



# MINUTES

## Committee of the Whole Meeting

**8:00 AM - Monday, December 9, 2024**

H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723

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Commissioner Vaughan called the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723, on Monday, December 9, 2024, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: Thomas Young, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Clayette Zechmeister, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Jon Ramirez, Shelly Lutz, Phillip Fulks, Brandon Weslock, David Stevens, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Tyler Ray

Also Present Virtual: Eean Lee, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Bonnie Fackler, Carrie Tabar, Debbie Babich, Estee Bitzer, Rebecca Evans, Renee Francisco, Angie House, Tom McLane, Tammy Daenzer, Cody Horton, Amanda Ertman, Ashley Gaudett, Mark Ransford, Kristi Phipps, Register Marianne Brandt, Barry Lapp, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Cindy Hughes, Shelly Lutz

At 8:01 a.m., there were a total of 12 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **New Business**

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lapeer County - Steve Anderson, Emergency Services Director, explained the request to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
2. Community Corrections Discussion - Phillip Fulks requested the Board approve the recommendation to have him reappointed to the Community Corrections Board. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

3. Presentation by Brown and Brown Regarding Blue Cross Blue Shield Renewal - Brandon Weslock, Employee Benefits Operations Manager, explained the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans that will be offered for county employees in 2025. Mr. Weslock discussed that other vendors were bid out for better rates but due to the number of claims other vendors were not cost-effective. Matter placed on the Consent Agenda.

## **Old Business**

1. Opioid Task Force and Uses of Opioid Settlement Fund - Clayette Zechmeister, Interim Chief Accountant, reported that settlement funds continue to be distributed to Tuscola County. All information received has been being provided to Judge Gierhart. No action requested at this time.

## **Finance/Technology**

### ***Primary Finance/Technology***

1. District Court Out-of-State Travel Request - Matter to be moved to Thursday's agenda.
2. Bureau of Justice Assistance Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) Funding for Reaching Rural Implementation Funding Update - Clayette Zechmeister, Interim Chief Accountant, reviewed the program that will be presented at a future Board meeting by Judge Bitzer. No action requested at this time.
3. Marihuana Operation and Oversight Grants - 2025 Grant Application Update - Clayette Zechmeister, Interim Chief Accountant, reviewed the program and said that Health Officer Ertman will be submitting an application for the 2025 grant. No action requested at this time.
4. Evaluating New Component Unit - New Land Bank Fund (283) - Clayette Zechmeister, Interim Chief Accountant, this matter should be handled by the Land Bank and will be removed from the All-Funds Budget sheet.
5. 2024 Budget Amendments - Clayette Zechmeister, Interim Chief Accountant, reviewed the proposed 2024 Budget Amendments. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

### ***On-Going and Other Finance***

None

### ***On-Going and Other Technology***

Tracy Violet reported that the phone conversion will begin this week.

## **Building and Grounds**

### ***Primary Building and Grounds***

None

### ***On-Going and Other Building and Grounds***

None

## **Personnel**

### ***Primary Personnel***

1. Dispatch 911 Request to Fill Vacant Full-Time Dispatcher Position - Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, presented the request to fill a vacant position. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
2. Dispatch 911 Request to Fill Vacant Full-Time Dispatcher Position - Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, presented the request to fill a vacant position. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
3. Request to Fill Vacant Full-Time Corrections Deputy Position - Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, submitted a request to fill a vacant corrections position. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

### ***On-Going and Other Personnel***

Commissioner Bardwell that stated a current Assistant Prosecutor has resigned to accept another position. The search will begin to fill the vacant positions in the Prosecutor's Office.

Commissioner Bardwell expressed concern as county benefits seem to be dwindling, which has always been a draw for employees in the past.

Commissioner Vaughan provided an update, that after a discussion with Jodi Holbrook, she had been offered a position somewhere else. Commissioner Vaughan stated that the contract to proceed with Plante Moran will move forward to have them provide Controller/Administrator services to Tuscola County. A new search for a Controller/Administrator will begin after the first of the year. He is recommending that Shelly Lutz to be appointed as Interim Controller/Administrator until a permanent person can be found. Commissioner Bardwell expressed concern about the interim appointment and if that would open up a conflict with the County's nepotism policy.

### **Other Business as Necessary**

Commissioner Lutz recognized Millington Football Team for winning the State Championship Title.

At 8:47 a.m., there were a total of 31 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**Public Comment Period**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m.  
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO