

Allegan County Board of Commissioners



County Services Building
3283 – 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0203 Main Office
269-686-5331 Main Fax
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

*Jim Storey, Chairperson
Dean Kapenga, Vice Chairperson*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING – AGENDA *REVISION #1 – 6/20/23

Thursday, June 22, 2023 – 1 PM

County Services Building – Board Room

Virtual Connectivity Options Attached

DISTRICT 1

Jim Storey
616-848-9767
jstorey@
allegancounty.org

1 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

OPENING PRAYER: Commissioner Dean Kapenga

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC HEARING:

COMMUNICATIONS: Attached

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 8, 2023

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

PRESENTATIONS:

Retirement Recognition—Detective Christopher Haverdink

PROCLAMATIONS:

INFORMATIONAL SESSION:

Judge Michael Buck—Probate Court

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

DISTRICT 2

Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 3

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
dkapenga@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 4

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
sbeltman@
allegancounty.org

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (6/16/23 & 6/23/23)
-

ACTION ITEMS:

DISTRICT 5

Gale Dugan
269-694-5276
gdugan@
allegancounty.org

1. Courthouse/County Services Building—authorize request for proposal release
-

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan—approve Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) FY24 (227-538)
 2. *City of Otsego—Letter of Support for Spark Grant Application to replace Northside Park Playground Structure
-

Mission Statement

“The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper”

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS:

1. 911 Policy & Procedure Board (A)
 - a. Private Citizen—term expires 7/31/23
 - b. City/Village Government Representative—term expires 7/31/23
 - c. Emergency Services Representative—term expires 7/31/23
 - d. City/Village Police Chief—term expires 7/31/23
2. Economic Development (E)
 - a. Private Sector Representative—term expires 12/31/24

ELECTIONS:

1. Community Mental Health Board (E)
 - a. General Public Representative—term expires 3/31/25 [Application REC 5/9/23](#)

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Jury Board (Circuit Judge recommends)
 - a. One Representative—term expires 3/31/25
2. Soldiers/Sailors Relief Commission (concur Probate Judge appointment)
 - a. Peter Antkoviak—term expires 12/31/2025 [Appointment REC 6/8/23](#)
 - b. John W. Tyrrell—term expires 12/31/2025 [Appointment REC 6/8/23](#)
 - c. Michael Andrus—term expires 12/31/2025 [Appointment REC 6/8/23](#)
3. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - a. One Representative—term expires 12/31/2021 [Application REC 5/9/23](#)
4. Local Emergency Planning Committee
 - a. One Education Representative—term expired 12/31/22 [Application REC 5/9/23](#)
 - b. One Media Representative—term expired 12/31/22
 - c. *One Public Representative—term expires 12/31/25 [Application REC 6/20/23](#)
5. Tourist Council
 - a. One Representative—term expires 12/31/23
6. Solid Waste Planning Committee
 - a. One Solid Waste Industry Representative—term expired 12/31/20
 - b. One Solid Waste Industry Representative—term expired 12/31/19
 - c. One Township Representative—term expired 12/31/19
 - d. One General Public Representative—term expired 12/31/22
 - e. One Industrial Waste Generator Representative—term expired 12/31/20
 - f. One Regional Solid Waste Planning Rep—term expired 12/31/2022

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

3. OPENING PRAYER: Commissioner Jim Storey
4. INFORMATIONAL SESSION: OnPoint (formerly Community Mental Health Authority)—Mark Witte, Executive Director
5. CONSENT: Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (6/30/23 & 7/7/23 & 7/14/23)
6. ACTION: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan—approve Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) FY24

REQUEST FOR MILEAGE:

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS:

ROUND TABLE:

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting – July 13, 2023, 1 PM @ **BOARD ROOM – COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, COUNTY SERVICES COMPLEX.**

Please note that Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Commissioners held in the Board Room are streamed live and recorded in accordance with the County's Live Stream & Publishing Recordings of Meetings Policy, which can be viewed on the County's website.

Your attendance constitutes your consent to audio/visual streaming and/or recording and to permit the County to broadcast your name/voice/image/content to a broader audience.



Allegan County Board of Commissioners

STEP 1: Connect to the Meeting

- OPTION 1: Zoom over Telephone

- Call (929) 205-6099 -or- (312) 626-6799 -or- (253) 215-8782
- Type in Meeting ID: 891 6032 7098, then #, then # again
- Type in Meeting Password: 62223, then #

- To raise your hand to speak, press *9
- To Mute and Unmute, press *6

<STOP here>

You do not have to continue reading the rest of the instructions.

- OPTION 2: Youtube

- Open Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Navigate to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQIiZQstN2Pa57QAItAWdKA>
- Click on image of “Live” video

<STOP here>

You do not have to continue reading the rest of the instructions.

- OPTION 3: Zoom over Web browser

- Open Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Navigate to <https://zoom.us/j/89160327098>
- Meeting Password: 62223

<Continue with the rest of the instructions>

STEP 2: Enter registration information

Webinar Registration - Zoom

zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YneHxuk_SjqfnMwchbtUEg

Webinar Registration

Topic: BOC Meeting - 4/9/2020

Time: Apr 9, 2020 01:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)


* Required information

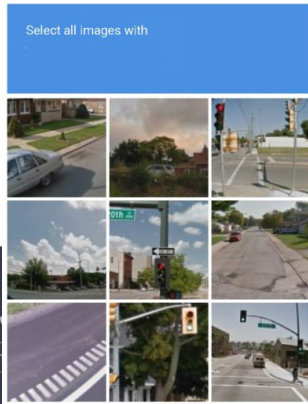
First Name *

Last Name *

Email Address *

Confirm Email Address *

I'm not a robot  reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms

Select all images with 

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US Dollars

Footer:

- About: Zoom Blog, Customers, Our Team, Why Zoom, Features, Careers, Integrations, Partners, Investors
- Download: Meetings Client, Zoom Rooms Client, Browser Extension, Outlook Plug-in, Lync Plug-in, iPhone/iPad App, Android App
- Sales: 1.888.799.9666, Contact Sales, Plans & Pricing, Request a Demo, Webinars and Events
- Support: Test Zoom, Account, Support Center, Live Training, Feedback, Contact Us, Accessibility

1. Enter name and email

2. Click this box

4. Click when done.

3. Answer challenge question

STEP 3: This Window will appear when connected.



STEP 4: Adjust audio settings (if needed)

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface with the 'Settings' window open to the 'Audio' tab. A vertical black bar on the left side of the meeting window has a blue arrow labeled '1' pointing to it. A blue arrow labeled '2' points from the 'Audio' tab in the settings window to the meeting content area. The meeting content area displays the name 'Economic Development - Greg King, Director' and 'ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:'. Below this, it says 'CONSENT ITEMS:' followed by a list item: '1. Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (3/20/20 & 3/27/20)'. The 'Settings' window shows the 'Speaker' section with 'Test Speaker' selected and 'Remote Audio' in a dropdown menu. The 'Volume' slider is set to approximately 80%. The 'Microphone' section has 'Test Mic' selected. The 'Volume' slider is also set to approximately 80%, and the 'Automatically adjust volume' checkbox is checked. Other options include 'Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously', 'Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting', 'Mute my microphone when joining a meeting', 'Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself', and 'Sync buttons on headset'. An 'Advanced' button is visible at the bottom right of the settings window. At the bottom of the meeting window, there are icons for 'Chat', 'Raise Hand', and 'Q&A'.

Settings

General

Video

Audio

Share Screen

Virtual Background

Recording

Statistics

Feedback

Keyboard Shortcuts

Accessibility

Speaker

Test Speaker Remote Audio

Output Level:

Volume:

Microphone

Test Mic

Input Level:

Volume:

Automatically adjust volume

Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously

Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting

Mute my microphone when joining a meeting

Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself

Sync buttons on headset

Advanced

269-673-4514
mthiele@allegancounty.org

Economic Development — Greg King, Director
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Motion to approve of claims paid and to incorporate into proceedings of the Board (3/20/20 & 3/27/20)

DISTRICT 4
Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@allegancounty.org

Audio Settings

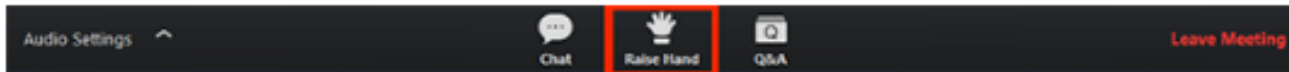
Chat Raise Hand Q&A

STEP 5: Raise hand to be recognized to speak.

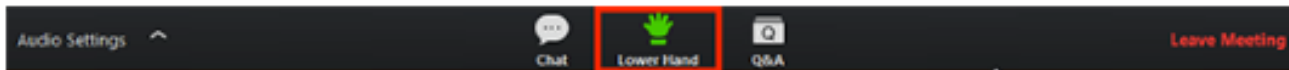
- Once “Raise Hand” is clicked, the Board Chairperson will receive notice and may UNMUTE your microphone when ready and verbally recognize you to speak.

On bottom of screen.

1. Click **Raise Hand** in the Webinar Controls.



2. The host will be notified that you've raised your hand.
3. Click **Lower Hand** to lower it if needed.



STEP 6: To leave the meeting

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a green banner reads "You are viewing Allegan County Administration's screen" with a "View Options" dropdown. In the top right corner, there is a "Enter Full Screen" button. The main content is a document viewer displaying a Microsoft Word document titled "BOC20200409_agenda [Compatibility Mode] - Word". The document header includes the "Allegan County Board of Commissioners" logo and contact information for County Services Building, including address, phone, fax, and website. Below the header, the document title is "BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING – AGENDA". The agenda items are listed by district: DISTRICT 1 (Dean Kasperge), DISTRICT 2 (Jim Storey), DISTRICT 3 (Max R. Thiele), and DISTRICT 4 (Mick DeYoung). The agenda items include "Virtual Meeting – Connectivity Instructions Attached", "1PM CALL TO ORDER:", "ROLL CALL:", "OPENING PRAYER:", "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:", "COMMUNICATIONS: Attached", "APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Attached", "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:", "ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:", "APPROVAL OF AGENDA:", "PRESENTATIONS:", "PROCLAMATIONS:", "INFORMATIONAL SESSION: Attached", and "ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:". At the bottom of the document viewer, it shows "PAGE 1 OF 2" and "251 WORDS". Below the document viewer is a Zoom meeting control bar with icons for "Audio Settings", "Chat", "Raise Hand", and "Q&A". A red "Leave Meeting" button is located in the bottom right corner of the control bar. A large blue arrow points to this button.

COUNTY OF OTTAWA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, held at the Fillmore Street Complex in the Township of Olive, Michigan on the 23rd day of May, 2023 at 6:30 PM local time.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Gretchen Cosby, Douglas Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Kyle Terpstra, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Lucy Ebel, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Roger Bergman.

It was moved by Commissioner Sylvia Rhodea and supported by Commissioner Allison Miedema that the following Resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners (“Board”) swore an oath to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Michigan, which protect the natural, God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Constitutions guarantee freedom of religion, speech, and assembly, the right to bear arms, due process of law, as well as provide other protections; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, as part of the Bill of Rights, instructs that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms, affirming that “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed”; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution (1963) provides that “Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state”; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that “No person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law,” and Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that “...nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”; and

WHEREAS, “The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects certain fundamental parental rights, including the right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children, to direct the upbringing and education of their children, the right to make medical decisions on behalf of their children, and, in conjunction with the First Amendment, to guide the religious future and education of their children”; and

WHEREAS, constitutional freedoms are not suspended in times of crisis or everyday life, at the whim of elected officials, unelected health officials, or for the benefit of government bureaucracy or private institutions; and

WHEREAS, the people of Ottawa County overwhelmingly spoke with their vote to restore and protect the constitutional rights of the people as a first priority of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, as reflected in the county’s new vision statement of “Where Freedom Rings”; and

WHEREAS, the Board is resolved to preserve freedom and constitutional rights in our beautiful county for future generations of all who live here; and

WHEREAS, a “Constitutional County” is a place of refuge for a law-abiding citizen in regards to the citizens’ rights under the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Michigan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board declares Ottawa County, Michigan to be a “Constitutional County” and resolves to protect the individual freedoms of the people of Ottawa County, as outlined in the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Michigan, to include freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, the right to keep and bear arms, and the right to due process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will not authorize or appropriate funds, resources, employees, agencies, contractors, buildings, or offices for the purpose of enforcing any statute, law, rule, order or regulation that restricts the rights of any law-

abiding citizen affirmed by the United States Constitution, nor be used to aid any state or federal agency in infringing or restricting such rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board affirms its support for the Ottawa County Sheriff and the Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney acting in a constitutional manner and acknowledges and respects their respective oaths of office. The Board strongly encourages them to continuously act in a constitutional manner, as is consistent with their oath of office, and, in the exercise of their duties, not enforce any statute, law, rule, order, or regulation that is contrary to the rights protected by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board respectfully requests that the Michigan Legislature, the United States Congress, and other agencies of the State and Federal government vigilantly preserve and protect these rights by rejecting the passage of or revoking any provision, statute, law, rule, order or regulation that may infringe, have potential to infringe, or place any additional burdens on the rights of law-abiding citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan Senators Mark Huizenga, Roger Victory, and Rick Outman, Michigan Representatives Nancy DeBoer, Luke Meerman, Brad Slagh, Rachelle Smit, and Greg VanWoerkom, U.S. Congressional Representatives Bill Huizenga, Hillary Scholten, and John Moolenaar, U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Kempker, and Ottawa County Prosecuting Attorney Lee Fisher; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to all Ottawa County department directors, to the Clerk of each county in the State of Michigan, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Association of Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be affixed to the wall of the board room of the Board as a promise to the people of Ottawa County and as a permanent reminder to elected officials and county employees that the constitutional rights of the people of Ottawa County shall be preserved and protected as the first priority.

YEAS: Commissioners: Gretchen Cosby, Jacob Bonnema, Kyle Terpstra, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Lucy Ebel, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss.

NAYS: Commissioners: Douglas Zylstra.

ABSTENTIONS: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED:



Joe Moss, Chairperson
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners



Justin F. Roebuck
Ottawa County Clerk/Register



Ottawa County

Clerk | Register of Deeds
Justin F. Roebuck

Justin F. Roebuck
County Clerk | Register of Deeds


Renee E. Kuiper
Chief Deputy County Clerk

Rachel A. Sanchez
Chief Deputy Register of Deeds

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS.
COUNTY OF OTTAWA)

I, JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of
Ottawa do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution
adopted by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on May 23,
2023. That I have compared the same with the original, and it is a true transcript therefrom,
and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand and affixed the official seal at Grand Haven,
Michigan this 7th day of June 2023.



JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK, Clerk of the
Board of County Commissioners

COUNTY OF OTTAWA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, held at the Fillmore Street Complex in the Township of Olive, Michigan on the 23rd day of May, 2023 at 6:30 PM local time.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Roger Belknap, Rebekah Curran, Allison Miedema, Kyle Terpstra, Gretchen Cosby, Douglas Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Sylvia Rhodea, Lucy Ebel, Joe Moss.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Roger Bergman.

It was moved by Commissioner Allison Miedema and supported by Commissioner Sylvia Rhodea that the following Resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, America is an exceptional nation made up of a beautiful people, who share a history of triumph over adversity; our freedom won through the sacrifice and blood of patriots, and our nation built on the strength of America's founding documents; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and our brave men and women have boldly protected the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for nearly 250 years; and

WHEREAS, we stand in remembrance of those who fought and died to defend and protect us, so that we can all live in freedom, and we are forever indebted to these men and women who demonstrated the greatest love for our country and grieve with their families; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the service, sacrifices, and contributions of veterans and military families for what they have done and what they continue to do every day to support our great nation; and

WHEREAS, we pay tribute to the next generation of Ottawa County citizens who serve in the United States Armed Forces— the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard, and they continue a legacy of unyielding patriotism, and represent the best of America; and

WHEREAS, as Ronald Reagan expressed, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free;” and

WHEREAS, the people of Ottawa County have a deep love for America, and we are a people jealous for liberty, which is essential for protecting our communities and nation; and

WHEREAS, as reminded by John F. Kennedy, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we honor the fallen, thank our veterans, and the men and women currently serving in the armed forces for their sacrifice and service to our great nation from the time of America's birth and into the future, and we are indebted to America's heroes of freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we join the contagious spirit of those who have dedicated and given their lives for freedom; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, at this moment of national importance, we commit to the defense of the rights and virtues of our nation and its founding, preserving freedom and hope for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Michigan Senators Mark Huizenga, Roger Victory, and Rick Outman, Michigan Representatives Nancy DeBoer, Luke Meerman, Brad Slagh, Rachelle Smit, and Greg VanWoerkom, to the Clerk of each county in the State of Michigan, and all Ottawa County department directors.

YEAS: Commissioners: Roger Belknap, Rebekah Curran, Allison Miedema, Kyle Terpstra, Gretchen Cosby, Douglas Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Sylvia Rhodea, Lucy Ebel, Joe Moss.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTENTIONS: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED:



Joe Moss, Chairperson
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners



Justin F. Roebuck
Ottawa County Clerk/Register



Ottawa County
Clerk | Register of Deeds
Justin F. Roebuck

Justin F. Roebuck
County Clerk | Register of Deeds


Renee E. Kuiper
Chief Deputy County Clerk

Rachel A. Sanchez
Chief Deputy Register of Deeds

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS.
COUNTY OF OTTAWA)

I, JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of Ottawa do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on May 23, 2023. That I have compared the same with the original, and it is a true transcript therefrom, and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand and affixed the official seal at Grand Haven,
Michigan this 7th day of June 2023.



JUSTIN F. ROEBUCK, Clerk of the
Board of County Commissioners

ALLEGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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JUNE 8, 2023 SESSION

JOURNAL 71

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JUNE 8, 2023 SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan on June 8, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. in accordance with the motion for adjournment of May 25, 2023, and rules of this board; Chairman Storey presiding.

The Deputy Clerk led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Upon roll call the following members answered as Commissioners for the respective Districts:

DIST #1 JIM STOREY
DIST #2 MARK DEYOUNG
DIST #3 DEAN KAPENGA
DIST #4 SCOTT BELTMAN
DIST #5 GALE DUGAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

2/ Chairman Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

3/ Chairman Storey asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Administrator Sarro asked to have discussion on awarding the Water Study bid as discussion item #3.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the changes to the meeting agenda as requested. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

AGENDA - ADOPTED AS AMENDED

4/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to adopt the meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

COURTHOUSE & COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECTS

5/ Scott Faulk from Wightman presented to the board with the final draft copies of the space reconfiguration for the courthouse and county services building.

BREAK - 10:30 A.M.

6/ Upon reconvening at 10:40 A.M., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Storey, DeYoung, Kapenga, Beltman and Dugan. Absent: None.

COURTHOUSE & COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECTS CONTINUED

7/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to take action on June 22, 2023 to approve the Courthouse & County Services Building renovation plan designs with the ability of Administration to work with the Drain Office to make some changes in their space. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

8/ Administrator Sarro noted his written report was submitted to Commissioners. Highlights included: DHHS lease; ASCET lease; courthouse landscaping; environmental health update and Boomer Bash.

DISCUSSION - AWARD GROUNDWATER STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT BID

9/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to take action during the afternoon session on awarding the groundwater strategic plan development bid. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: votes. Nays: votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

10/ Chairman Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JUNE 22, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

11/ Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Beltman to adjourn until June 22, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

AFTERNOON SESSION**JUNE 8, 2023 SESSION - INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

12/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan on June 8, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. in accordance with the motion for adjournment of May 25, 2023, and rules of this Board; Chairman Storey presiding.

The invocation was offered by District #5 Commissioner Dugan.

The Deputy County Clerk led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Upon roll call the following members answered as Commissioners for the respective Districts:

DIST #1	JIM STOREY
DIST #2	MARK DEYOUNG
DIST #3	DEAN KAPENGA
DIST #4	SCOTT BELTMAN
DIST #5	GALE DUGAN

COMMUNICATIONS

13/ Deputy Clerk Tien noted to the board that they received the following communications:

1. Resolution from Ingham County designating the month of June, 2023 as LGBTQ Pride Month in Ingham County
2. Livingston County resolution sharing veteran services department enhancements with other Michigan counties

MAY 25, 2023 SESSION MINUTES - ADOPTED

14/ Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to approve the minutes for the May 25, 2023 session as distributed. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

15/ Chairman Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

AGENDA - ADDITIONS

16/ Chairman Storey asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Commissioner Storey noted that at the morning session the board added action item #2 to award the Groundwater Strategic Plan Development Bid.

AGENDA - ADOPTED AS AMENDED

17/ Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to adopt the meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PRESENTATIONS - RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

18/ Chairman Storey, Judge Bakker and Administrator Sarro presented the retirement recognition certificate to Judge Kengis and thanked him for his 30 years of service to Allegan County.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION - 48TH CIRCUIT COURT

19/ Circuit Court Administrator Jennifer Brink presented the 2022 annual report of the Circuit Court to the board and also introduced members of her staff who were in attendance of the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - CLAIMS & INTERFUND TRANSFERS

20/ **WHEREAS**, Administration has compiled the following claims for June 2, 2023 and June 9, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the following claims, which are chargeable against the County, were audited in accordance with Section 46.61 to 46.63, inclusive, M.C.L. 1970 as amended and resolutions of the Board; and

WHEREAS, said claims are listed in the 2023 Claims folder of the Commissioners' Record of Claims.

June 2, 2023

June 8, 2023 Session

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund – 101	67,854.25	67,854.25	
Parks/Recreation Fund – 208	1,191.33	1,191.33	
Friend of the Court – Cooperative Reimb. – 215	109.64	109.64	
Health Department Fund – 221	59,791.84	59,791.84	
Brownfield Redevelopment Auth. – 243	909.00	909.00	
Indigent Defense Fund – 260	389.64	389.64	
Concealed Pistol Licensing Fund – 263	220.29	220.29	
Local Corrections Officers Training Fund – 264	189.00	189.00	
Law Library Fund – 269	2,512.43	2,512.43	
Grants – 279	15,120.90	15,120.90	
Crime Victims Rights Grant – 280	176.24	176.24	
Sheriffs Contracts – 287	432.00	432.00	
Transportation Fund – 288	3,710.42	3,710.42	
Child Care Fund – 292	8,533.37	8,533.37	
Veterans Relief Fund - 293	514.24	514.24	
Capital Improvement Fund – 401	30,222.00	30,222.00	
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund – 639	565.54	565.54	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool – 661	88.67	88.67	
Self-Insurance Fund – 677	406,104.03	406,104.03	
Drain Fund – 801	162,966.20	162,966.20	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$761,601.03	\$761,601.03	

June 9, 2023

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund – 101	212,115.44	212,115.44	
Friend of the Court – Cooperative Reimb. – 215	555.00	555.00	
Health Department Fund – 221	31,317.93	31,317.93	
Solid Waste/Recycling – 226	3,893.70	3,893.70	
Indigent Defense Fund – 260	29,089.01	29,089.01	
Central Dispatch Fund - 261	980.57	980.57	
Local Corrections Officers Training Fund – 264	19.27	19.27	
Grants – 279	5,382.95	5,382.95	
Sheriffs Contracts – 287	4,720.12	4,720.12	
Transportation Fund – 288	22,598.64	22,598.64	
Child Care Fund – 292	8,382.32	8,382.32	
Veterans Relief Fund - 293	2,540.36	2,540.36	
Senior Services Fund – 298	3,237.02	3,237.02	
American Rescue Plan Act – ARPA – 299	11,249.60	11,249.60	

June 8, 2023 Session

Capital Improvement Fund – 401	34,841.00	34,841.00	
Property Tax Adjustments – 516	730.96	730.96	
Tax Reversion – 620	16,305.00	16,305.00	
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund – 639	236.16	236.16	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool – 661	430.00	430.00	
Self-Insurance Fund – 677	311,786.16	311,786.16	
Drain Fund – 801	1,140,103.28	1,140,103.28	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$1,840,514.49	\$1,840,514.49	

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners adopts the report of claims for June 2, 2023 and June 9, 2023.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Beltman to adopt the report of claims for June 2, 2023 and June 9, 2023. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

ACTION ITEMS:

EQUALIZATION – 2023 MILLAGE LEVY – SET COUNTY MILLAGE RATES

21/ WHEREAS, pursuant to State Law (MCL 141.412 and 141.413), a notice of a public hearing concerning the 2023 County Budget was published in the Allegan County News, a newspaper of general circulation, on September 29, 2022 and a public hearing concerning the budget was held on October 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) adopted a Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation on October 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, having held said hearing, the Board has determined the levy of said proposed millage to be in the best interests of the County.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the following millages to be levied throughout the County of Allegan in the year of 2023:

County Operating Tax	5.1419
Allocated – Veterans Relief Fund	<u>0.0200</u>
TOTAL COUNTY OPERATING	5.1619
COUNTY ROAD TAX	0.9654
SENIOR SERVICES	0.4930
MEDICAL CARE FACILITY	0.2448
ALLEGAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	<u>0.0979</u>
TOTAL COUNTY MILLAGE	6.9630

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Chairperson and County Clerk are authorized to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – AWARD GROUNDWATER STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT BID 22/ WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (Board) established a Groundwater Workgroup to develop a strategy for managing Allegan County's groundwater resources, and in the course of its work, the Groundwater Workgroup determined that outside professional services were needed to develop educational materials and engage local units of government to help develop the strategy further; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the County's Purchasing Policy, a request for proposal process was used to solicit competitive bids from firms able to provide this service; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2023, the Water Study Workgroup recommended the award to the sole bid received.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board awards the Groundwater Strategic Plan Development bid to Williams & Works, of 549 Ottawa Ave NW Suite 130, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, for the not to exceed the amount of \$194,750 plus incidental expenses to complete an initial fixed scope of work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the County Administrator to approve Williams & Work to perform additional work related to the County's Groundwater Initiative within the limits of available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds designated for the Groundwater initiative; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Administrator is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments, and any necessary documents to complete this action are authorized to be negotiated and signed.

Moved by Commissioner DeYoung, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

PARKS & RECREATION—AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES SPARK GRANTS

23/ WHEREAS, on November 8, 2018, the Board of Commissioners (Board) supported the Silver Creek Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, the Board supported the Gun Lake Park Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022, the Board awarded Phase I Conceptual Design of the West Side Park beach access to Abonmarche Consultants, Inc; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Michigan Natural Resources Spark Grant Applications for said projects are supported by the County's 5-Year approved Parks and Recreation Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the County Administrator to apply for and accept upon award the following Spark grants

- Silver Creek Improvement Project - \$596,100
- Gun Lake Park Improvement Project - \$522,500, which includes a County financial obligation in the amount of \$14,000 (2.5%), for a total project cost of \$536,500
- West Side Park Beach Access Project - \$985,000; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the County Administrator is authorized to sign on behalf of the County the grants and complete the necessary budget adjustments to complete this action.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to take immediate action and approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PARKS & RECREATION - LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF ALLEGAN SPARK GRANT APPLICATION TO REPLACE THE CLOSED TRESTLE TRAIL BRIDGE

24/ BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the release of the letter of support, as attached.

Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to take immediate action and approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

DRAFT

Allegan County Board of Commissioners



County Services Building
3283 – 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0203 Main Office
269-686-5331 Main Fax
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Jim Storey, Chairperson
Dean Kapenga, Vice Chairperson

June 9, 2023

DISTRICT 1

Jim Storey
616-848-9767
jstorey@
allegancounty.org

State of Michigan
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

DISTRICT 2

Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@
allegancounty.org

RE: City of Allegan, Michigan SPARK Grant Application to replace the closed Trestle Trail Bridge

Dear Funding Agency,

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners submit this letter of support for the City of Allegan as they endeavor to secure funding to replace the closed Trestle Trail Bridge. The Trestle Trail Bridge is a wooden structure that is failing in many places and has been officially closed to the public by the City of Allegan. The bridge is approximately 10 feet wide and has a span of 70 feet as it crosses the Kalamazoo River. This is a critical piece of the city's recreation infrastructure as well as for the county's interconnected off-road vehicle trails.

DISTRICT 3

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
dkapenga@
allegancounty.org

Located at the northern end of the city-owned Jaycee Park, this bridge connects an underserved neighborhood to recreation opportunities which include a skate park, a disc golf course, a dog park, a basketball court, a playground and a .3-mile walking loop. This bridge also serves as the primary connector for Off-Road Vehicles into Downtown Allegan and with the impending MDOT-funded roundabout construction at the M89/M40/Hubbard Street junction, this bridge will be the only connection for Off-Road Vehicles into Downtown Allegan. Unless this bridge is replaced, Downtown Allegan will not be connected to the existing Off-Road Vehicles trail system throughout Allegan County.

DISTRICT 4

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
sbeltman@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 5

Gale Dugan
269-694-5276
gdugan@
allegancounty.org

This effort is consistent with the goals and objectives below from within the Allegan County Board of Commissioners approved Parks 5-Year Recreation Plan:

Goal 2: Provide safe, broad community-based recreation opportunities, facilities and programs that improve the overall quality-of-life year round for all Allegan County residents and tourists.

Objectives:

Mission Statement

"The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper"

- a. Add recreational opportunities/amenities, which fall in line with the purpose of the park and are based upon recreation needs, trends, and input from the community.
- b. Increase recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- c. Continue efforts to find and enhance recreation opportunities throughout Allegan County
- d. Continue to add structural amenities, such as pavilions and restroom buildings, to the park facilities based upon community input and need to ensure that there are sufficient park and recreation opportunities for all current and potential users.

Goal 3: Provide leisure time activities with special consideration given to improving health, wellness and fitness.

Objectives:

- a. Provide both passive and active activities for a variety of ages and abilities of the community.

Goal 4: Provide non-motorized and/or multi-use pathways/waterways for recreational and transportation use.

Objectives:

- a. Expand non-motorized and/or multi- use pathways/waterways through Allegan County with a focus upon linking parks, schools, neighborhoods cities, business areas, regional trails and local destination points.
- b. Support the efforts of trail groups (Friends of the Blue Star Trail, River to River trail committee, etc.) to connect Allegan County to parks, schools, neighborhoods cities, business areas, regional trails and local destination points.

Based on alignment with these goals and objectives, to include increasing community-based recreation opportunities, increased tourism, economic growth, and public health improvements, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners supports your effort to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Storey, Board Chairperson

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—WATER STUDY WORKGROUP STRUCTURE

23/ WHEREAS, on June 10, 2021, the Board established the positions and representative description/roles to serve on the County Water Study Workgroup.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the following changes to positions and representative descriptions/roles; and

County Water Study Workgroup		
<u>Position:</u>	<u>Description/Role</u>	<u># of Seats (11 Total)</u>
County Commissioners	Represent the citizenry of Allegan County and have direct links to the Boards of the Local Units of Government (LUG)	1
Consultant	Independent water-related industry consultant	1
Municipal Water Supply Supervisor or Technician	Represent technical expertise relative to Municipal Water Supplies.	1
Academia (Not directly related to the development of the groundwater study)	Provide perspective not only scholastically, but also the latest in technology and how the study can be best utilized.	1
Agricultural Businesses: Growers & Livestock	Agricultural businesses are some of the biggest users of the ground water in the county, not only for irrigation purposes but for watering of animals. Their businesses are directly affected by the availability and quality of ground water. Some farmers, in the dry times of the year, can use several thousands of gallons of water/day.	1
Allegan County Conservation District (ACCD)	ACCD work with many Allegan County agricultural businesses and are committed, as evidenced by their vision, to help sustain the natural resources for future generations. ACCD is familiar with the mechanisms of the Allegan County agricultural businesses as well as the hydro-lithology of Allegan County.	1
Well Driller	Provide insight, experience, and knowledge. Any policy or water management planning can directly or indirectly impact this sector.	1
Community Member	Represent the perspective of private water supplies in Allegan County which is very large.	3
Tribal Member	The tribe uses groundwater and represents a portion of the constituency of Allegan County. They have a direct interest in the success and protection of the groundwater of Allegan County.	1

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Board resolution shall supersede any previous actions taken.

Moved by Commissioner Beltman, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to take immediate action and approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

APPOINTMENTS - WATER STUDY WORKGROUP

26/ Chairman Storey announced the appointment of the following individuals to the Water Study Workgroup:

Ruth Kline-Robach, 480 Wilson Rd, 141 National Resources Bldg, East Lansing, MI 48824 (Academia Rep.)

Jaclyn Hulst, 4659 36th St, Zeeland MI (Community Rep.)

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve the appointments as made. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NO COMMENTS

27/ Chairman Storey opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JUNE 22, 2023 AT 1:00 P.M.

28/ Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Beltman to adjourn until June 22, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 P.M. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.



Deputy Clerk

Board Chairperson

Minutes approved during the 00/00/2023 Session

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



ALLEGAN COUNTY PROBATE COURT



*Hon. Michael L. Buck
Alicia Blik
Jonathan K. Blair
Jennifer Callaway
Jennifer White
Thomas Moore*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Allegan County Probate Court is to administer justice with fairness, equality, and integrity, to resolve matters before the court in a timely manner, and to provide courteous and prompt service in a manner that inspires trust and confidence.

Goals

- To process all matters within the time guidelines set by the State Court Administrative Office
- To ensure the compliance of Court-appointed fiduciaries with statutes and court rules, in order to safeguard protected individuals and their property
- To efficiently process and adjudicate all matters before the Court
- To provide excellent customer service to all those with business before the Court

Probate Court Authority

Article VI Section 15 of the Michigan Constitution provides that “the jurisdiction, powers and duties of the probate court and of the judges thereof shall be provided by law.” Through the promulgation of the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC), the Mental Health Code, and other acts, the legislature has conferred jurisdiction to the Probate Court over:

- Decedent Estate Proceedings
- Civil Actions
- Trust Proceedings
- Minor Guardianship Proceedings
- Guardianships of Incapacitated Individuals
- Protective Orders
- Conservatorships
- Guardianships of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- Involuntary Commitments of Mentally Ill Persons
- Drain Appeals
- Secret Marriages
- Registration of Foreign Birth

Honorable Judge Michael Buck



Michael (Mike) Buck was elected Allegan County Probate Judge in 2000, upon the retirement of Hon. George Greig. Mike currently serves as Chief Probate Judge, Presiding Family Court Judge, and Chair of the Allegan County Judicial Council. Before becoming a judge, he served over 20 years as an Allegan County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. In that time period, he successfully handled cases from drunk driving to first degree murder. He specialized in cases involving abuse of children, making his current responsibilities as Presiding Family Court Judge, a natural fit. In addition to presiding over cases involving neglect and abuse of children, Judge Buck's authority includes adoptions, name changes, juvenile delinquency, wills, trusts, guardianships, mentally ill proceedings, and the safekeeping of election results for delivery to the Allegan County Board of Canvassers.

Judge Buck was born and raised in Southwest Michigan. He has worked many different jobs on his career path to the bench. He caddied for golfers, cleaned offices and bathrooms as a janitor, worked all hours of the day and night as a security guard, pumped gas at a marina, cleaned animal pens at an amusement park, and labored at various factory jobs in the Benton Harbor area. He majored in Psychology and received his Teaching Certificate while attending the University of Michigan. He received his law degree from Cooley Law School, while working full time. His interest in Family Law began early, as his parents provided a home for foster children and successfully navigated the adoption process. Mike especially enjoys making each and every adoption hearing a real celebration.

Probate Staff



Jonathan K. Blair
Probate Administrator



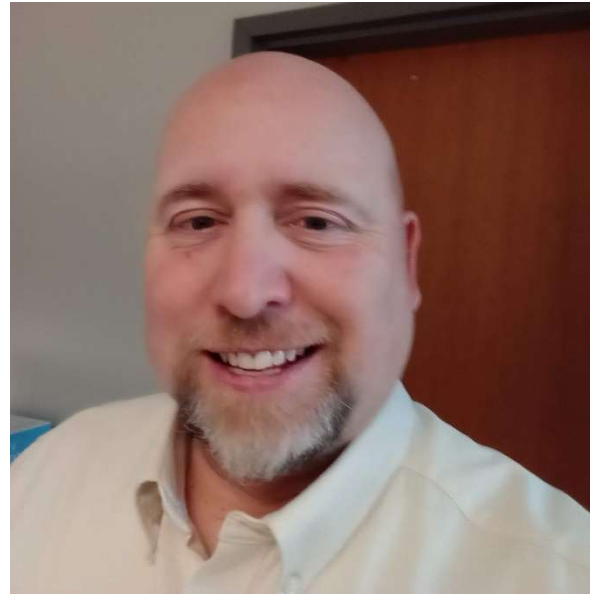
Jennifer Callaway
Deputy Probate Register



Jennifer White
Deputy Probate Register



Alicia Blik
Judicial Secretary
to Hon. Michael L. Buck



Thomas Moore
Court Specialist

New Position (2023)

During the 2022 calendar year we worked with the County to create a “Court Specialist position” to aid Probate with increased caseloads, and aid the other Court with staffing needs. This position began in 2023 and has been a great success.

Prior to accepting the Court Specialist position Mr. Moore worked for six years at the Allegan County Prosecutor’s Office as a Legal Assistant, and before that spent four years as a Paralegal for private practice attorneys. He has a wonderful wife and two amazing children. He regularly attends LifeChange Church and lives in a peaceful community near Burnips in Allegan County. Hobbies include reading, yard work, and LEGO. A graduate of Northern Michigan University he also spent four years as an engineer in the U. S. Army.

Mr. Moore has become proficient in probate procedures and cases, and has begun covering needs in both Circuit and Family Court. We look forward to further developing this position.

GALS

In order to conduct investigations, make findings, and make recommendations in adult and minor conservatorships, the Court uses independent contractors that as Guardian Ad Litem. This is a labor of love, there simply are not enough cases to provide full time work in this area, so the Court is exceptionally grateful for the time the following individuals dedicate to the Court:

Kevin Miller, formerly with Allegan County DHHS

Sue Horton, formerly with Allegan County DHHS

Ken Prins, formally with the Allegan Family Court

Ray Passkiewicz, formally a social worker

Linda Hays, former Allegan County Probate Register

Thankfully, during the 2023 budget preparation process this Board approved additional funds and the Court was able to increase GAL pay for the first time in over a decade.

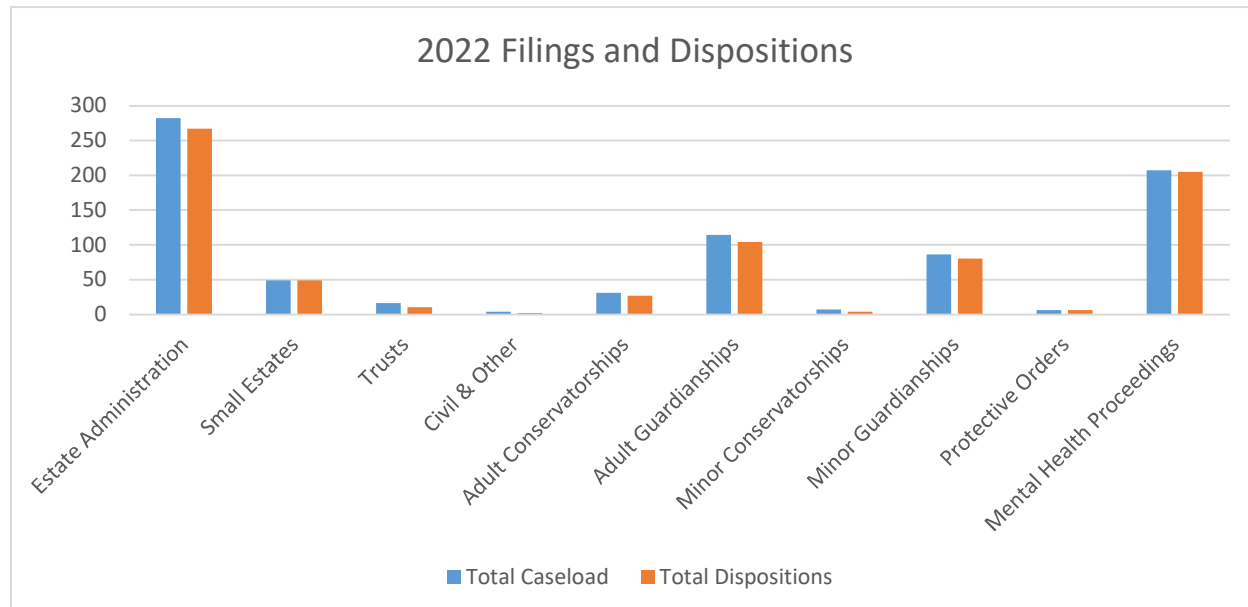
Volunteers

Given the increased caseloads, the archiving of files is a constant issue. Many Probate matters must be maintained for at least 100 years. We have been fortunate to have volunteers assist us in scanning old files and with other court duties.

Eshan Rajani: U of M Junior that spent the summer of 2022 with the Probate

Noah Festerling: Alma Junior, current working with Probate Staff.

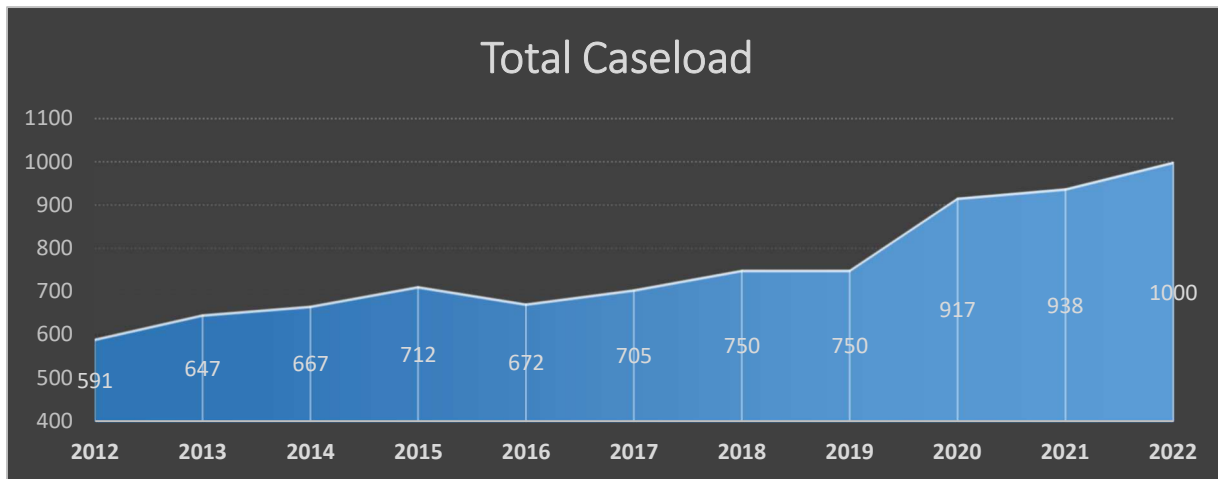
Probate Court Caseload



In 2022 the Probate Court handled a total of 1000 new filings. This represents a consistent increase since 2012 when the Court had 591. This is a 51% increase. The majority of these were comprised of decedents' estates (331, up from 287 in 2021), mental health proceedings (207); and adult guardianships remaining consistent at 122 in 2022 to 114 in 2021. There was a reduction in minor guardianships, which is concurrent with the decrease in neglect filings details previously by the Family Court.

The orange represents the total dispositions, or resolutions for cases. The Probate Court disposition rate exceeds the SCAO recommended standards and is above average for the State. Some cases will always be pending at reporting time, and some cases will always take longer than expected, but the Probate Court consistently clears in the 90's, while 2022 saw a 94% disposition rate.

Caseload Trends



2022 saw a large increase in the total caseload from 938 in 2021 to 1000 in 2022.

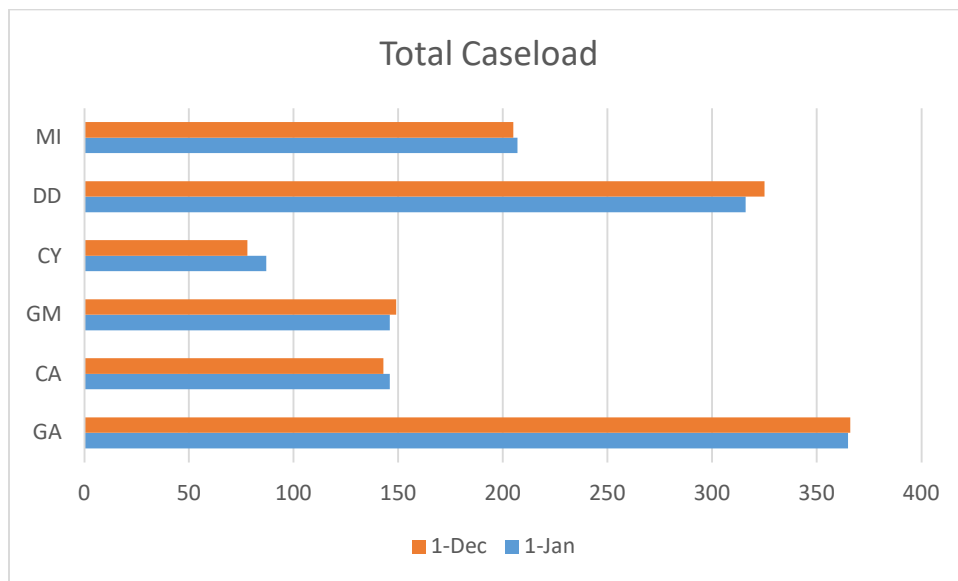
In prior years the caseload had been consistently rising (notwithstanding the decreases in overall caseload in 2009 and 2016). There were 591 new and pending cases handled by the Court in 2012 to 2022's 1000, which represents a **59%** increase in overall caseload.

Most notably, since 2012 Deceased Estates have increased from 242 to 331, a 31% increase, Guardianships have increased 21%, and Minor Guardianship have increased 28% during the same time. These number will continue to increase as the Allegan County population increases and ages.

Year	Total Caseload
2012	591
2013	647
2014	667
2015	712
2016	672
2017	705
2018	750
2019	750
2020	917
2021	938
2022	1000

These numbers only represent the NEW filings for 2022 – other cases are still pending:

Type	1-Jan	1-Dec
Estates and Trusts	626	751
GA	365	366
CA	146	143
GM	146	149
CY	87	78
DD	316	325
MI	207	205

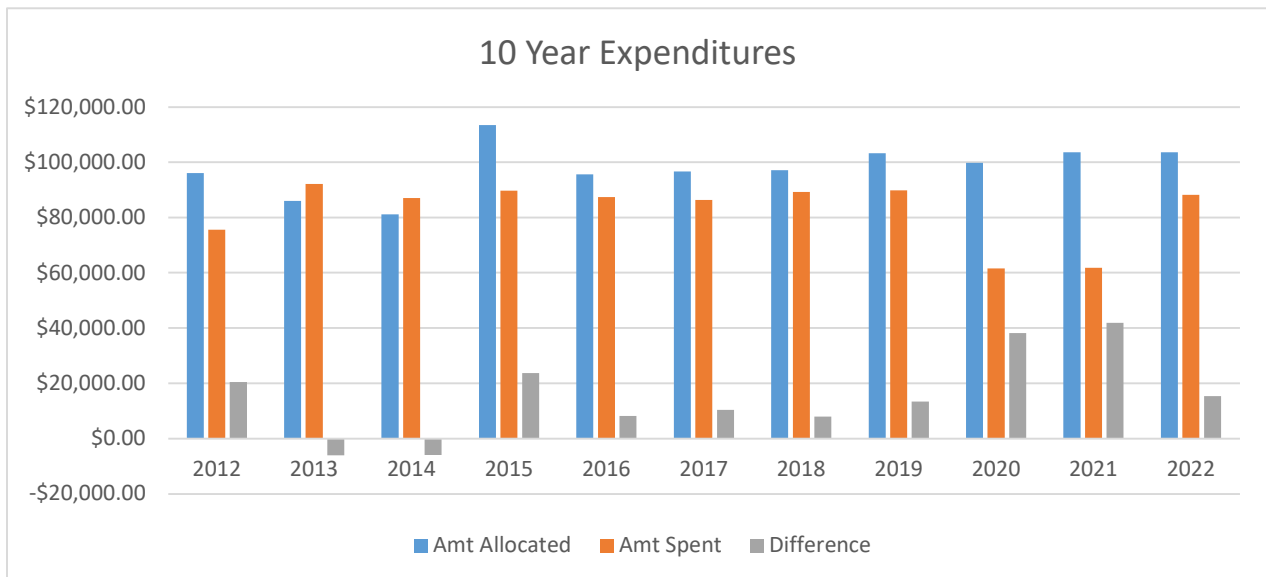


Therefore, at any given time the Probate Court has about **1,800** open and active cases.

Expenditures

Below are charts showing the allocated operational budget for the Probate Court, actual expenditures, revenues budgeted, and the actual revenues collected from 2012 to 2022.

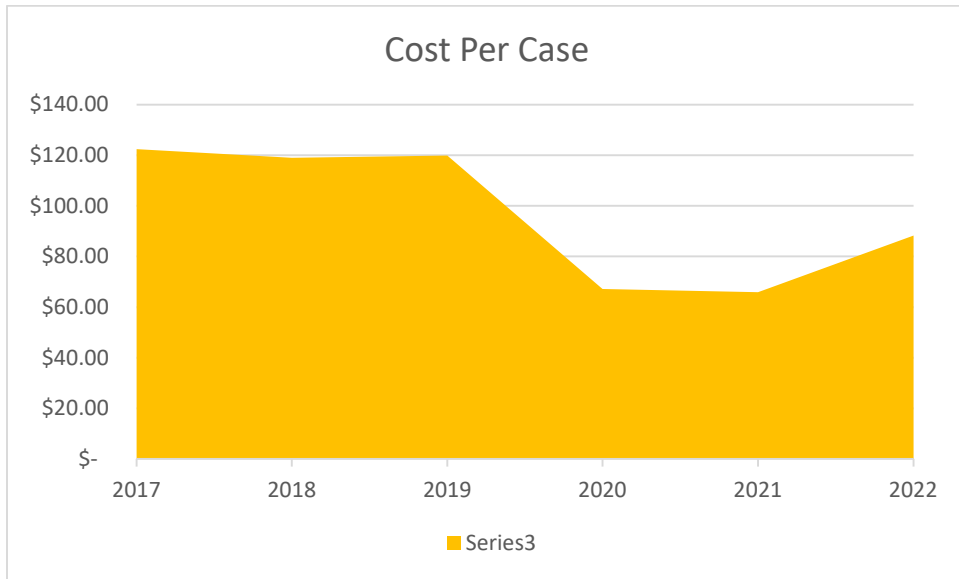
However, this chart is not a complete picture of expenditures. Through the grace of this Commission, the Probate Court has a \$43,500 fund to reimburse public guardians in cases in which the ward lacks funds for payment.



Year	Amt Allocated	Amt Spent	Difference
2012	\$96,040.00	\$75,612.56	\$20,427.44
2013	\$86,040.00	\$92,079.88	-\$6,039.88
2014	\$81,120.00	\$87,085.69	-\$5,965.69
2015	\$113,400.00	\$89,684.72	\$23,715.28
2016	\$95,600.00	\$87,433.18	\$8,166.82
2017	\$96,675.00	\$86,358.12	\$10,316.88
2018	\$97,150.00	\$89,225.26	\$7,924.74
2019	\$103,232.00	\$89,806.00	\$13,426.00
2020	\$99,732.00	\$61,539.00	\$38,193.00
2021	\$103,610.00	\$61,787.00	\$41,823.00
2022	\$103,610.00	\$88,235.16	\$15,374.84
5 Year Averages	\$100,668.17	\$79,491.76	\$21,176.41
Total Averages	\$97,837.18	\$82,622.42	\$15,214.77

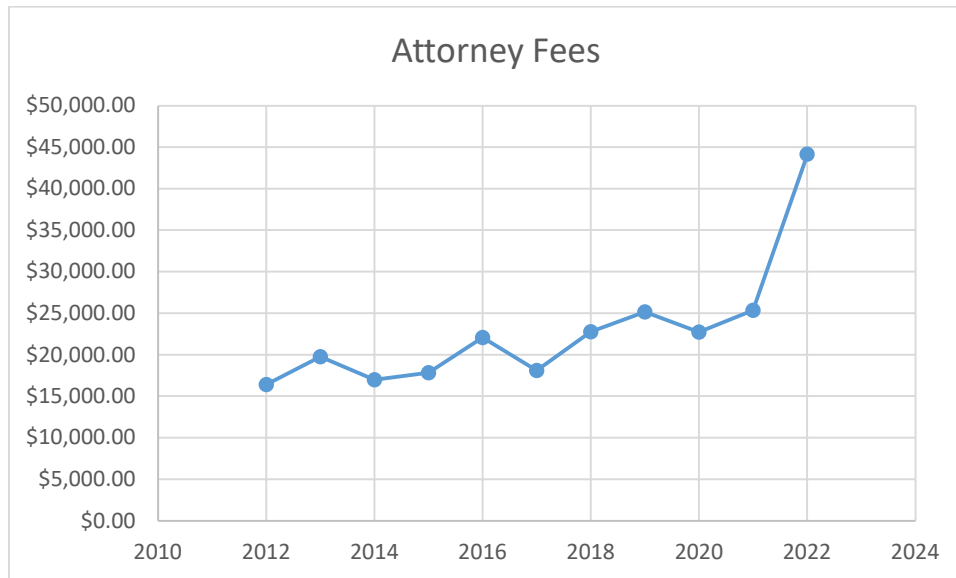
Overall, expenditures were increased for Probate Courts. This is further addressed in the Attorney and Gal Fees section below.

Cost Per Case



Between 2021 and 2022 there was large change in the cost per case, \$64.87 v \$88.24. Part of this is economic situations. The Court's consumables (file folders, case stickers, etc.) have doubled in the past year.

Attorney and GAL Fees



As always, Attorney/GAL Fees continue to be the single largest expenditure for the Court. In 2012 the Court expended \$16,420 on Attorney and GAL fees. In 2022 that cost was about \$45,000 – a 93% increase. This directly relates to increase hearings due to the removal of a public guardian. All of the guardian wards were appointed attorneys to protect their rights, and the net result was that hundreds of extra hearings had to be conducted. GAL compensation alone represented \$7,122.36 in 2021.

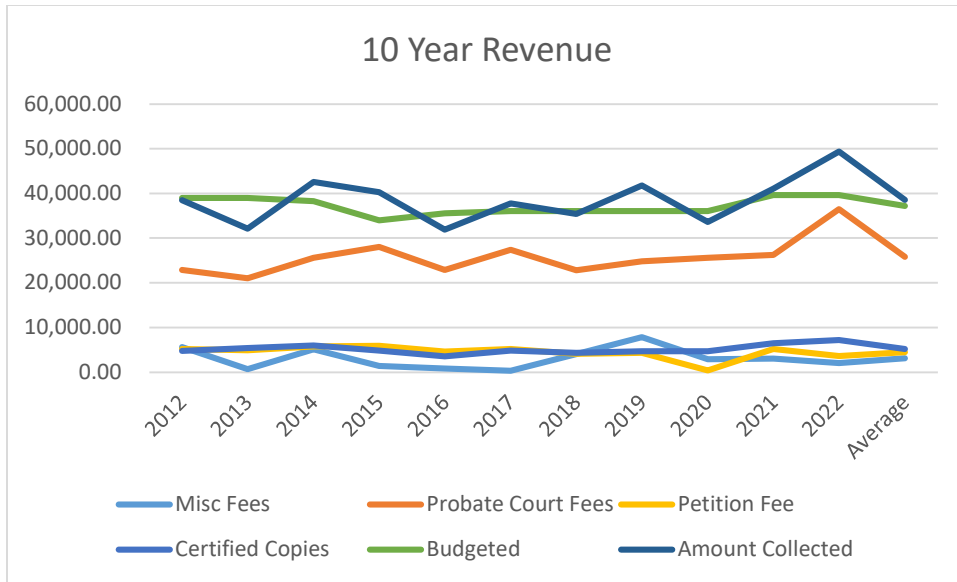
The Court relies on the hard work from these individuals to provide necessary services. While the overall cost is high, the amount paid to individuals is relatively low. Our current fee structure is actually one of the lowest in the area. This makes finding replacement attorneys difficult and continues to put a strain on current providers. It is one of the listed goals of Probate Court to increase the current rate for GALs and attorneys. This was done in 2023 for GALs, but the Court hopes to do the same for the attorney in 2024.

Revenues

Although most of the Probate Court's revenues are dependent on filing fees and requests for copies, during the past five years the Court has collected an average of \$38,555.02 per year, and exceeded the average amount it has budgeted for revenue collection over the past 10 years. The Court is hoping to add staff to allow further collections.

2022 saw a revenue reduction that was due to the Pandemic. Under temporary court rules the Court was allowed to accept digital copies and send the same, which led to a reduction transactional fees. However, 2022 saw a return to the prior increasing trend.

PROBATE REVENUES						
Year	Misc Fees	Probate Court Fees	Petition Fee	Certified Copies	Budgeted	Amount Collected
2012	5,657.72	22,858.40	5,198.80	4,760.40	39,000.00	38,475.32
2013	708.52	21,061.18	4,916.04	5,419.60	39,000.00	32,105.34
2014	5,131.04	25,608.96	5,800.99	5,985.38	38,250.00	42,526.37
2015	1,438.00	28,021.11	5,910.60	4,864.35	34,000.00	40,234.06
2016	811.45	22,853.84	4,638.22	3,587.00	35,500.00	31,890.51
2017	338.18	27,412.05	5,195.45	4,833.75	36,000.00	37,779.43
2018	4,085.49	22,832.18	4,122.00	4,351.00	36,000.00	35,390.67
2019	7,893.42	24,805.65	4,358.20	4,670.50	36,000.00	41,727.77
2020	2,929.30	25,573.68	428.24	4,663.00	36,000.00	33,594.22
2021	3,078.50	26,242.85	5,193.15	6,509.00	39,670.00	41,023.50
2022	2,047.00	36,467.00	3,586.00	7,258.00	39,670.00	49,358.00
Average	3,101.69	25,794.26	4,486.15	5,172.91	37,190.00	38,555.02



Attorney Fee Recovery for Mental Health Proceedings

Last year the Court began utilizing a free online accounting tool geared toward small businesses called **Wave**. This website has assisted the Court in generating and tracking invoices for reimbursement of the attorney fees it pays in connection with mental health proceedings. Like most things the Pandemic decreased collections, but overall this recovery system has been beneficial for the Court.

Court's professional guardian reimbursement program

Since 2017 the Court has greatly benefited from funding the County provided for its professional guardian reimbursement program. This allows guardians to be reimbursed up for \$60 per month per ward for services provided. Without this service professional guardians and thus any guardian would be unavailable for a number of wards. In 2019 six guardian services were able to use the program to provide for 42 wards. This has increased to 45 in 2020 and 51 in 2021. For 2022 the Court has received over 100 requests.

2021 Public Satisfaction Survey

Every two years the Probate Court distributes a public satisfaction survey to the public, in coordination with the Circuit and District Courts. The survey is developed by the State Court Administrative Office, and assists the Probate Court in identifying its strengths, providing positive feedback to employees, and targeting areas for improvement.



The 2021 survey was solely conducted online. This led to a substantial reduction of responses, however, the responses received were all positive.

In the Court's last survey, 100% of court users agreed or strongly agreed that they were treated with courtesy and respect by court staff. Court users also overwhelmingly indicated that they were able to get their business done in a reasonable amount of time and that their cases were handled fairly.

Below are a sample of comments the Court received from members of the public in the 2021 public satisfaction survey:

“I believe that remote hearings for some matters is beneficial to my clients who are on limited income because they can attend remotely which reduces missed time at work plus their attorney fees are lower due to the reduced amount of time billed for travel and waiting time at the court. It really has been beneficial in most cases such as the guardianship hearing attended today.”

The results of the survey, notes from the public and other feedback indicate that the Probate Court continues to maintain high levels of public satisfaction.

Goals of the Court

For the upcoming years the Court plans to

- Increase access to Court with a State provided e-filing system.
- Continue to update the website to make it easier for the public to obtain and file the documents they need for Probate Court.”
- Increase access to Court with a public kiosk for record searches
- Increase pay for independent contractors such as ~~GALs~~ and Court Appointed Attorneys
- Increase the number of available Public Guardians and oversight thereof.
 - In 2021 we lost 1, but added 3
- Increase collections on Court ordered fees and costs.
- Continue to Decrease operating costs with the use of remote proceedings.

Current Information and Key Contacts

Allegan County Probate Court

113 Chestnut Street
Allegan, MI 49010
Phone: (269) 673-0250
Fax: (269) 686-5157
<http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/Office/Probate>

Hon. Michael L. Buck

Chief Probate Judge
mbuck@allegancounty.org
(269) 673-0532

Jonathan K. Blair

Probate Register/Court Administrator
jblair@allegancounty.org
(269) 686-4633

Alicia Blik

Judicial Secretary/Court Recorder
ablick@allegancounty.org
(269) 673-0532

Jennifer Callaway

Deputy Probate Register
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Thomas Moore

Court Specialist
tmoore@allegancounty.org
269.673.0250

Jennifer White

Deputy Probate Register
jwhite@allegancounty.org
(269) 673-0250



S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

FINANCE - CLAIMS & INTERFUND TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, Administration has compiled the following claims for 6/16/23 and 6/23/23; and

WHEREAS, the following claims, which are chargeable against the County, were audited in accordance with Section 46.61 to 46.63, inclusive, M.C.L. 1970 as amended and resolutions of the Board; and

WHEREAS, said claims are listed in the 2023 Claims folder of the Commissioners' Record of Claims.

June 16, 2023

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund - 101	101,313.88	101,313.88	
Parks/Recreation Fund - 208	8,229.05	8,229.05	
Friend of the Court - Cooperative Reimb. - 215	1,457.68	1,457.68	
Health Department Fund - 221	14,958.83	14,958.83	
Solid Waste/Recycling - 226	63,729.50	63,729.50	
Brownfield Redevelopment Auth - 243	140,825.00	140,825.00	
Indigent Defense Fund - 260	4,551.08	4,551.08	
Grants - 279	7,873.86	7,873.86	
Crime Victims Rights Grant - 280	16.07	16.07	
Transportation Fund - 288	105,080.44	105,080.44	
Child Care Fund - 292	25,652.98	25,652.98	
Veterans Relief Fund - 293	723.73	723.73	
Senior Services Fund - 298	2,629.48	2,629.48	
American Rescue Plan Act - ARPA - 299	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Capital Improvement Fund - 401	9,739.50	9,739.50	
Property Tax Adjustments - 516	23,005.27	23,005.27	
Self-Insurance Fund - 677	15,593.55	15,593.55	
Drain Fund - 801	21,372.60	21,372.60	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$556,752.50	\$556,752.50	

June 23, 2023

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund - 101	72,472.64	72,472.64	
Parks/Recreation Fund - 208	1,555.89	1,555.89	
Health Department Fund - 221	13,069.96	13,069.96	
Animal Shelter - 254	6,830.00	6,830.00	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund - 256	707.38	707.38	
Central Dispatch Fund - 261	67.81	67.81	
Transportation Fund - 288	6,512.35	6,512.35	
Child Care Fund - 292	13,606.75	13,606.75	
Senior Services Fund - 298	187,909.41	187,909.41	
Property Tax Adjustments - 516	7,033.46	7,033.46	
Tax Reversion 2018 - 629	4,428.50	4,428.50	
Drain Fund - 801	68,493.00	68,493.00	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$382,687.15	\$382,687.15	

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners adopts the report of claims for 6/16/23, 6/23/23, and interfund transfers.

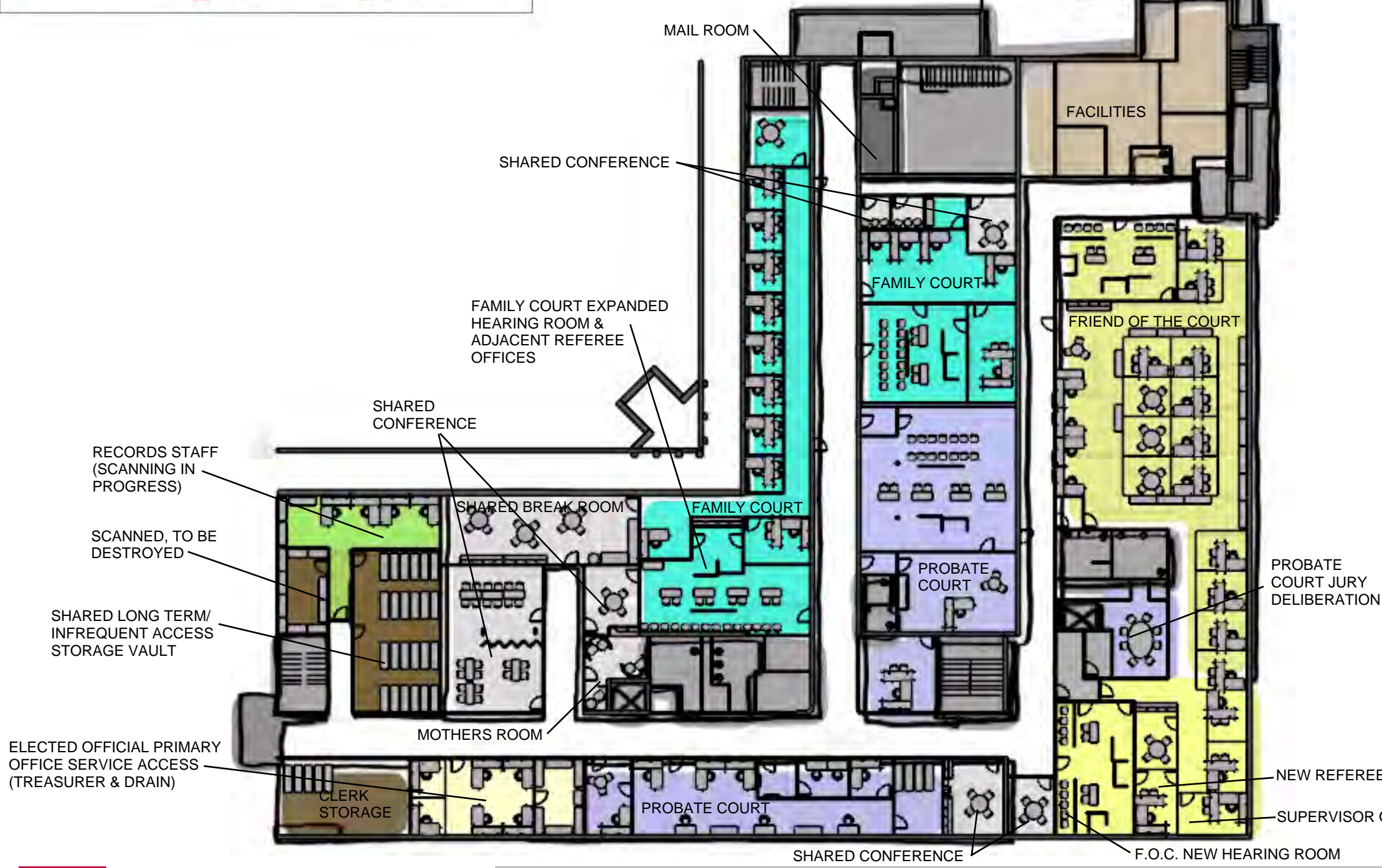
S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

COURTHOUSE/COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING—AUTHORIZE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RELEASE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the detailed design drawings, as presented, and authorizes construction documents and request for proposal(s) to be developed and released for bidding.

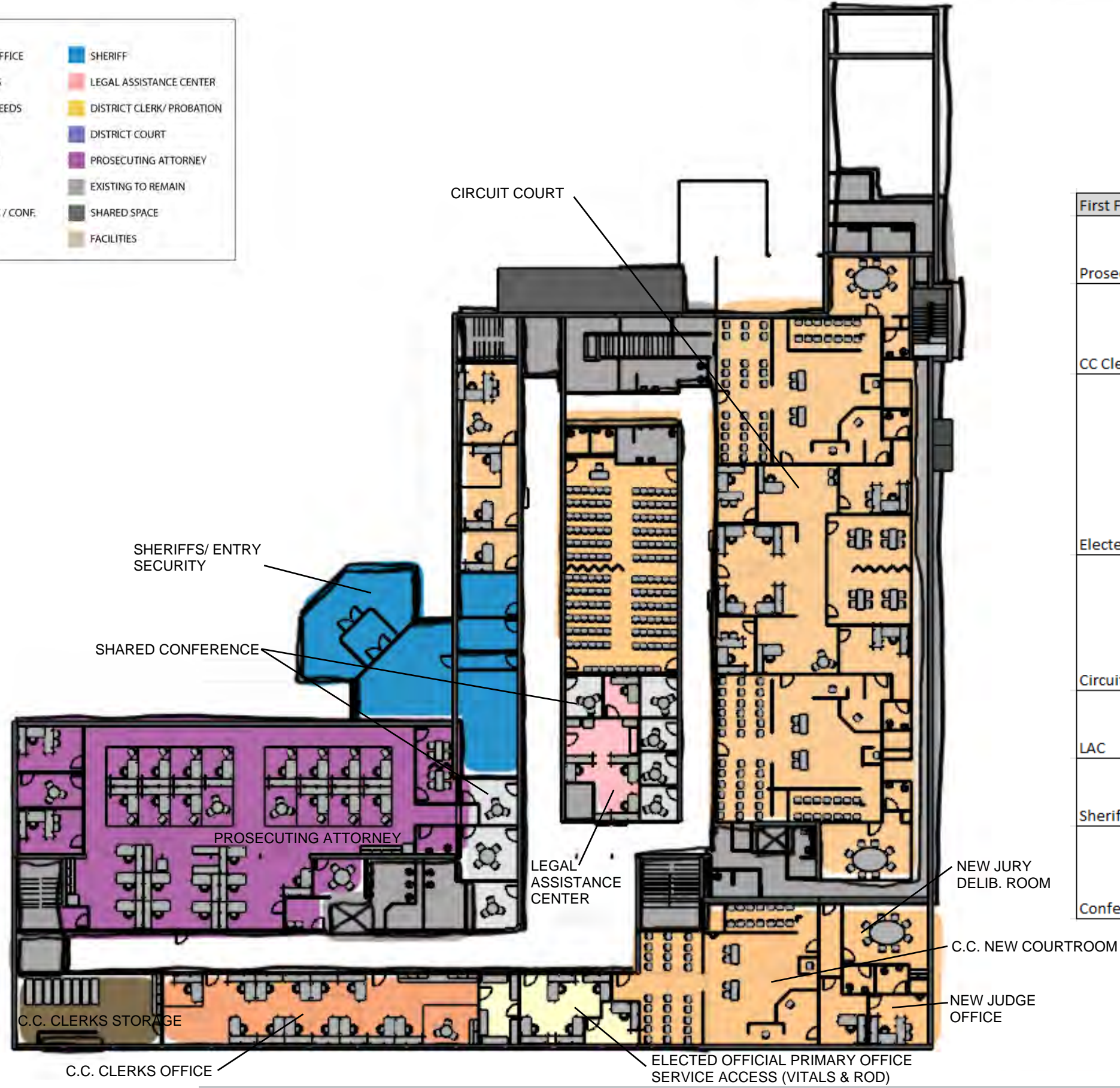
KEY:		
CIRCUIT COURT	TREASURERS OFFICE	SHERIFF
NEW COURTROOM	VITAL RECORDS	LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
PROBATE COURT	REGISTER OF DEEDS	DISTRICT CLERK/ PROBATION
FAMILY COURT	DRAIN OFFICE	DISTRICT COURT
FRIEND OF THE COURT	RECORDS MGT	PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CLERK	STORAGE	EXISTING TO REMAIN
CSB ELECTED OFFICE PRIMARY OFFICE SERVICE ACCESS	SHARED BREAK / CONF.	SHARED SPACE
	MEDIATION	FACILITIES



Ground Floor	
Family Court	10 offices, Break/coffee counter, conference room/ room for storage, enlarged hearing room with space for 4 parties
Probate Court	2 offices, 6 open office workstations, three drop in stations, reoriented customer service area and records viewing room provides more space for staff within the open office, space for break counter if requested however the large shared staff break room is just across the hall, existing storage room to remain, Judicial suite and Hearing room to remain, New jury deliberation room with immediate restroom access
Elected officials	2 offices, 4 open office workstations, Storage room (See also first floor)(See also County Services Building)
Friend of the Court	15 offices, 3 small closed conference spaces, 4 open office workstations, two wide hearing rooms, three nearby shared conference spaces, Offices were pulled off the wall to let daylight enter the space, Closable storage cabinets to be located in open office/ circulation spaces, space for built in break counter as well as mail counter if both are requested (currently one counter shown)
Records/ Storage	Shared storage areas directly adjacent to records for ease of work flow, to be destroyed room in back to ease confusion
Break/ Conference	Large breakroom with table to eat at as well as soft seating for staff, Multiple adjacent conference rooms with flexible tables and accordian wall, Mothers room to provide 2-3 pumping stations as well as small counter with sink and mini fridge



KEY:			
	CIRCUIT COURT		SHERIFF
	NEW COURTROOM		VITAL RECORDS
	PROBATE COURT		DISTRICT CLERK/ PROBATION
	FAMILY COURT		DRAIN OFFICE
	FRIEND OF THE COURT		RECORDS MGT
	CLERK		STORAGE
	CSB ELECTED OFFICE PRIMARY OFFICE SERVICE ACCESS		EXISTING TO REMAIN
			SHARED BREAK / CONF.
			MEDIATION
			FACILITIES
			LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
			REGISTER OF DEEDS
			DISTRICT COURT
			PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

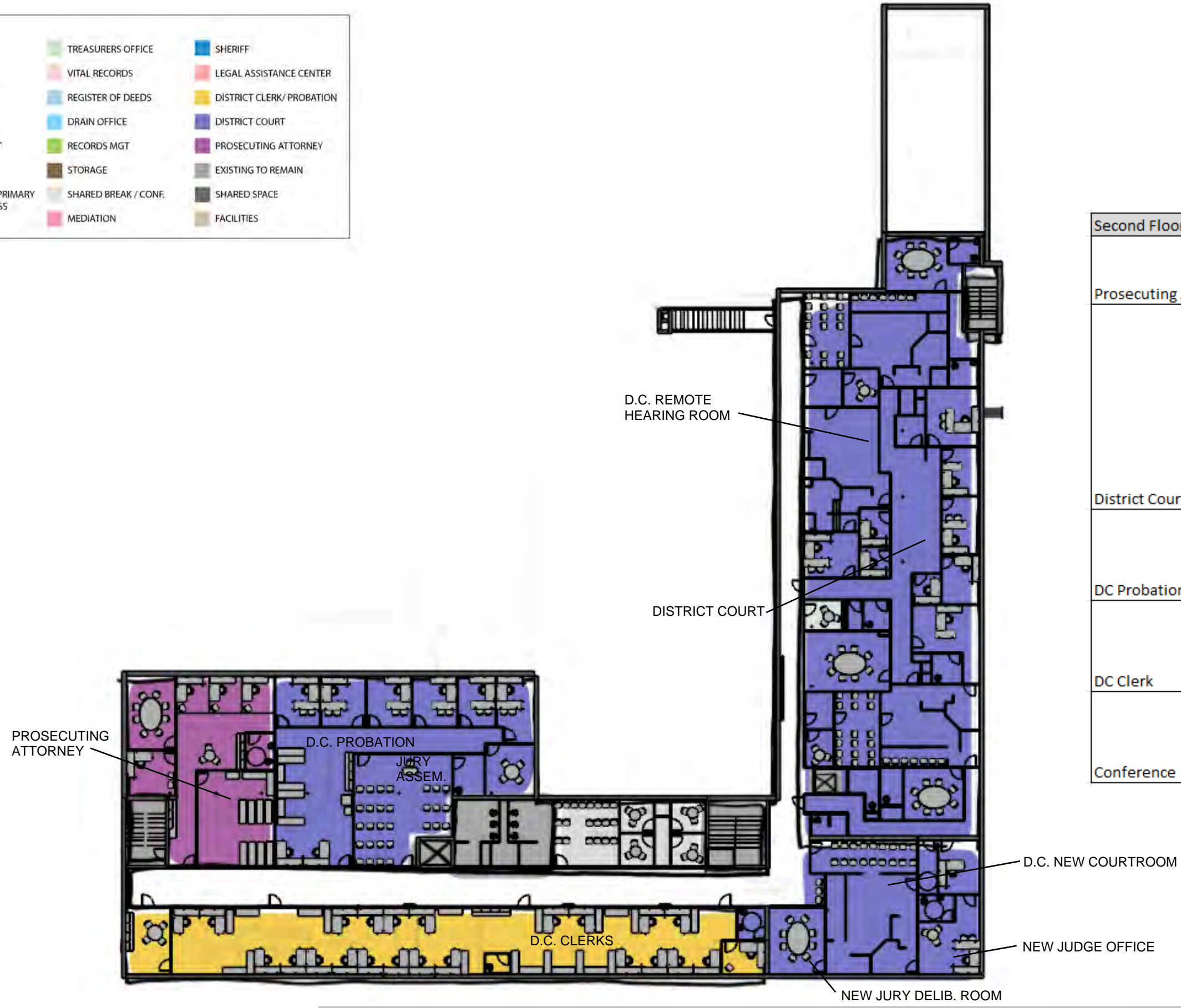


First Floor	
Prosecuting Attorney	16 offices, 6 conference rooms, and direct access to 2 shared conference rooms, 12 open office workstations (See 2nd floor for additional)
CC Clerk	1 office, 12 open office workstations, mail/reception counter, windows at desks along hallway wall for reception also, small meeting room with break/coffee counter
Elected Officials	(On the far right of the CC clerk space) Bob's office & vitals staff space adjacent to Clerks due to shared supervisory responsibilities, 1 office, 4 open office workstations, storage area, if additional department secure storage is deemed necessary a locked vault with key code vitals / clerk only access may be constructed in the shared storage area on the ground floor
Circuit Court	8 offices, 8 open office workstations, three courtrooms, one large jury deliberation room (Crowdedness of other jury deliberation rooms will be addressed with furniture), 3 conference rooms and one open office conference area, Dividable jury selection room
LAC	1 office, 4 open office workstations, storage counter & customer service window, space for printer and copier
Sheriffs	Most to stay the same, break/ locker area to combine with fingerprinting room, use shared staff breakroom for other break needs
Conference	Increase from 5 to 9 shared conference rooms of various sizes. The Circuit Court jury assembly room size has also increased and designed to seat a maximum of 155.



KEY:

CIRCUIT COURT	TREASURERS OFFICE	SHERIFF
NEW COURTROOM	VITAL RECORDS	LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
PROBATE COURT	REGISTER OF DEEDS	DISTRICT CLERK/ PROBATION
FAMILY COURT	DRAIN OFFICE	DISTRICT COURT
FRIEND OF THE COURT	RECORDS MGT	PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CLERK	STORAGE	EXISTING TO REMAIN
CSB ELECTED OFFICE PRIMARY OFFICE SERVICE ACCESS	SHARED BREAK / CONF.	SHARED SPACE
	MEDIATION	FACILITIES

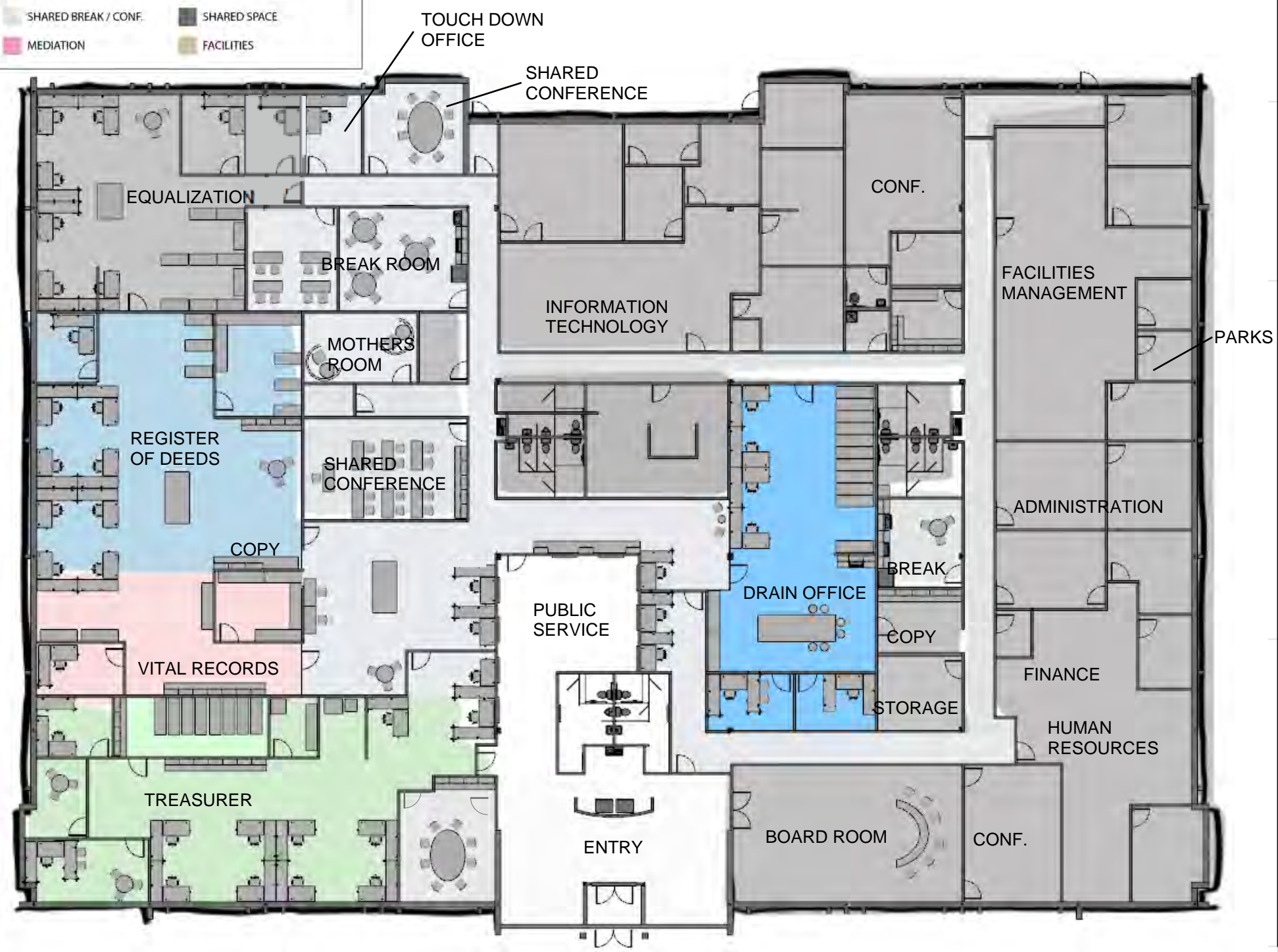


Second Floor	
Prosecuting Attorney	4 offices, enlarged storage space, possible restroom, kitchen, conference room to double as Childrens "Hoffman Room"
District Court	Three courtrooms with attached jury deliberation spaces, enlarged Jury selection space with restroom, 10 offices, 1 open office workstation, 1 remote hearing room with vestibule and attached conference area, Relocation of the court receipts person to the D.C. Clerks area with current office transitioning to a shared conference room (DC admin to move into DC Clerk space)
DC Probation	6 offices, 2 open office workstations with windows to hall enclave, Conference/drug testing room, break/ coffee counter, mail/ copier/ printer/ storage area
DC Clerk	3 offices (2 for DC Admin staff), 20 open office workstations, storage area, print/ copy area & mail counter, storage room, Non public break zone with break/coffee counter
Conference	4 small shared conference rooms and one larger (formerly the jury selection space), also the new jury selection room may be shared if not in use for jury selection



KEY:

CIRCUIT COURT	TREASURERS OFFICE	SHERIFF
NEW COURTROOM	VITAL RECORDS	LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
PROBATE COURT	REGISTER OF DEEDS	DISTRICT CLERK/ PROBATION
FAMILY COURT	DRAIN OFFICE	DISTRICT COURT
FRIEND OF THE COURT	RECORDS MGT	PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CLERK	STORAGE	EXISTING TO REMAIN
CSB ELECTED OFFICE PRIMARY OFFICE SERVICE ACCESS	SHARED BREAK / CONF.	SHARED SPACE
	MEDIATION	FACILITIES



County Services Building	
Treasurers	2 offices, 9 open office workstations, 2 customer service windows, 1 conference/ money sorting room, 1 cash room, 1 large storage room with rolling shelves, 1 open office conference areas, 1 mail counter,
Drain Office	2 offices, 7 open office workstations one with internal customer service counter & waiting area, storage room, map viewership zone centralized within open office area, open office conference area,
Vital Records	(Open to ROD) 1 vitals office, 8 vitals/rod open office workstations to be assigned as need requires, 3 storage rooms, 1 break counter & adjacent open office conference area, additional open office conference area near reception, mail counter in open office and counter in copy room next to reception, shared reception area with 2 additional workstations with public service windows, one public research zone with 2 seated stations and one standing 4 person kiosk. Space for floating storage shelves in open office area (space for elections in small storage room or we can carve out a different space for that)
Register of Deeds	(Open to vitals) 1 rod office, 8 vitals/rod open office workstations to be assigned as need requires, 3 storage rooms, 1 break counter & adjacent open office conference area, additional open office conference area near reception, mail counter in open office and counter in copy room next to reception, shared reception area with 2 additional workstations with public service windows, one public research zone with 2 seated stations and one standing 4 person kiosk. Space for floating storage shelves in open office area



S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN MICHIGAN (AAWM)—APPROVE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (AIP) FY 24

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2023, the County's Commission on Aging (COA) reviewed the AIP plan and recommends the Board of Commissioners (Board) approval.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with all statutes and policies governing the AAAM, the Board supports the AIP for FY2024, as presented.

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT G AAAWM Annual Plan

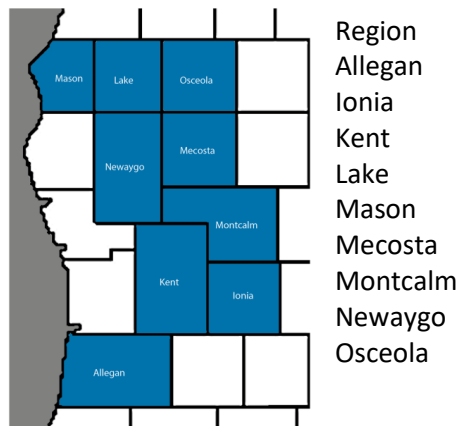
To: Allegan County Commission on Aging

From: Sheri Harris, AAAWM Director of Advocacy and Planning

Date: June 6, 2023

Action Required: Approval Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) FY 24

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan's (AAAWM) mission is to provide older adults and persons living with a disability an array of services designed to promote independence and dignity in their homes and their communities. We are the source for seniors. As a leader of older adult service development, we pride ourselves on offering a wide range of resources to meet individuals at whatever chapter of life they are in through their aging journey, while also working to eliminate gaps in care. AAAWM coordinates support and education to come alongside caregivers while also leading advocacy efforts to advance the voice of older adults and those that care for them in the public arena.



The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan has been and will continue to be a leader in advocacy throughout Region 8 and Michigan. In FY23, AAAWM focused on meeting one-on-one with all the legislators in our Region, with the intention of building relationships and educating them on everything our agency provides as well as our advocacy priorities which include:

Increasing the Direct Care Worker wage by a permanent \$4.00 an hour.

Strengthening the MI Choice program

Increasing Older Americans Act funding to address unmet needs and improve program offerings

Expanding Broadband Access

For FY24, our advocacy will continue to be focused on the above priorities. We will look to build upon our efforts to get to know our legislators, and reinforce the importance and impact, not only of AAAWM, but the sixteen Area Agencies throughout Michigan.

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan also enlists the guidance from our Advisory Council and the Advocates for Senior Issues, both of which prioritize and strengthen AAAWM's advocacy efforts.

These groups provide opportunities for older adults, throughout Region 8, to meet their legislators and ask questions pertaining to issues that affect older adults. AFSI has a membership of three hundred, including organizations and individuals.

In FY23, AAAWM looked to strengthen and build upon its existing Older Americans Act (OAA) Partner Network. The results of these intentional efforts saw the addition of new Partners and existing Partners adding new services.

The new services are:

Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (ABVI) – Counseling Services

Life Therapeutic Solutions Inc. – Healthy IDEAS

Ludington Mass Transit Authority (LMTA) – Assisted Transportation

Mason County Central Schools – Scottville Senior Center – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

These services will help AAAWM increase service delivery and focus on reducing isolation throughout our service region and providing increased access to services, throughout Region 8.

AAAWM aims to enhance the services offered to seniors from BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities in Region 8 through active collaboration with community partners and organizations dedicated to serving these populations. Our goal is to foster trust, create culturally sensitive programming, and improve accessibility to services. By doing so, we anticipate a rise in the number of clients we serve, particularly from underserved communities.

AAAWM will continue to strive to hire diverse staff that reflect the diversity of the communities in our Region. Our efforts to provide culturally competent services requires us to consistently update and revise our training efforts so that staff receive the resources they need. This will help ensure that services are culturally sensitive and welcoming to all.

An important part of this work is measuring progress. We measure progress by tracking the number of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ seniors served, and the types of services provided. We also collect feedback from clients to assess satisfaction with the services provided and identify areas for improvement. In FY24, AAAWM will engage in ongoing outreach to BIPOC and LGBTQ+ seniors through community events, social media, and other face to face outreach. This will also increase awareness of the services available and encourage seniors to access them.

In FY23, AAAWM worked closely with our OAA Partners to address the rising costs associated with providing services during the pandemic and inflation. These discussions have led to improved service quality and a better understanding of the costs associated with each service. We will continue to collaborate with our partners so they have the

resources they need to provide critical services to seniors. Most of these funding conversations have focused on staffing needs to ensure service delivery is meeting the needs of older adults and their caregivers.

Funding for AAAWM's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be used to enhance the ability of Older Americans Act Service Partners to meet the needs of clients within Region 8. This funding will help address the challenges that these partners face, such as staffing shortages and resource limitations.

By investing in staffing stability and consistent service delivery, AAAWM hopes to improve the quality of care provided to older Americans within its service area. This funding will also help ensure that Older Americans Act Service Partners can continue to provide essential services to those in need.

Overall, the allocation of this ARPA funding to Older Americans Act Service Partners is an important step towards addressing the needs of older adults in Region 8. It is a significant investment in the well-being of this vulnerable population and reflects the AAAWM's commitment to providing high-quality care and support to those in need.

AAAWM is monitoring its funding allocations, for FY23 and FY24, to help minimize the funding cliff that will take place when the ARPA funding is eliminated at the end of FY24. We are speaking with our OAA Service Partners on the importance of diversifying funding and seeking out long-term funding opportunities. We hope to use carryover dollars from regular OAA funding, to lessen the impact, with the loss of ARPA funding, in FY25 and FY26.

AAAWM recognizes the importance of bridging the technological gap for older adults. We continue to offer training and provide hardware to help seniors access critical services and stay connected with their loved ones. AAAWM hosted technology trainings throughout our service region, aimed at helping promote technology education and understanding.

In FY23, AAAWM took steps to address areas of need within our organization. This included a wage study review, employee evaluation updates, updating hiring practices, cross training initiative, department meetings, organizational restructuring, and intentional marketing and outreach strategies. AAAWM will continue to focus on community and statewide partnerships, aimed at bridging gaps in care for older adults.

In FY24, AAAWM expects to encounter a multitude of obstacles that could pose a significant threat to our mission of providing quality services to older adults and persons with a disability in the community. The challenges are multifaceted, with each requiring a different approach to overcome them effectively.

First and foremost, AAAWM must adapt to the changing demographics of the aging population. With the aging baby boomer generation, there will be an increased demand for services, and the organization must ensure that it is equipped to meet those needs.

AAAWM must focus on increasing access to technology for older adults, given the growing trend of digitalization. Technology can help enhance communication, reduce social isolation, and improve health outcomes. However, many older adults lack the skills and resources necessary to use technology effectively, and AAWM must take steps to bridge this digital divide.

Another significant challenge that AAWM will face is addressing Direct Care Worker (DCW) pay and education. DCWs play a critical role in providing in-home and community-based services to older adults. The current compensation and training for these workers does not empower and show the importance of the services DCW's are providing. Compensation falls short of the standards required to retain quality personnel and create a professionalized workforce.

AAAWM must plan for the loss of ARPA funding, which has been instrumental in supporting the organization's pandemic response efforts. It is crucial to maintain the level of services provided to older adults while also planning for a future where ARPA funding is no longer available.

Overall, AAWM's ability to address these challenges will be critical to in the upcoming fiscal year. By adopting proactive and innovative solutions, AAWM can continue to provide essential services to older adults while ensuring that their needs are met in a changing world.

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

**CITY OF OTSEGO - LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SPARK GRANT APPLICATION TO REPLACE
NORTHSIDE PARK PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the release of the letter of support, as attached.

DRAFT

Allegan County Board of Commissioners



County Services Building
3283 – 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0203 Main Office
269-686-5331 Main Fax
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

*Jim Storey, Chairperson
Dean Kapenga, Vice Chairperson*

June 23, 2023

DISTRICT 1

Jim Storey
616-848-9767
jstorey@
allegancounty.org

State of Michigan
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

DISTRICT 2

Mark DeYoung
616-318-9612
mdeyoung@
allegancounty.org

RE: City of Otsego, Michigan SPARK Grant Application to replace the aging Northside Park playground structure

Dear Funding Agency,

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners submit this letter of support for the City of Otsego as they endeavor to secure funding to replace the aging Northside Park playground structure. The City of Otsego is seeking a SPARK grant that will significantly change the course of Northside Park, one of the more popular parks within the City park system.

DISTRICT 3

Dean Kapenga
616-218-2599
dkapenga@
allegancounty.org

Northside Park is located at the corner of Watson Rd. and River Rd. It is the only City park located north of the Kalamazoo River and the heart of the City of Otsego. Making it incredibly important and vital for the surrounding community. This is only a couple hundred feet from a large “once in a generation” 400+ residential unit development. Those new residents will greatly increase the use of this park. The park’s main attraction is the 30-year-old large wooden playground structure. This large piece of playground equipment is beloved by the City of Otsego residents and visitors. It has been a fixture for small children for multiple generations. Its life has been steadily extended by intentional maintenance by the City’s Department of Public Works employees. However, it is now at a point where maintenance is not going to be an option for much longer. The age is catching up to the structure and is not far from being needed to be replaced or removed entirely if funding for replacement is not available. The large and dated piece of equipment was installed as a community effort by having community volunteers assemble and install the wooden structure, which was rather common in the mid-1990s. However, trends have taken playground structures away from being composed of wood and towards more permanent materials such as metal or plastic. These newer materials are not eligible to utilize in-kind donations, which makes the replacement of this playground structure much more difficult financially. If awarded the DNR SPARK grant for \$1M, the City will be able to replace the 30+ year-old piece of playground equipment that has become a growing liability and unlock the park’s potential for the next generation of families.

DISTRICT 4

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
sbeltman@
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 5

Gale Dugan
269-694-5276
gdugan@
allegancounty.org

This effort is consistent with the goals and objectives below from within the Allegan County Board of Commissioners approved Parks 5-Year Recreation Plan:

Goal 1: Continue Park Maintenance to increase efficiency and reduce costs to ensure our current parklands are in safe, functional, and aesthetic condition.

Mission Statement

“The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper”

- a. Objectives: Evaluate & prioritize the replacement and maintenance of playground equipment, structural amenities/buildings, and site amenities

Goal 2: Provide safe, broad community-based recreation opportunities, facilities, and programs that improve the overall quality of life year-round for all Allegan County residents and tourists.

Objectives:

- a. Add recreational opportunities/amenities which fall in line with the purpose of the park and are based upon recreation needs, trends, and input from the community.
- b. Increase recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- c. Continue efforts to find and enhance recreation opportunities throughout Allegan County
- d. Continue to add structural amenities, such as pavilions and restroom buildings, to the park facilities based upon community input and need to ensure that there are sufficient park and recreation opportunities for all current and potential users.

Goal 3: Provide leisure time activities with special consideration given to improving health, wellness, and fitness.

Objectives:

- a. Provide both passive and active activities for a variety of ages and abilities of the community.

Goal 4: Provide non-motorized and/or multi-use pathways/waterways for recreational and transportation use.

Objectives:

- a. Expand non-motorized and/or multi-use pathways/waterways through Allegan County with a focus upon linking parks, schools, neighborhoods, cities, business areas, regional trails, and local destination points.
- b. Support the efforts of trail groups (Friends of the Blue Star Trail, River to River trail committee, etc.) to connect Allegan County to parks, schools, neighborhoods, cities, business areas, regional trails, and local destination points.

Based on alignment with these goals and objectives, including increasing community-based recreation opportunities, increased tourism, economic growth, and public health improvements, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners supports your effort to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Storey, Board Chairperson

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

IN THE MATTER OF SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS'
RELIEF COMMISSION.

Court Address and Phone:
Allegan County Building
113 Chestnut Street

File No. 70-35479-ML

Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-0250
Assigned to Probate Judge
Michael L. Buck

ORDER APPOINTING COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to MCL § 35.22, and in accordance with the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, being an Act to create a fund for the relief of honorably discharged indigent members of the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and women's auxiliaries of all wars or military expeditions in which the United States of America has been, is, or may hereafter be, a participant, and the indigent spouses, minor children, and parents of each such indigent or deceased member;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Peter Antkoviak, of the Township of Trowbridge, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as a Commissioner of said Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Commission for a term of three (3) years, expiring on December 31, 2025, or until a successor is thereafter appointed and qualified, said Peter Antkoviak, being an honorably discharged soldier of the Vietnam Conflict.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.

2-2-23
Date


HON. MICHAEL L. BUCK P27674
Judge of Probate

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

IN THE MATTER OF SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS'
RELIEF COMMISSION.

Court Address and Phone:
Allegan County Building
113 Chestnut Street

File No. 70-35479-ML

Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-0250
Assigned to Probate Judge
Michael L. Buck

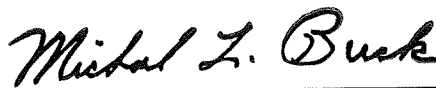
ORDER APPOINTING COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to MCL § 35.22, and in accordance with the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, being an Act to create a fund for the relief of honorably discharged indigent members of the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and women's auxiliaries of all wars or military expeditions in which the United States of America has been, is, or may hereafter be, a participant, and the indigent spouses, minor children, and parents of each such indigent or deceased member;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that John W. Tyrrell, of the Township of Heath, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as a Commissioner of said Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Commission for a term of three (3) years, expiring on December 31, 2025, or until a successor is thereafter appointed and qualified, said John W. Tyrrell, being an honorably discharged soldier of the Vietnam Conflict.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.

2-2-23
Date



HON. MICHAEL L. BUCK P27674
Judge of Probate

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

IN THE MATTER OF SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS'
RELIEF COMMISSION.

Court Address and Phone:
Allegan County Building
113 Chestnut Street

File No. 70-35479-ML

Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-0250
Assigned to Probate Judge
Michael L. Buck

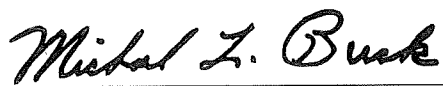
ORDER APPOINTING COMMISSIONER

Pursuant to MCL § 35.22, and in accordance with the provisions of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, being an Act to create a fund for the relief of honorably discharged indigent members of the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, and women's auxiliaries of all wars or military expeditions in which the United States of America has been, is, or may hereafter be, a participant, and the indigent spouses, minor children, and parents of each such indigent or deceased member;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Michael Andrus, of the Allegan Township, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as a Commissioner of said Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Commission for term of three (3) years, expiring on December 31, 2025, or until a successor is thereafter appointed and qualified, said Michael Andrus, being an honorably discharged airmen of the United States Air Force

IT IS SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.

2-2-23
Date



HON. MICHAEL L. BUCK P27674
Judge of Probate