer

Position

Vfw

Veteran service officer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

File disability claims for veterans

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

20

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have help veterans filing disability claims while servicing in Ottawa county

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I love helping veterans and I wish we could do more for the veteran community.

# Richard Jakubczak

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School	Degree
Davenport	Associate?s

School	Degree
N/a	N/a

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer	Position
N/a	N/a

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

N/a

Previous Employer

Position



Louis Padnos Iron and Metal

Retired-Supervisor

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Overseeing the operation of the Department at our Briquetter. Production and Safety of its Crew.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

5in

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I am currently on the Board of Directors for the Holland Area Veterans Council. I was also on the Michigan State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I was one of the original member of the local chapter of the now Vietnam Veterans of America #73 as well as its State Council. I have been Chapter #73's President at least 10 times and my goal has always been and is to help my fellow Veterans. I

I am currently the chair for the Michigan's Veterans Trust Fund for Ottawa County and have been serving on this board since 1997. I have been running a Veterans Support Group called Vet to Vet for the last 24 years and currently have 7 to 10 that attend regularly.

I appreciate your consideration for this appointment

Thank You

# Steve Skodack

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

Baker College of Muskegon

Degree

Bachelor's Information Tech & Security

School

Central Michigan

Degree

Masters in Science

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

BISSELL

Position

Program Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Provided guidance and leadership to teams throughout the Advanced Development process, ensuring alignment with company leadership to transition projects into the product development life cycle.
  - Led cross-functional teams through the entire program lifecycle, from conceptualization to production, ensuring successful outcomes by effectively managing resources, timelines, and finances.
  - Developed comprehensive project scopes and managed program timelines to address product requirements and bridge existing gaps, resulting in streamlined project execution and enhanced product delivery.
  - Collaborated with cross-functional teams to resolve supply, product, and process issues, ensuring high quality and predictable supply.
- Smartsheet Admin and power user for Engineering and Program Management Departments

Previous Employer

Position

ADAC Automotive

Program Manager

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

- Led teams in launching programs for various automotive commodities across multiple regions.
- Managed customer relations with multiple OEMs and developed strategies to meet customer requirements.
- Oversaw programs and guided problem-solving efforts to achieve production goals.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

24

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was on the Planning Commission for the City of Grand Haven. It was a great experience and our commission did a great job of discussing issues, identifying solutions, and while not always agreeing, managed to stay cordial and maintain respect for each other throughout the process.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am a USMC veteran. It would be an honor for me to have the ability to help set guidance and programs that will help our veterans within our county. When I heard about the creation of this committee, it was too late to apply to the committee, but it is something that I've not forgotten about as this is a committee I want to be a part of.

# Benjamin Lee Terpsma

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

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## Education

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School

Grand Valley State Univ.

Degree

Bachelors in Social Studies// Teaching Certificate

School

Eastern Michigan Univ.

Degree

Masters in Educaitional Leadership (est comp 2025)

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Michigan Army National Guard

Position

Senior Instractor

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Just like active Army NCO Academy Instructors, Army National Guard Instructors lead Soldiers in Military Occupational Specialty Reclassification training and Professional Military Education training (Advanced and Senior Leader Courses). I serve as an advisors, instructor, and evaluator at Fort Custer National Training Center for the Officer Canidate School (OCS), 92Y Supply Logistics Course, and Basic Army Instractor Course.

Instructors hold one of the most important tasks in the Army. As both an Instructor and a member of the MIARNG I serve one weekend a month and 15 days per year. As an Instructor, I am the senior trainer, mentor, professional, and leader while helping mold today?s Army to win decisively on the modern battlefield.

Previous Employer

Position



Kent County Sheriff Dept

Corrections Officer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Maintain key control, inmate counts, security checks, inmate movement, searches, and report writing.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

38

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was Chairman of the Brownfield Redevelopment Committee for the City of Holland from 2001-2003. Executive Director for The 90 Degree Ascent ( A Veteran Nonprofit) from 2021-Present.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

My experience while serving on both active duty and in the Guard during my military career helps me understand a broader group of veterans and their needs. I have worked with the VA on a personal and professional level. Running a veteran nonprofit here in Holland has opened doors to the veteran community and their needs. Being in the Michigan Army National Guard has allowed me to make connections all over the state. I have a broad knowledge of opportunities and benefits that the state has to offer veterans. I am also finishing up my retirement from the military which has given me the personal experience that I can bring to the committee. I have spent my life in service to my community and I would love to continue that while working with this committee.

# Richard Keith Van Dop

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

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## Education

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School

Hope College

Degree

BA

School

Western Theological Seminary

Degree

Masters of Divinity

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

retired - church volunteer

Position

Chairman of Care Team

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Calling on sick and shut-ins, handling requests for financial aid, handling applications for membership and baptism.

Previous Employer

Position

Trinity Reformed Church Grand Haven

Interim pastor

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Preaching, calling on members, leading consistory, leading search team,

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

20

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Kenowa Hills Public School Board (1995-2001, President 1998-2000)

Remembrance Child Care Board (1992-2002 -mostly as chairman - with time out for active duty with Navy)

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I served 26+ years in the Navy Reserve. I have compassion for those who sacrificed (service members and families) and who are in need. As I have been blessed, I wish to give back.

# Caleb Worpel

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

Grand Rapids Community College

Degree

Associate in Arts

School

Grand Valley State University

Degree

Multimedia Journalism

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Grand Valley State University

Position

Photojournalist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Shoot, edit and submit appropriate and attractive photographs to accompany news stories as assigned.  
Handle and complete multiple photographic assignments by scheduled deadlines.  
Provide hands-on experience in creation, processing and submission of print-based and digital photographs for newspaper and website.  
Demonstrate knowledge of photography principles and spot-news coverage.  
Practice knowledge of Adobe software, visual platforms and social media.  
Develop advertising, customer relationships and peer interaction concepts.

Previous Employer

Position



Self

Independent Photographer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I am offer services specifically related to photojournalism and investigative reporting, however I can, and still do, weddings, seniors, families and other personal projects.

<https://calebworpel.format.com>

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

5

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was the founding member and President of the Creekside Shores, where Summergreen golf course used to be, Homeowners Association from 2019 to 2022. I am also the current Treasurer for LakerVets - a student board for veteran students at GVSU. In addition to my military experience, I have extensive government experience with the Social Security Administration where I worked for 2 years in an extremely challenging, customer facing role before returning to GVSU to pursue a graduate degree.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

My political and photojournalism aspirations are fueled by a desire to create equitable opportunities, inspire change and serve social justice to underserved communities with little to no voice. I am deeply committed to fostering civic engagement and empowerment. My dedication to public service extends into government realm, where I have actively championed the rights of disabled veterans and other marginalized communities.

# Larry Jackson

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

Devry

Degree

Network and Communications Management BS

School

ITT Tech

Degree

Computer Network Management AS

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

ITC Inc.

Position

System Administrator

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Determines the goals and objectives of IT within broad outlines provided by executive management and provides necessary technical leadership and project coordination

Prepares long- and short-range plans for application selection, systems development, and acquisition of the resources needed to support them; ensures responsiveness of long-range plans to corporate objectives

Sets and ensures compliance (in both. the US and China) to policies including Computer Acceptable Use policy, Approved Software list and Hardware Standard list

? Manages outside vendor contracts and activities including (but not limited to) managed service provider, phone vendor, and managed print services

Manages financial aspects of the IT department including purchasing, budgeting and budget review

Benchmarks, analyzes, reports on, and makes recommendations for the improvement and growth of the IT infrastructure and IT systems for all ITC locations

Manage ITC ERP and related systems

Previous Employer

Position

Westrock

IT Field Service Lead

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Provide service desk support via Service  
Monitor Uptime across plants via network monitoring tools.  
Grant/Remove access for leavers and joiners to the company via Office 365.  
Break fix issue on desktops, printers, network equipment across sites.  
Update and maintain all SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)  
SAAS (O365/Microsoft 365 Products)  
Configured Insite and Autopilot for seamless deployment of new devices for users.  
Maintain Meraki Cisco equipment  
Provide support on all ERP applications.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Office of Compensations

Ottawa County Veterans Affairs Committee/War Veteran

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I would love to serve the constituents of Ottawa County in any way I can and serving on these boards will allow me to do that. I can also serve different constituency using the skills I've acquired over my 22+ year professional career.

# Gregory Steven Carlson

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

School

N/A

Degree

N/A

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Ottawa County Sheriff's Office

Position

Investigative Specialist

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Member of Investigative Services Division. Provide law enforcement intelligence information

Previous Employer

Position



Department of Defence

Force Master Chief

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Retired from 30 years on active-duty service in January 2024. Senior Enlisted Advisor to Commander Naval Surface Forces for the manning, training, and equipage for U.S. Naval Surface Forces. Responsible for personnel policy implementation affecting 61,000 Sailors and 197 surface ships. Expert in executive communications, project planning, public speaking, and human resource management.

I'm 100% VA disabled combat veteran and a member of Grand Haven, American Legion.

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

1

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Chaired several boards while on active duty, none as a civilian.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Official Naval biography:

<https://www.surfpac.navy.mil/Leaders/Biography/Article/2534927/>

# Steven L Barnes

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School

Yes

Degree

No

School

Yes

Degree

No

## Employment Background

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Current Employer

Fortinet

Position

Architect

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Security architecture consulting.

Previous Employer

Position

Citrix

Engineer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Design and implement security solutions.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

14

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

Shae Barnes is our RN and my Daughter In Law.

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I was the Director of the Legion Riders.

I've been volunteering for NOCH Hospice with a Veteran focus.

This board has been evolving and I'm glad to served for Ottawa County too.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I like to be helpful to Veterans.

# David Chesney

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

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School	Degree
Grand Valley State University	B.A.

School	Degree
Western Michigan University	M.A.

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer	Position
Big 10 Conference	Evaluator

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Review games and evaluate football game Officials and file a report with the Big 10 office.

Previous Employer

Position



Kentwood Public Schools

Middle School Principal

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Responsible for day to day operations including budget, hiring and evaluating staff, curriculum development, student transportation, etc..

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

13

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served on the board of the Grand Rapids Child Guidance Clinic.  
Served as a Senior Volunteer with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

As a Vietnam Veteran, I am familiar with the VA Health Care and Claims systems. I am also sensitive to veterans' service being marginalized.

# Richard Jakubczak

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

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School	Degree
Davenport	Associate?s

School	Degree
N/a	N/a

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer	Position
N/a	N/a

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

N/a

Previous Employer

Position

Louis Padnos Iron and Metal

Retired-Supervisor

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Overseeing the operation of the Department at our Briquetter. Production and Safety of its Crew.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

5in

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I am currently on the Board of Directors for the Holland Area Veterans Council. I was also on the Michigan State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I was one of the original member of the local chapter of the now Vietnam Veterans of America #73 as well as its State Council. I have been Chapter #73's President at least 10 times and my goal has always been and is to help my fellow Veterans. I

I am currently the chair for the Michigan's Veterans Trust Fund for Ottawa County and have been serving on this board since 1997. I have been running a Veterans Support Group called Vet to Vet for the last 24 years and currently have 7 to 10 that attend regularly.

I appreciate your consideration for this appointment

Thank You

# Kenneth Styles

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

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School	Degree
The Citadel	Master of Business Administration (MBA)
School	Degree
College of Charleston	Bachelor of Science

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
General Motors (GM)	Manufacturing Optimization GPS Execution Lead

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Lead the design, construction, integration, plant installation, and successful launch of continuous improvement plant optimization projects valued at \$9.7M.

Serve as the conduit between internal engineering Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and automation vendors.

Provide the technical oversight, sequence of operations definition, manufacturing process definition, Statement of Requirements (SOR) definition and management, human factors management, material flow management, practical problem solving, risk management, and Safety Contract Management (SCM) for plant floor reconfigurations

Previous Employer

Position



GHSP

Principal QA Engineer

**Responsibilities:** *(Max length: 1000)*

Facilitated a successful Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Maturity Level 3 appraisal for the GHSP Software Department.

Spearheaded the effort to migrate from the CMMI process improvement model to the Automotive SPICE process improvement model.

Transformed all software development projects from Waterfall to the Scrum Framework that eliminated escaped defects that facilitated in a company cost avoidance of \$250,000.00.

Participated in GHSP's Organizational Excellence (OE) and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittees that facilitated obtaining and empowering diverse talent.

Managed two shift-by-wire product lines resulting in over \$24M in annual revenue.

Authored and refreshed existing GHSP process documentation that resulted in successful Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) and ASPICE Appraisals.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

6

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

OCCAA Board member from May 2024-present to fill an open position for a board member who abruptly resigned. I also served as the VP of Sponsorship for the West Michigan Chapter of the Project Management Institute from 2022-2024.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am an honorably discharged veteran of the US Navy that served from 1986-1994 and I know the challenges that face veterans today such as re-adjustment from military to civilian life. I have participated in Operation Desert Shield and am a member of both the VFW and the American Legion. I utilized the Montgomery GI Bill to help pay for my education and I utilized my veteran benefits to obtain several VA Loans for home ownership thus I have a practitioner's perspective with regards to VA services. I would like to give back to my fellow veterans to help them as they navigate life after the military.

# Dustin Martin Parlin

Committee: Ottawa County Veterans Services Committee

Seat: War Veteran

---

## Education

---

School	Degree
N/A	N/A

School	Degree
N/A	N/a

## Employment Background

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Current Employer	Position
Grand haven public schools	Teachers assistant

Responsibilities: (Max length: 1000)

Help students understand life lessons

Previous Employer

Position

Veterans of foreign wars

Veteran service officer

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

File disability claims for veterans and their families.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

20

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

I have been in veteran organization boards before. I am a veteran and been a veteran service officer.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

Because I think Ottawa county can be the change for veterans and how veterans see government

# BENJAMIN JOHN FOGG

Committee: West Michigan Airport Authority

Seat: Member

---

## Education

---

School

Michigan State University

Degree

Batchlor

School

Packaging Engineering

Degree

Yes

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Fogg Hold Co

Position

Owner semi retired

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Entrepreneur who has started and currently operates 6 small business. I'm involved in all aspects of the business from leadership to getting things done. The business ranges from Horse boarding, a machine shop, software, aircraft maintenance, airplane pilot, and more. TCAR (Tulip City Air Repair) is the aircraft maintenance company I started to serve the flying community of the area. The previous company had totally failed, and I had nowhere to go on field to get my aircraft fixed.

I have a personal track record for being honest, hardworking, and getting things done when others could not. I not only want to grow the asset but the people as well, I love training and promoting the airport.

I have a passion for growing West Michigan Regional Airport in a practical manor into a best-in-class community asset.

Previous Employer

Position



Fogg Filler Co

Owner

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Third generation owner who through the God given skills and talent grew the organization from a small family business into a world class company. One of the key technology innovators, and lead salesperson grew the company 600% in 20 years while all the time continually improving employee benefits, work environment, and building an amazing culture where people Loved coming to work.

Four years ago, I sold the business, and I still work there on a as needed basis.

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

50

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

None, I do attend the airport board meetings on a regular basis. Very familiar with corporate board meetings.

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I have a passion for growing West Michigan Regional Airport in a practical manor into a best-in-class community asset. I have seen how toxic politicians have destroyed Park Township Airport and never want to see than happen again. I feel I am by far the best candidate you can have with a business / community serving past rolls combined with an extreme variety in my flying carrier. I have built my own plane and flew it, I fly single engine piston engine aircraft and understand their needs, I fly twin engine turbo props and understand their needs, I fly business jets and understand their needs, I also fly helicopters and understand their needs. I feel that these indivial needs balance in the decision-making process and not overly favor any single user but be considerate that the needs are different.

# Craig Dunlap

Committee: West Michigan Airport Authority

Seat: Member

---

## Education

---

School

Lansing Community College

Degree

Associates

School

Lansing Eastern High School

Degree

Diploma

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

Dunlap and Associates Realtors

Position

President

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

I am currently retired

Previous Employer

Position

Self Employed

President

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Always self employed

## Other Information

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How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

12

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

Served as Volunteer Ottawa County for two years. Record of such is attached.

The **Ottawa County Appointment Policy** sets a minimum expectation of 75% attendance for all members of boards and commissions appointed by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. If appointed, will you be able to comply with the terms of the Policy with regard to attendance?

Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I enjoyed being on committee at Ottawa County for the last few years. I am also an Ottawa County Delegate.

# Benjamin M Genser

Committee: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission

Seat: Ottawa County Private Sector

---

## Education

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School

University of Michigan

Degree

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

School

University of Michigan

Degree

Bachelor of Science (BS)

## Employment Background

---

Current Employer

JPMorgan Chase Bank

Position

Vice President - Investments

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

### Financial Planning

- o Analyze market data and key economic indicators to provide data-based advice using long term market assumptions
- o Ensure proposed investment solutions fulfill client needs and objectives in the short, medium and long term through a holistic goals-based planning approach
- o Manage high net worth relationships by earning trust, thoroughly understanding client needs, delivering targeted advice, developing thoughtful solutions and maintaining an exceptional client experience

### Portfolio Management

- o Quantitative analysis
- o Portfolio optimization
- o Strategic fund management

Previous Employer

Position



Capital Financial Management

Management Consultant

Responsibilities: *(Max length: 1000)*

Organizational Effectiveness

- Strategic planning
- Process & systems improvement
- Project management
- Risk mitigation

Corporate Finance

- Financial modeling and data analysis
- Audit and assurance
- Financial valuation and appraisal

HR Management

## Other Information

---

How many years have you lived in Ottawa County?

7

Are any of your family members currently employed by the County of Ottawa or any other unit of government?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe: *Max length: 500*

What is your past experience in serving on government boards, or the boards of civic and other similar organizations? *(Max length: 1000)*

- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- Ottawa County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS)
- University of Michigan Healthcare Administration Program Advisory Board

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Yes  No

If no, please explain. *Max length: 1000.*

Why do you want to be considered for this appointment? *(Max length: 1000. Please be as detailed as possible)*

I am a wealth management professional with 18 years of private sector leadership experience in financial services, business consulting, and advisory. With a BS and MBA from the University of Michigan, I offer comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and investment advisory services to families and businesses across West Michigan.

I am passionate about giving back to the community and believe my professional experience, educational background, and deep commitment to public service uniquely positions me to contribute effectively to the commission/committee/authority. I would be honored to serve and partner with others dedicated to supporting our community's well-being.

Thank you for considering my application.

# Action Request



**Committee:** Board of Commissioners

**Meeting Date:** 12/19/2024

**Requesting Department:** Board of Commissioners

**Submitted By:** Chairman

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson pursuant to MCL 15.270(5)

## Suggested Motion:

To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson pursuant to MCL 15.270(5).

## Summary of Request:

## Financial Information:

Total Cost:	General Fund Cost:	Included in Budget:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

**Action is Related to an Activity Which Is:**  Mandated  Non-Mandated  New Activity

**Action is Related to Strategic Plan:**

Goal:

Objective:

**Administration:**  Recommended  Not Recommended  Without Recommendation  
County Administrator:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

## SEPARATION AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

This Separation and Release Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Employee”) and the County of Ottawa, Michigan (“Employer”). The Employee and Employer are collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, Employee was an at-will employee of the Employer, and Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of January 1, 2025 (the “Separation Date”).

WHEREAS, in exchange for the consideration described herein, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, Employee has agreed to release Employer from all claims arising from or related to that employment relationship as stated in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. **Termination.** Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of the Separation Date. Employee shall not seek re-employment, recall, or reinstatement with the Employer in the future.

2. **Past Compensation.** Employee acknowledges and agrees that other than the compensation and benefits specifically described in this Agreement, Employee has been provided all compensation, fringe benefits, bonuses, and reimbursement for work-related expenses due to Employee.

3. **Final Paycheck.** Employee’s final paycheck, which will include compensation at Employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked through the Separation Date and any other benefits owed, will be issued on the next regularly scheduled payroll date following the Separation Date. Employee will receive this paycheck regardless of whether Employee signs this Agreement.

4. **Severance Payment.** In consideration for the waivers, releases, and covenants in this Agreement, Employer and Employee agree that:

a. Employee shall receive a lump sum severance payment in the amount of five (5) months of his current annual salary, plus paid health insurance for five (5) months, less applicable taxes and withholdings, and

b. Any investigations performed by Employer at the request of Employee are hereby terminated and Employee shall receive a lump sum payment in the amount of \$75,000, not subject to withholding, and Employer shall provide Employee a 1099-MISC for this amount.

c. Together, subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be the “Severance Payment.” The Severance Payment amounts will be paid within seven (7) calendar days following the full execution of this Agreement by all parties, or by December 17, 2024, whichever is earlier (the “Effective Date”).

d. The Severance Payment shall not be considered compensation for purposes of calculating benefits or contributions under the Company’s retirement plan. Employee may choose to reject health insurance coverage and receive the full cash value of the health insurance as part of the lump sum severance payment.

5. **Benefits and Insurance Coverage.** Employee's benefits, not including health insurance, are terminated upon the Separation Date.

6. **Unemployment Benefits.** The parties agree that the Employer will not contest Employee's application for benefits from the Unemployment Insurance Agency and will truthfully report all payments made to Employee. Ultimately, the decision regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits rests with the State of Michigan.

7. **General Release.** Employee voluntarily agrees to and hereby does knowingly, fully and completely waive and release any and all statutory, administrative or common law claims, rights or causes of action seeking damages, costs, expenses, compensation, or any other relief that he has or may have against Employer, its officers, agents, servants and employees, as well as any predecessor or successor and assigns to them, which arises out of or is in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment from Employer. This waiver and release includes but is not limited to claims, rights or causes of action involving: negligence; defamation; fraud or misrepresentation; invasion of privacy; due process of law under the United States Constitution or Michigan Constitution; wrongful discharge; violation of Employer personnel policies or any other Employer created policy regarding procedures related to the termination of Employee's employment; breach of contract (including breach of a collective bargaining agreement); violation of the Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act (MCL 423.501 *et seq.*); violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act (29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*); violation of the Michigan Paid Medical Leave Act (MCL 408.961 *et seq.*); violation of ERISA (29 U.S.C. § 1002 *et seq.*); violation of any and all state and federal employment discrimination laws including claims related to Employee's sex, race, religion, creed, national origin, height, weight, age and handicap under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000 *et seq.*), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act as modified by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act of 1990 (ADEA)(29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*), the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*), the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.*), Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*, and Michigan's Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act (MCL 37.1101 *et seq.*); violation of Michigan's Veteran's Preference Act (MCL 35.401 *et seq.*); violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act of 1994 (38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.*); and violation of Michigan's Whistleblowers' Protection Act (MCL 15.361 *et seq.*) or any other state or federal law or regulation protecting whistleblowers. This waiver and release applies to the right to initiate, proceed with or participate in any state or federal lawsuit, any local, state or federal administrative proceeding, or any arbitration proceeding arising out of or in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not include claims regarding the alleged breach of the terms of this Agreement or claims arising under Michigan's Workers Disability Compensation Act (MCL 418.101 *et seq.*). Employee acknowledges that Employee is not aware of, and has not reported, any claims for any injuries arising out of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not apply to rights or claims under the ADEA that may arise after the date of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit Employee from filing a charge or complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "EEOC"), including a challenge to the validity of this waiver agreement under the ADEA, or participating in any investigation or proceeding conducted by the EEOC, but Employee waives and releases any right to receive any monetary benefit or remedy resulting from any such EEOC charge. Employer releases any and all claims against Employee.

8. **Confidential Information.** Employee agrees that during the course of his employment with Employer, he was exposed to, and/or participated in, the development of confidential information of Employer (hereafter referred to as “Confidential Information”). Employee agrees that:

a. As of the date Employee signed this Agreement, Employee has returned to Employer all of Employer’s Confidential Information and/or other Employer property in his possession, custody, or control, whether in paper or electronic format. Employee also agrees that he will not retain any copies of Confidential Information in any form, whether on his personal computer, cell phone, PDA, in paper copies, or any other form; and

b. Employee will not, at any time, disclose or use, or assist in the disclosure or use of, any of Employer’s Confidential Information to anyone outside of Employer, and he will not use any of Employer’s Confidential Information for any purpose without prior express, written approval from Employer.

c. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, Employer agrees that all portions of Employee’s personnel file will be confidential and will not be divulged to the public. Employer acknowledges any violation of this provision of the Agreement will likely result in Employee and/or his family being subjected to harassment. Employer agrees that any violation of this provision on its part shall be compensable by liquidated damages in an amount no less than \$75,000.00 for each violation, in addition to legal fees and costs. In a dispute over this provision, Employee shall have the right to prove damages in excess of \$75,000.00. *Respondeat superior* is explicitly incorporated into this provision of the Agreement, and Employer acknowledges responsibility for the actions of its paid and unpaid employees, agents, commissioners, and representatives, without limitation.

9. **Non-Defamation.** Employee agrees not to disclose to the public or any person any defamatory or false information regarding Employer. Employer agrees that it shall not make, publish, or communicate any defamatory, disparaging, or false information regarding Employee.

10. **Equitable Relief.** Employee acknowledges that the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9 of this Agreement are reasonable and necessary for the reasonable protection of the interests of Employer. Employee further acknowledges that Employer would not have entered into this Agreement but for the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9. Employee acknowledges that a violation of this Agreement would result in irreparable harm to Employer and that damages would be an inadequate remedy. Therefore, Employee agrees that Employer is entitled, in addition to any other remedies, to injunctive relief to secure the specific performance of this Agreement and to prevent a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement, without any requirement that Employer post a bond as a condition of such relief. The issuance of an injunction shall not in any manner prevent Employer from seeking compensatory damages in addition thereto, including its attorney’s fees and costs, including investigation costs. Employee acknowledges and agrees that the remedies provided for in this Agreement are cumulative and are intended to be and are in addition to any other remedies available to Employer, either at law or in equity.

11. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement is the entire agreement between Employee and Employer and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous oral or written agreements

or understandings, except as otherwise stated herein. Any modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties to be binding.

12. **Heirs, Successors, and Assigns.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, representatives, successors and assigns to each party.

13. **Interpretation.** The terms of this Agreement are to be interpreted, construed, enforced, and performed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

14. **Severability.** If any one or more provisions of this Agreement are found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the parties intend that the entire Agreement shall not fail but shall be construed and enforced without the unenforceable provisions, which provisions shall be deemed severed.

15. **Waiver of Breach.** The waiver by either party of a breach or violation of any provision of this Agreement will not operate as or be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach hereof.

16. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and such counterparts may be obtained by PDF, e-mail, or facsimile transmission, each of which taken together will constitute one and the same instrument.

17. **No Admission of Liability.** Nothing contained in this Agreement will constitute or be treated as an admission by Employee or Employer of liability, wrongdoing, or violation of law. In response to any request for a reference, Employer will provide only Employee's most recent job title and dates of employment. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, all portions of Employee's personnel file will be kept confidential by Employer and will not be disclosed.

18. **Dispute Resolution.** Any controversy or claim arising from or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved by confidential arbitration before a panel of three (3) arbitrators. An arbitrator shall be selected by each of the parties, and the two arbitrators shall mutually select a third arbitrator to serve with them. Alternatively, the parties may agree to accept a single arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon by the parties. The arbitration may be conducted under the auspices or rules of the American Arbitration Association or JAMS. The arbitrator(s) may utilize the procedural rules of those entities in conducting the arbitration. The costs of arbitration (not including an individual party's attorneys' fees and expenses) shall be borne equally by the parties, except that the party prevailing at arbitration shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and reimbursement of its share of the costs of arbitration. Arbitration shall be held at a place of mutual choosing by the parties. If the parties cannot agree, then the arbitrators shall select a location. Any arbitral award determination shall be final and binding on the parties and may be entered as a judgement in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Employee acknowledges and represents the following to Employer: that Employee has read and understands this Agreement; that Employee has had sufficient opportunity to consider this Agreement; that Employee has been advised to consult with an attorney; that Employee understands the consequences of entering into this Agreement and the general release contained herein; that Employee is knowingly and voluntarily entering into this Agreement; and that Employee is legally competent to do so.**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Employee and Employer each has executed this Agreement as of the date indicated immediately below each signature.

**EMPLOYER**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYEE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ottawa County Clerk/Register

# Action Request



**Committee:** Board of Commissioners

**Meeting Date:** 12/19/2024

**Requesting Department:** Board of Commissioners

**Submitted By:** Chairperson

**Agenda Item:** Approval of Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin Wetmore pursuant to MCL 15.270(5)

## Suggested Motion:

To approve and authorize the Board Chairperson and Clerk/Register to sign the Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin Wetmore pursuant to MCL 15.270(5).

## Summary of Request:

## Financial Information:

Total Cost:	General Fund Cost:	Included in Budget:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

**Action is Related to an Activity Which Is:**  Mandated  Non-Mandated  New Activity

**Action is Related to Strategic Plan:**

Goal:

Objective:

**Administration:**  Recommended  Not Recommended  Without Recommendation  
County Administrator:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

## SEPARATION AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

This Separation and Release Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Employee”) and the County of Ottawa, Michigan (“Employer”). The Employee and Employer are collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, Employee was an at-will employee of the Employer, and Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of January 1, 2025 (the “Separation Date”).

WHEREAS, in exchange for the consideration described herein, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, Employee has agreed to release Employer from all claims arising from or related to that employment relationship as stated in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. **Termination.** Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of the Separation Date. Employee shall not seek re-employment, recall, or reinstatement with the Employer in the future.

2. **Past Compensation.** Employee acknowledges and agrees that other than the compensation and benefits specifically described in this Agreement, Employee has been provided all compensation, fringe benefits, bonuses, and reimbursement for work-related expenses due to Employee.

3. **Final Paycheck.** Employee’s final paycheck, which will include compensation at Employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked through the Separation Date and any other benefits owed, will be issued on the next regularly scheduled payroll date following the Separation Date. Employee will receive this paycheck regardless of whether Employee signs this Agreement.

4. **Severance Payment.** In consideration for the waivers, releases, and covenants in this Agreement, Employer and Employee agree that:

a. Employee shall receive a lump sum severance payment in the amount of twelve (12) months of his current annual salary, less applicable taxes and withholdings (the “Severance Payment”).

b. The Severance Payment amounts will be paid within seven (7) calendar days following the full execution of this Agreement by all parties, or by December 17, 2024, whichever is earlier (the “Effective Date”).

c. The Severance Payment shall not be considered compensation for purposes of calculating benefits or contributions under the Company’s retirement plan.

5. **Benefits and Insurance Coverage.** Employee’s benefits are terminated upon the Separation Date.

6. **Unemployment Benefits.** The parties agree that the Employer will not contest Employee’s application for benefits from the Unemployment Insurance Agency and will truthfully

report all payments made to Employee. Ultimately, the decision regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits rests with the State of Michigan.

7. **General Release.** Employee voluntarily agrees to and hereby does knowingly, fully and completely waive and release any and all statutory, administrative or common law claims, rights or causes of action seeking damages, costs, expenses, compensation, or any other relief that he has or may have against Employer, its officers, agents, servants and employees, as well as any predecessor or successor and assigns to them, which arises out of or is in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment from Employer. This waiver and release includes but is not limited to claims, rights or causes of action involving: negligence; defamation; fraud or misrepresentation; invasion of privacy; due process of law under the United States Constitution or Michigan Constitution; wrongful discharge; violation of Employer personnel policies or any other Employer created policy regarding procedures related to the termination of Employee's employment; breach of contract (including breach of a collective bargaining agreement); violation of the Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act (MCL 423.501 *et seq.*); violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act (29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*); violation of the Michigan Paid Medical Leave Act (MCL 408.961 *et seq.*); violation of ERISA (29 U.S.C. § 1002 *et seq.*); violation of any and all state and federal employment discrimination laws including claims related to Employee's sex, race, religion, creed, national origin, height, weight, age and handicap under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000 *et seq.*), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act as modified by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act of 1990 (ADEA)(29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*), the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*), the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.*), Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*), and Michigan's Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act (MCL 37.1101 *et seq.*); violation of Michigan's Veteran's Preference Act (MCL 35.401 *et seq.*); violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act of 1994 (38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.*); and violation of Michigan's Whistleblowers' Protection Act (MCL 15.361 *et seq.*) or any other state or federal law or regulation protecting whistleblowers. This waiver and release applies to the right to initiate, proceed with or participate in any state or federal lawsuit, any local, state or federal administrative proceeding, or any arbitration proceeding arising out of or in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not include claims regarding the alleged breach of the terms of this Agreement or claims arising under Michigan's Workers Disability Compensation Act (MCL 418.101 *et seq.*). Employee acknowledges that Employee is not aware of, and has not reported, any claims for any injuries arising out of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not apply to rights or claims under the ADEA that may arise after the date of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit Employee from filing a charge or complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "EEOC"), including a challenge to the validity of this waiver agreement under the ADEA, or participating in any investigation or proceeding conducted by the EEOC, but Employee waives and releases any right to receive any monetary benefit or remedy resulting from any such EEOC charge. Employer releases any and all claims against Employee.

8. **Confidential Information.** Employee agrees that during the course of his employment with Employer, he was exposed to, and/or participated in, the development of confidential information of Employer (hereafter referred to as "Confidential Information"). Employee agrees that:

a. As of the date Employee signed this Agreement, Employee has returned to Employer all of Employer's Confidential Information and/or other Employer property in his possession, custody, or control, whether in paper or electronic format. Employee also agrees that he will not retain any copies of Confidential Information in any form, whether on his personal computer, cell phone, PDA, in paper copies, or any other form; and

b. Employee will not, at any time, disclose or use, or assist in the disclosure or use of, any of Employer's Confidential Information to anyone outside of Employer, and he will not use any of Employer's Confidential Information for any purpose without prior express, written approval from Employer.

c. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, Employer agrees that all portions of Employee's personnel file will be confidential and will not be divulged to the public. Employer acknowledges any violation of this provision of the Agreement will likely result in Employee and/or his family being subjected to harassment. Employer agrees that any violation of this provision on its part shall be compensable by liquidated damages in an amount no less than \$75,000.00 for each violation, in addition to legal fees and costs. In a dispute over this provision, Employee shall have the right to prove damages in excess of \$75,000.00. *Respondeat superior* is explicitly incorporated into this provision of the Agreement, and Employer acknowledges responsibility for the actions of its paid and unpaid employees, agents, commissioners, and representatives, without limitation.

9. **Non-Defamation.** Employee agrees not to disclose to the public or any person any defamatory or false information regarding Employer. Employer agrees that it shall not make, publish, or communicate any defamatory, disparaging, or false information regarding Employee.

10. **Equitable Relief.** Employee acknowledges that the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9 of this Agreement are reasonable and necessary for the reasonable protection of the interests of Employer. Employee further acknowledges that Employer would not have entered into this Agreement but for the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9. Employee acknowledges that a violation of this Agreement would result in irreparable harm to Employer and that damages would be an inadequate remedy. Therefore, Employee agrees that Employer is entitled, in addition to any other remedies, to injunctive relief to secure the specific performance of this Agreement and to prevent a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement, without any requirement that Employer post a bond as a condition of such relief. The issuance of an injunction shall not in any manner prevent Employer from seeking compensatory damages in addition thereto, including its attorney's fees and costs, including investigation costs. Employee acknowledges and agrees that the remedies provided for in this Agreement are cumulative and are intended to be and are in addition to any other remedies available to Employer, either at law or in equity.

11. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement is the entire agreement between Employee and Employer and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous oral or written agreements or understandings, except as otherwise stated herein. Any modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties to be binding.

12. **Heirs, Successors, and Assigns.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, representatives, successors and assigns to each party.

13. **Interpretation.** The terms of this Agreement are to be interpreted, construed, enforced, and performed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

14. **Severability.** If any one or more provisions of this Agreement are found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the parties intend that the entire Agreement shall not fail but shall be construed and enforced without the unenforceable provisions, which provisions shall be deemed severed.

15. **Waiver of Breach.** The waiver by either party of a breach or violation of any provision of this Agreement will not operate as or be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach hereof.

16. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and such counterparts may be obtained by PDF, e-mail, or facsimile transmission, each of which taken together will constitute one and the same instrument.

17. **No Admission of Liability.** Nothing contained in this Agreement will constitute or be treated as an admission by Employee or Employer of liability, wrongdoing, or violation of law. In response to any request for a reference, Employer will provide only Employee's most recent job title and dates of employment. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, all portions of Employee's personnel file will be kept confidential by Employer and will not be disclosed.

18. **Dispute Resolution.** Any controversy or claim arising from or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved by confidential arbitration before a panel of three (3) arbitrators. An arbitrator shall be selected by each of the parties, and the two arbitrators shall mutually select a third arbitrator to serve with them. Alternatively, the parties may agree to accept a single arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon by the parties. The arbitration may be conducted under the auspices or rules of the American Arbitration Association or JAMS. The arbitrator(s) may utilize the procedural rules of those entities in conducting the arbitration. The costs of arbitration (not including an individual party's attorneys' fees and expenses) shall be borne equally by the parties, except that the party prevailing at arbitration shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and reimbursement of its share of the costs of arbitration. Arbitration shall be held at a place of mutual choosing by the parties. If the parties cannot agree, then the arbitrators shall select a location. Any arbitral award determination shall be final and binding on the parties and may be entered as a judgement in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Employee acknowledges and represents the following to Employer: that Employee has read and understands this Agreement; that Employee has had sufficient opportunity to consider this Agreement; that Employee has been advised to consult with an attorney; that Employee understands the consequences of entering into this Agreement and the general release contained herein; that Employee is knowingly and voluntarily entering into this Agreement; and that Employee is legally competent to do so.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Employee and Employer each has executed this Agreement as of the date indicated immediately below each signature.

**EMPLOYER**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYEE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ottawa County Clerk/Register

# Action Request



<b>Committee:</b>	Board of Commissioners
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	12/19/2024
<b>Requesting Department:</b>	Board of Commissioners
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Chairman
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Approval of Amended Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson

## Suggested Motion:

To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Amended Separation and Release Agreement with Jordan Epperson.

## Summary of Request:

## Financial Information:

Total Cost:	General Fund Cost:	Included in Budget:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

<b>Action is Related to an Activity Which Is:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Mandated	<input type="checkbox"/> New Activity
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**Action is Related to Strategic Plan:**

Goal:

Objective:

<b>Administration:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Without Recommendation
County Administrator:			

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:



## AMENDED SEPARATION AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

This Separation and Release Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Employee”) and the County of Ottawa, Michigan (“Employer”). The Employee and Employer are collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, Employee was an at-will employee of the Employer, and Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of January 1, 2025 (the “Separation Date”).

WHEREAS, in exchange for the consideration described herein, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, Employee has agreed to release Employer from all claims arising from or related to that employment relationship as stated in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. **Termination.** Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of the Separation Date. Employee shall not seek re-employment, recall, or reinstatement with the Employer in the future.

2. **Past Compensation.** Employee acknowledges and agrees that other than the compensation and benefits specifically described in this Agreement, Employee has been provided all compensation, fringe benefits, bonuses, and reimbursement for work-related expenses due to Employee.

3. **Final Paycheck.** Employee’s final paycheck, which will include compensation at Employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked through the Separation Date and any other benefits owed, will be issued on the next regularly scheduled payroll date following the Separation Date. Employee will receive this paycheck regardless of whether Employee signs this Agreement.

4. **Severance Payment.** In consideration for the waivers, releases, and covenants in this Agreement, Employer and Employee agree that:

a. Employee shall receive a lump sum severance payment in the amount of five (5) months of his current annual salary, plus paid health insurance for five (5) months, less applicable taxes and withholdings, and

b. Any investigations performed by Employer at the request of Employee are hereby terminated and Employee shall receive a lump sum payment in the amount of \$75,000.00, not subject to withholding, and Employer shall provide Employee a 1099-MISC for this amount.

c. Together, subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be the “Severance Payment.” The Severance Payment amounts will be paid within four (4) calendar days following the full execution of this Agreement by all parties, or by December 23, 2024, whichever is earlier (the “Effective Date”).

d. The Severance Payment shall not be considered compensation for purposes of calculating benefits or contributions under the Company’s retirement plan. Employee may choose to reject health insurance coverage and receive the full cash value of the health insurance as part of the lump sum severance payment.

5. **Benefits and Insurance Coverage.** Employee's benefits, not including health insurance, are terminated upon the Separation Date.

6. **Unemployment Benefits.** The parties agree that the Employer will not contest Employee's application for benefits from the Unemployment Insurance Agency and will truthfully report all payments made to Employee. Ultimately, the decision regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits rests with the State of Michigan.

7. **General Release.** Employee voluntarily agrees to and hereby does knowingly, fully and completely waive and release any and all statutory, administrative or common law claims, rights or causes of action seeking damages, costs, expenses, compensation, or any other relief that he has or may have against Employer, its officers, agents, servants and employees, as well as any predecessor or successor and assigns to them, which arises out of or is in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment from Employer. This waiver and release includes but is not limited to claims, rights or causes of action involving: negligence; defamation; fraud or misrepresentation; invasion of privacy; due process of law under the United States Constitution or Michigan Constitution; wrongful discharge; violation of Employer personnel policies or any other Employer created policy regarding procedures related to the termination of Employee's employment; breach of contract (including breach of a collective bargaining agreement); violation of the Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act (MCL 423.501 *et seq.*); violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act (29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*); violation of the Michigan Paid Medical Leave Act (MCL 408.961 *et seq.*); violation of ERISA (29 U.S.C. § 1002 *et seq.*); violation of any and all state and federal employment discrimination laws including claims related to Employee's sex, race, religion, creed, national origin, height, weight, age and handicap under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000 *et seq.*), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act as modified by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act of 1990 (ADEA)(29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*), the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*), the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.*), Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*, and Michigan's Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act (MCL 37.1101 *et seq.*); violation of Michigan's Veteran's Preference Act (MCL 35.401 *et seq.*); violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act of 1994 (38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.*); and violation of Michigan's Whistleblowers' Protection Act (MCL 15.361 *et seq.*) or any other state or federal law or regulation protecting whistleblowers. This waiver and release applies to the right to initiate, proceed with or participate in any state or federal lawsuit, any local, state or federal administrative proceeding, or any arbitration proceeding arising out of or in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not include claims regarding the alleged breach of the terms of this Agreement or claims arising under Michigan's Workers Disability Compensation Act (MCL 418.101 *et seq.*). Employee acknowledges that Employee is not aware of, and has not reported, any claims for any injuries arising out of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not apply to rights or claims under the ADEA that may arise after the date of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit Employee from filing a charge or complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "EEOC"), including a challenge to the validity of this waiver agreement under the ADEA, or participating in any investigation or proceeding conducted by the EEOC, but Employee waives and releases any right to receive any monetary benefit or remedy resulting from any such EEOC charge. Employer releases any and all claims against Employee.

8. **Confidential Information.** Employee agrees that during the course of his employment with Employer, he was exposed to, and/or participated in, the development of confidential information of Employer (hereafter referred to as “Confidential Information”). Employee agrees that:

a. As of the Separation Date, Employee has returned to Employer all of Employer’s Confidential Information and/or other Employer property in his possession, custody, or control, whether in paper or electronic format. Employee also agrees that he will not retain any copies of Confidential Information in any form, whether on his personal computer, cell phone, PDA, in paper copies, or any other form; and

b. Employee will not, at any time, disclose or use, or assist in the disclosure or use of, any of Employer’s Confidential Information to anyone outside of Employer, and he will not use any of Employer’s Confidential Information for any purpose without prior express, written approval from Employer.

c. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, Employer agrees that all portions of Employee’s personnel file will be confidential and will not be divulged to the public. Employer acknowledges any violation of this provision of the Agreement will likely result in Employee and/or his family being subjected to harassment. Employer agrees that any violation of this provision on its part shall be compensable by liquidated damages in an amount no less than \$75,000.00 for each violation, in addition to legal fees and costs. In a dispute over this provision, Employee shall have the right to prove damages in excess of \$75,000.00. *Respondeat superior* is explicitly incorporated into this provision of the Agreement, and Employer acknowledges responsibility for the actions of its paid and unpaid employees, agents, commissioners, and representatives, without limitation.

9. **Non-Defamation.** Employee agrees not to disclose to the public or any person any defamatory or false information regarding Employer. Employer agrees that it shall not make, publish, or communicate any defamatory, disparaging, or false information regarding Employee.

10. **Equitable Relief.** Employee acknowledges that the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9 of this Agreement are reasonable and necessary for the reasonable protection of the interests of Employer. Employee further acknowledges that Employer would not have entered into this Agreement but for the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9. Employee acknowledges that a violation of this Agreement would result in irreparable harm to Employer and that damages would be an inadequate remedy. Therefore, Employee agrees that Employer is entitled, in addition to any other remedies, to injunctive relief to secure the specific performance of this Agreement and to prevent a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement, without any requirement that Employer post a bond as a condition of such relief. The issuance of an injunction shall not in any manner prevent Employer from seeking compensatory damages in addition thereto, including its attorney’s fees and costs, including investigation costs. Employee acknowledges and agrees that the remedies provided for in this Agreement are cumulative and are intended to be and are in addition to any other remedies available to Employer, either at law or in equity.

11. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement is the entire agreement between Employee and Employer and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous oral or written agreements

or understandings, except as otherwise stated herein. Any modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties to be binding.

12. **Heirs, Successors, and Assigns.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, representatives, successors and assigns to each party.

13. **Interpretation.** The terms of this Agreement are to be interpreted, construed, enforced, and performed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

14. **Severability.** If any one or more provisions of this Agreement are found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the parties intend that the entire Agreement shall not fail but shall be construed and enforced without the unenforceable provisions, which provisions shall be deemed severed.

15. **Waiver of Breach.** The waiver by either party of a breach or violation of any provision of this Agreement will not operate as or be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach hereof.

16. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and such counterparts may be obtained by PDF, e-mail, or facsimile transmission, each of which taken together will constitute one and the same instrument.

17. **No Admission of Liability.** Nothing contained in this Agreement will constitute or be treated as an admission by Employee or Employer of liability, wrongdoing, or violation of law. In response to any request for a reference, Employer will provide only Employee's most recent job title and dates of employment. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, all portions of Employee's personnel file will be kept confidential by Employer and will not be disclosed.

18. **Dispute Resolution.** Any controversy or claim arising from or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved by confidential arbitration before a panel of three (3) arbitrators. An arbitrator shall be selected by each of the parties, and the two arbitrators shall mutually select a third arbitrator to serve with them. Alternatively, the parties may agree to accept a single arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon by the parties. The arbitration may be conducted under the auspices or rules of the American Arbitration Association or JAMS. The arbitrator(s) may utilize the procedural rules of those entities in conducting the arbitration. The costs of arbitration (not including an individual party's attorneys' fees and expenses) shall be borne equally by the parties, except that the party prevailing at arbitration shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and reimbursement of its share of the costs of arbitration. Arbitration shall be held at a place of mutual choosing by the parties. If the parties cannot agree, then the arbitrators shall select a location. Any arbitral award determination shall be final and binding on the parties and may be entered as a judgement in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Employee acknowledges and represents the following to Employer: that Employee has read and understands this Agreement; that Employee has had sufficient opportunity to consider this Agreement; that Employee has been advised to consult with an attorney; that Employee understands the consequences of entering into this Agreement and the general release contained herein; that Employee is knowingly and voluntarily entering into this Agreement; and that Employee is legally competent to do so.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Employee and Employer each has executed this Agreement as of the date indicated immediately below each signature.

**EMPLOYER**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Board Chair  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYEE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Jordan Epperson  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ottawa County Clerk/Register

# Action Request



<b>Committee:</b>	Board of Commissioners
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	12/19/2024
<b>Requesting Department:</b>	Board of Commissioners
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Chairman
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Approval of Amended Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin Wetmore

## Suggested Motion:

To approve and authorize the Board Chair and Clerk/Register to sign the Amended Separation and Release Agreement with Benjamin Wetmore.

## Summary of Request:

## Financial Information:

Total Cost:	General Fund Cost:	Included in Budget:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

**Action is Related to an Activity Which Is:**  Mandated  Non-Mandated  New Activity

**Action is Related to Strategic Plan:**

Goal:

Objective:

**Administration:**  Recommended  Not Recommended  Without Recommendation  
County Administrator:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

## AMENDED SEPARATION AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

This Separation and Release Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and \_\_\_\_\_ (“Employee”) and the County of Ottawa, Michigan (“Employer”). The Employee and Employer are collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, Employee was an at-will employee of the Employer, and Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of January 1, 2025 (the “Separation Date”).

WHEREAS, in exchange for the consideration described herein, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, Employee has agreed to release Employer from all claims arising from or related to that employment relationship as stated in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. **Termination.** Employee’s employment with the Employer terminated as of the Separation Date. Employee shall not seek re-employment, recall, or reinstatement with the Employer in the future.

2. **Past Compensation.** Employee acknowledges and agrees that other than the compensation and benefits specifically described in this Agreement, Employee has been provided all compensation, fringe benefits, bonuses, and reimbursement for work-related expenses due to Employee.

3. **Final Paycheck.** Employee’s final paycheck, which will include compensation at Employee’s regular rate of pay for all hours worked through the Separation Date and any other benefits owed, will be issued on the next regularly scheduled payroll date following the Separation Date. Employee will receive this paycheck regardless of whether Employee signs this Agreement.

4. **Severance Payment.** In consideration for the waivers, releases, and covenants in this Agreement, Employer and Employee agree that:

a. Employee shall receive a lump sum severance payment in the amount of twelve (12) months of his current annual salary, less applicable taxes and withholdings (the “Severance Payment”).

b. The Severance Payment amounts will be paid within four (4) calendar days following the full execution of this Agreement by all parties, or by December 23, 2024, whichever is earlier (the “Effective Date”).

c. The Severance Payment shall not be considered compensation for purposes of calculating benefits or contributions under the Company’s retirement plan.

5. **Benefits and Insurance Coverage.** Employee’s benefits are terminated upon the Separation Date.

6. **Unemployment Benefits.** The parties agree that the Employer will not contest Employee’s application for benefits from the Unemployment Insurance Agency and will truthfully

report all payments made to Employee. Ultimately, the decision regarding eligibility for unemployment benefits rests with the State of Michigan.

7. **General Release.** Employee voluntarily agrees to and hereby does knowingly, fully and completely waive and release any and all statutory, administrative or common law claims, rights or causes of action seeking damages, costs, expenses, compensation, or any other relief that he has or may have against Employer, its officers, agents, servants and employees, as well as any predecessor or successor and assigns to them, which arises out of or is in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment from Employer. This waiver and release includes but is not limited to claims, rights or causes of action involving: negligence; defamation; fraud or misrepresentation; invasion of privacy; due process of law under the United States Constitution or Michigan Constitution; wrongful discharge; violation of Employer personnel policies or any other Employer created policy regarding procedures related to the termination of Employee's employment; breach of contract (including breach of a collective bargaining agreement); violation of the Bullard-Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act (MCL 423.501 *et seq.*); violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act (29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.*); violation of the Michigan Paid Medical Leave Act (MCL 408.961 *et seq.*); violation of ERISA (29 U.S.C. § 1002 *et seq.*); violation of any and all state and federal employment discrimination laws including claims related to Employee's sex, race, religion, creed, national origin, height, weight, age and handicap under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000 *et seq.*), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act as modified by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act of 1990 (ADEA)(29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*), the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*), the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.*), Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*), and Michigan's Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act (MCL 37.1101 *et seq.*); violation of Michigan's Veteran's Preference Act (MCL 35.401 *et seq.*); violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Rights Act of 1994 (38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.*); and violation of Michigan's Whistleblowers' Protection Act (MCL 15.361 *et seq.*) or any other state or federal law or regulation protecting whistleblowers. This waiver and release applies to the right to initiate, proceed with or participate in any state or federal lawsuit, any local, state or federal administrative proceeding, or any arbitration proceeding arising out of or in any way connected with Employee's employment at or the termination of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not include claims regarding the alleged breach of the terms of this Agreement or claims arising under Michigan's Workers Disability Compensation Act (MCL 418.101 *et seq.*). Employee acknowledges that Employee is not aware of, and has not reported, any claims for any injuries arising out of Employee's employment with Employer. This waiver and release does not apply to rights or claims under the ADEA that may arise after the date of this Agreement, nor does it prohibit Employee from filing a charge or complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "EEOC"), including a challenge to the validity of this waiver agreement under the ADEA, or participating in any investigation or proceeding conducted by the EEOC, but Employee waives and releases any right to receive any monetary benefit or remedy resulting from any such EEOC charge. Employer releases any and all claims against Employee.

8. **Confidential Information.** Employee agrees that during the course of his employment with Employer, he was exposed to, and/or participated in, the development of confidential information of Employer (hereafter referred to as "Confidential Information"). Employee agrees that:



a. As of the Separation Date, Employee has returned to Employer all of Employer's Confidential Information and/or other Employer property in his possession, custody, or control, whether in paper or electronic format. Employee also agrees that he will not retain any copies of Confidential Information in any form, whether on his personal computer, cell phone, PDA, in paper copies, or any other form; and

b. Employee will not, at any time, disclose or use, or assist in the disclosure or use of, any of Employer's Confidential Information to anyone outside of Employer, and he will not use any of Employer's Confidential Information for any purpose without prior express, written approval from Employer.

c. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, Employer agrees that all portions of Employee's personnel file will be confidential and will not be divulged to the public. Employer acknowledges any violation of this provision of the Agreement will likely result in Employee and/or his family being subjected to harassment. Employer agrees that any violation of this provision on its part shall be compensable by liquidated damages in an amount no less than \$75,000.00 for each violation, in addition to legal fees and costs. In a dispute over this provision, Employee shall have the right to prove damages in excess of \$75,000.00. *Respondeat superior* is explicitly incorporated into this provision of the Agreement, and Employer acknowledges responsibility for the actions of its paid and unpaid employees, agents, commissioners, and representatives, without limitation.

9. **Non-Defamation.** Employee agrees not to disclose to the public or any person any defamatory or false information regarding Employer. Employer agrees that it shall not make, publish, or communicate any defamatory, disparaging, or false information regarding Employee.

10. **Equitable Relief.** Employee acknowledges that the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9 of this Agreement are reasonable and necessary for the reasonable protection of the interests of Employer. Employee further acknowledges that Employer would not have entered into this Agreement but for the restrictions contained in Sections 8 and 9. Employee acknowledges that a violation of this Agreement would result in irreparable harm to Employer and that damages would be an inadequate remedy. Therefore, Employee agrees that Employer is entitled, in addition to any other remedies, to injunctive relief to secure the specific performance of this Agreement and to prevent a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement, without any requirement that Employer post a bond as a condition of such relief. The issuance of an injunction shall not in any manner prevent Employer from seeking compensatory damages in addition thereto, including its attorney's fees and costs, including investigation costs. Employee acknowledges and agrees that the remedies provided for in this Agreement are cumulative and are intended to be and are in addition to any other remedies available to Employer, either at law or in equity.

11. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement is the entire agreement between Employee and Employer and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous oral or written agreements or understandings, except as otherwise stated herein. Any modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties to be binding.

12. **Heirs, Successors, and Assigns.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, representatives, successors and assigns to each party.

13. **Interpretation.** The terms of this Agreement are to be interpreted, construed, enforced, and performed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

14. **Severability.** If any one or more provisions of this Agreement are found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the parties intend that the entire Agreement shall not fail but shall be construed and enforced without the unenforceable provisions, which provisions shall be deemed severed.

15. **Waiver of Breach.** The waiver by either party of a breach or violation of any provision of this Agreement will not operate as or be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach hereof.

16. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and such counterparts may be obtained by PDF, e-mail, or facsimile transmission, each of which taken together will constitute one and the same instrument.

17. **No Admission of Liability.** Nothing contained in this Agreement will constitute or be treated as an admission by Employee or Employer of liability, wrongdoing, or violation of law. In response to any request for a reference, Employer will provide only Employee's most recent job title and dates of employment. Except as required to be disclosed by law, including, but not limited to, the Freedom of Information Act, all portions of Employee's personnel file will be kept confidential by Employer and will not be disclosed.

18. **Dispute Resolution.** Any controversy or claim arising from or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved by confidential arbitration before a panel of three (3) arbitrators. An arbitrator shall be selected by each of the parties, and the two arbitrators shall mutually select a third arbitrator to serve with them. Alternatively, the parties may agree to accept a single arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon by the parties. The arbitration may be conducted under the auspices or rules of the American Arbitration Association or JAMS. The arbitrator(s) may utilize the procedural rules of those entities in conducting the arbitration. The costs of arbitration (not including an individual party's attorneys' fees and expenses) shall be borne equally by the parties, except that the party prevailing at arbitration shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and reimbursement of its share of the costs of arbitration. Arbitration shall be held at a place of mutual choosing by the parties. If the parties cannot agree, then the arbitrators shall select a location. Any arbitral award determination shall be final and binding on the parties and may be entered as a judgement in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Employee acknowledges and represents the following to Employer: that Employee has read and understands this Agreement; that Employee has had sufficient opportunity to consider this Agreement; that Employee has been advised to consult with an attorney; that Employee understands the consequences of entering into this Agreement and the general release contained herein; that Employee is knowingly and voluntarily entering into this Agreement; and that Employee is legally competent to do so.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Employee and Employer each has executed this Agreement as of the date indicated immediately below each signature.

**EMPLOYER**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Board Chair  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYEE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Benjamin Wetmore  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ottawa County Clerk/Register

# Action Request



**Committee:** Board of Commissioners

**Meeting Date:** 12/19/2024

**Requesting Department:** Administration

**Submitted By:** Benjamin Wetmore

**Agenda Item:** Agreement for County Pregnancy Resources

## Suggested Motion:

To approve and authorize the Board Chairperson/Clerk to sign an agreement with Protect Life Michigan for County Pregnancy Resources and to appropriate a grant for Pregnancy Resources Assistance to Protect Life Michigan in the amount of \$177,270 per year for two (2) years out of Board Initiatives for a total of \$345,540.00.

## Summary of Request:

## Financial Information:

Total Cost: \$345,540.00	General Fund Cost: \$0.00	Included in Budget:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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If not included in budget, recommended funding source:

Board Initiatives

**Action is Related to an Activity Which Is:**  Mandated  Non-Mandated  New Activity

**Action is Related to Strategic Plan:**

Goal:

Objective:

**Administration:**  Recommended  Not Recommended  Without Recommendation  
County Administrator:

Committee/Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:

## **AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made between Ottawa County, a State of Michigan political subdivision (hereinafter "County"), and Protect Life Michigan (hereinafter "Recipient").

**WHEREAS**, the County has committed to support women who make a choice for life for their preborn children;

**WHEREAS**, Ottawa County has recognized the importance of providing resources for expectant mothers and fathers, preborn babies, and young children;

**WHEREAS**, Ottawa County has recognized the importance of assisting mothers and fathers in life affirming decisions in unplanned pregnancies;

**WHEREAS**, the County has allocated funding to support community projects that align with these goals and to connect these residents and vulnerable populations with available County resources;

**WHEREAS**, the Recipient is a Michigan-based nonprofit charitable organization and has submitted a written request to the County for two years of annual funding, which amounts to \$177,270 in annual funds, to finance the following project: Supporting Families and Encouraging Healthy Family Choices in Ottawa County;

**WHEREAS**, during their regular public meeting on December 19, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter "Board") approved the aforementioned request from the Recipient subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement");

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, and the terms and conditions set forth below, the parties agree as follows:

### **1. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM**

This Agreement shall commence when last executed by all parties and remain in effect until two years from the date of the full transfer of the first year's funds, or until the conditions and/or limitations described are fulfilled or expire.

### **2. SERVICE CONTRACT FUNDS TO BE DISSEMINATED TO RECIPIENT**

The total annual award of funds to be disseminated by the County to the Recipient, as part of this Agreement, shall not exceed \$177,270 per year. The total amount authorized under this arrangement is \$345,540.00

### **3. LIMITATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF FUNDS**

The Recipient shall ensure that all expenditures utilizing Funds received in accordance with this Agreement are limited to those services and activities described. The Recipient also agrees to use best efforts and good faith to achieve the metrics set forth. Additionally, the Recipient shall ensure that all expenditures utilizing Funds are consistent with its application for such funds and all supporting materials incorporated by reference herein.

### **4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS AGREEMENT**

To ensure compliance with the standards and metrics set forth, when requesting payment for eligible Funds, recipient shall provide the County's Fiscal Services Department with:

- a) Metrics met to date
- b) Any and all other information relevant to the fulfillment of this contract's purposes
- c) Receipts for expenses

These reports will be quarterly, starting from three months from the start of the first full transmission of the annual funds.

No payment requests may be submitted after two years from the date of the first year's transfer of funds, unless this Agreement is amended.

### **5. DISSEMINATION OF FUNDS TO RECIPIENT**

The County shall disseminate annual Funds under this contract by 7 days from ratification, or by December 28, 2024, whichever is earlier.

### **6. EVOLUTION OF PROJECT GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNTY**

The purpose of the Agreement is to provide for on-site and effective engagement with vulnerable populations in Ottawa County. This Agreement will prioritize the connection of services, resources, and support for populations that are at financial, social, mental, and abuse risk, for decisions related to family support.

The Agreement will also include developed metrics related to a survey of affordable housing for key populations, along with an estimation as to the current needs for available housing for new and struggling families, as well as at-risk new families in the workforce and on college campuses.

The County may request additional information from the Recipient as needed to meet any additional reasonable guidelines, and additional information or requests may be considered 'change orders' that require additional funds for the Recipient to perform. The

County reserves the right to update these guidelines during the term of this Agreement if they are mutually-agreed to by the parties.

**7. TERMINATION**

The County may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice to the Recipient if the County considers the Recipient to be in material breach of this Agreement. The Recipient will have sixty (60) days from receiving specific notice of breach, to cure such breach. In the event of termination, the County may, at its discretion, require the Recipient to return unspent Funds and permits the Recipient to retain up to 25% of remaining funds for administrative and wind-down expenses. Disputes regarding termination or repayment shall be resolved through binding arbitration conducted by the American Arbitration Association, with all costs borne by the County.

**8. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

Each party under this Agreement shall be considered an independent contractor. This Agreement does not create an association, partnership, joint venture, or employer-employee relationship between the parties.

**9. HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFICATION**

The Recipient agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the County harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, or losses alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the Recipient's performance under this Agreement.

**10. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND GUIDELINES**

The Recipient shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws while operating the funded project.

**11. MAINTENANCE AND AUDIT OF RECORDS**

The Recipient shall maintain all records relevant to its performance under this Agreement and allow inspection or audit by the County. If unallowable costs are identified, the Recipient shall promptly reimburse the County.

## 12. NOTICES

Notices under this Agreement shall be sent by email to:

**\*\*Recipient:\*\***

Trevor Polo  
Representative  
Protect Life Michigan  
P.O. Box 23042  
Lansing, MI 48909  
trevor@protectlifemi.org

**\*\*County:\*\***

Fiscal Services Director  
Karen Karasinski  
12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460  
kkarasinski@miottawa.org



**AUTHORIZATION**

Each party signing below warrants that they have full authority to execute this Agreement.

**\*\*FOR THE RECIPIENT:\*\***

Protect Life Michigan

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Trevor Polo

Title: Representative

**\*\*FOR THE COUNTY:\*\***

Ottawa County, Michigan

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Joe Moss

Title: Chairman, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_

County Clerk/Register



## Supporting Families and Encouraging Life-Affirming Choices in Ottawa County

### A Proposal for Funding from Protect Life Michigan

#### Why This Is Needed

Through educational resources, as well as by connecting women to financial, mental health, and material resources, we can help ensure that men and women in Ottawa County have the resources they need to raise their families, as well as access to information to make informed decisions. 74% of women who choose not to carry their child to term in the U.S. express that they cannot afford a child, or do not feel that they are prepared for motherhood. It should be our goal to ensure that all women have the resources needed to support a life affirming decision for their child when they desire to.

#### What This Will Fund

- Research on why men and women make decisions about raising children and adoption
- Development of messaging to help connect women with local, state, and federal resources to meet their material and financial needs while pregnant and beyond
- Spreading awareness through digital and traditional methods to educate men and women about pregnancy options and connect them with the resources they need
- Educational efforts on campuses and in communities across Ottawa County to spread awareness about resources & options available to pregnant mothers and parents
- Distribution of material resources (e.g. pregnancy tests) to parenting-aged students at Grand Valley, Hope College, etc. to help them make informed decisions
- Hiring staff in Ottawa County that will help coordinate educational efforts to people in the area and connect them with available organizations and resources

Budget Item	Description	Amount
Staffing	The hiring and management of part-time staff in Ottawa to educate regarding pregnancy options and connect people with resources available to support the decision to parent or adopt.	\$77,270
Research and Content Development	Research residents' views and the factors that impact their choice to parent in order to develop effective outreach and messaging to enhance the ability to make resources known and available to expectant mothers and fathers.	\$55,000
Educational Outreach	Various forms of community outreach regarding pregnancy options and the resources available to those who may be considering parenting in Ottawa County.	\$10,000
Digital Awareness Campaign	Targeted digital messaging to men and women of parenting age connecting them with resources in and around Ottawa County that can help mitigate material, financial, and mental challenges that pregnant mothers or parents may face.	\$35,000