



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12 East, Pontiac, MI 48341

Democratic Caucus Minutes

January 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Angela Powell called the meeting of the Democratic Caucus to order at 06:00 PM in Committee Room A 1200 N. Telegraph Road, 12E, Pontiac, MI 48341.

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Woodward, Penny Luebs, Kristen Nelson (remote from Waterford Twp.), Gwen Markham, Angela Powell, Marcia Gershenson (remote from California), William Miller III, Yolanda Smith Charles, Charles Cavell, Brendan Johnson, Ann Erickson Gault, Linnie Taylor (remote from Farmington Hills) (12)

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE: (0)

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Spisz, Christine Long (remote), Philip Weipert (remote), Robert Smiley (remote) (4)

3. Public Comment

No one addressed the Caucus during Public Comment #1.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Board of Commissioners - dated December 12, 2024

Commissioner William Miller moved **approval of the Minutes dated December 12, 2024, as presented**. Seconded by Commissioner Penny Luebs.

Motion Passed.

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the Minutes dated December 12, 2024 were approved.

5. Discussion Items

a. Board of Commissioners - Organizational Items for the 2025-2028 Term

Commissioner David Woodward addressed the Caucus to give an overview of how the organizational meeting being held on January 13, 2025 will be conducted.

Moved by Chair Angela Powell to nominate Commissioner David Woodward as Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Gwen Markham. There were no other nominees.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Commissioner William Miller to nominate Commissioner Marcia Gershenson as Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Chair Angela Powell. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Commissioner William Miller to nominate Chair Angela Powell as Chair of the Majority Caucus. Seconded by Commissioner Marcia Gershenson. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Commissioner Gwen Markham to nominate Commissioner Charlie Cavell as Majority Caucus Vice-Chair. Seconded by Chair Angela Powell. There were no other nominees.

Commissioner David Woodward opened discussion of the 2025-2028 Board Rules.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner David Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding decorum and the address of officials.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Brendan Johnson addressed the Caucus to suggest looking into ranked choice voting for appointments.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner David Woodward addressed the Caucus to open discussion regarding standing committee membership, partisan allocation and chairs.

Moved by Commissioner Marcia Gershenson to nominate Commissioner Gwen Markham as Finance Committee Chair. Seconded by Chair Angela Powell. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Commissioner Charlie Cavell to nominate himself as Finance Committee Vice-Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles.

Moved by Commissioner Gwen Markham to nominate Commissioner Linnie Taylor as Finance Committee Vice-Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Penny Luebs.

Discussion followed.

An informal poll of the Commissioners regarding support for a Finance

Committee Vice-Chair ended in a tie. This matter will be revisited at the January 13, 2025, Majority Caucus.

Moved by Commissioner Charlie Cavell to nominate Commissioner Brendan Johnson as Legislative Affairs and Government Operations Committee (LAGO) Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Penny Luebs.

Moved by Commissioner Linnie Taylor to nominate herself as LAGO Committee Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles.

Discussion followed.

An informal poll of the Commissioners regarding support for a LAGO Committee Chair had a 9-3 outcome in favor of supporting Commissioner Brendan Johnson as LAGO Committee Chair.

Moved by Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles to nominate Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault as Vice-Chair of the LAGO Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Brendan Johnson. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault to nominate Commissioner Penny Luebs as Chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee (PHS). Seconded by Commissioner Kristen Nelson. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles to nominate Chair Angela Powell as Vice-Chair of the PHS Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Marcia Gershenson. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Chair Angela Powell to nominate Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles as Chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee (EDI). Seconded by Commissioner William Miller. There were no other nominees.

Moved by Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles to nominate Commissioner Brendan Johnson as Vice-Chair of the EDI Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Penny Luebs. There were no other nominees.

Commissioner Kristen Nelson addressed the Caucus to request the following changes to the Board Rules:

- Strike the Board Vice-Chair as an ex officio member.
- Provide copies of Corporation Counsel opinions to all Commissioners.
- Record Caucus meetings and post to the public.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner David Woodward opened discussion on filling vacant seats on various committees and authorities.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner David Woodward addressed the Caucus regarding updates to the following policies to be examined in the first quarter of 2025:

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy
- Oakland County Drone Policy
- After Action Reports Policy
- Fund Allocations Policy

Discussion followed.

Chair Angela Powell addressed the Caucus to review the Caucus Memo of Announcements.

6. Public Comment

No one addressed the Caucus during Public Comment #2.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 08:50 PM.