MINUTES
Committee of the Whole Meeting

8:00 AM - Monday, October 26, 2026
H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723

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, October 26, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting Rynearson

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting Rynearson, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Jordan Wade, Angie Daniels, Tom McLane, Amanda Ertman, David Stevens, Judge Nancy Thane, Amy Ewald, Lynn Ferris, Carrie Tabar, Karly Creguer, Connie Keinath

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Dan Lisowski, Scienna Nieschulz, Debbie Babich, Katie Robinson, Maggie Root, Angie House, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Kandi Teddy, Karlee Romain, Samuel Putnam, Tanya Pisha, Tricia Sharp, Bonnie Fackler, Echo Torrez, Matthew Sexton, Shelby Miller, Beth Hoppe, Cindy Hughes, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Kristen Young, Larry Zapfe, Tim Green, Barry Lapp, Krystaria Skakle, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Kyle Nordstrom, Robert Baxter, Amanda Ertman, Kristi Phipps, Sherry Billot, Shelly Lutz, Chad Tumblin, Gregg Campbell

At 8:19 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

New Business

1. Michigan State University Extension (MSUe) Draft MOA FY 2027 -
   Karly Creguer, District 10 Director, reviewed the presented request. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

2. Connections Human Services - Guardianship Presentation -
   Amy Ewald, Director of Programming & Screening, reviewed the program and the services that are provided to residents of Tuscola County. The budget for Connections Human Services has a shortfall and services are not able to be provided to all clients that are referred to them. Ms. Ewald asked if the program could fit into the county budget in order to provide financial assistance or if there is an open office space that they could take advantage of to lower the costs.

3. Community Corrections Advisory Board Service Agreement FY27 -
   Dave Stevens, Community Corrections Coordinator, requested funding in the amount of $11,000.00 for the Thinking Matters program for staff training in order to administer the program within the Tuscola County Jail. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

4. 2026 Apportionment Report -
   Angie Daniels, Equalization Director, reviewed the Apportionment Report. The report will need to be adjusted after the November 3, 2026 General Election as there are three local proposals that will impact the report if they are passed by the voters. Matter to be placed on the November 12, 2026 Board agenda pending that the election results are certified.

5. Proposed Resolution of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Approving the 2026 Apportionment Report -
   No action at this time. Matter to be placed on the November 12, 2026 Board agenda pending if the election results are certified.

6. Approval for a New Classification for Competent Professional Authority (CPA) -
   Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, explained the new classification and position in order to meet the qualifications of the WIC Program. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

7. Approval to Increase Tuscola County's Public Health Fee Schedule -
   Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, reviewed the changes to the proposed Fee Schedule and requested approval. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

8. Health Department Annual Report FY 24-25 -
   Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, reviewed the annual report. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

9. Request to Purchase Regroup Mass Notification -
   Carrie Tabar, Interim Dispatch Director and Jordan Wade, Emergency Services Director, reviewed the proposed request for a mass notification system. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

Old Business

None

Finance/Technology

Primary Finance/Technology

1. Budget Adjustments -
   Connie Keinath, Chief Accountant, presented the list of requested budget adjustments. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
2. Varipro Renewal -
   Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the renewal agreement which has a minimal increase. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.
3. Stipend for Dispatch Employees -
   Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, requested an extension of the stipend hourly pay rate adjustment from October 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 due to the staff shortage at Dispatch. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.
4. 2027 Fiscal Year Budget First Review -
   Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the first draft budget and the proposed shortfall of $836,996.00. The possible options of budget reductions were discussed for the 2027 budget with a revised draft budget to reflect those changes. The draft budget includes a 0% wage increase and no transfer into the Capital Improvement Fund. A revised budget calendar was presented for consideration by the Board. Matters to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

On-Going and Other Finance

None

On-Going and Other Technology

-Eean Lee reported the AI Committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Building and Grounds

Primary Building and Grounds

1. Entrance Gates for Recycling -
   Tom McLane, Building and Grounds Director, requested approval for Zuma Contracting to replace the gates with funding to come from the Recycling Budget. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

On-Going and Other Building and Grounds

None

Personnel

Primary Personnel

1. Request to Hire Nicolas Georgiou for Corrections -
   Controller/Administrator Miller reviewed the need to correct the hourly wage for Step 1. Matter to be placed on Thursday's agenda.

On-Going and Other Personnel

-Commissioner Bardwell would like to have a County Hiring Freeze implementation added to a future agenda for further discussion.

Other Business as Necessary

1. Saginaw River & Bay AOC PAC -
   Commissioner Nancy Barrios reviewed improvements that have been discussed at the meetings. The meetings are open to all to attend.
2. Parks and Recreation Commission Request for Approval of Grant Application Through USDA Rural Development Program (matter added) -
   Commissioner Nancy Barrios is requesting approval for a letter of intent to apply for a grant program through USDA Rural Development. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.
3. Evergreen Park -
   Commissioner Thomas Bardwell discussed the improvements that were made at Evergreen Park over the years. Those improvements have increased use of the park.

Public Comment Period

-Clerk Jodi Fetting Rynearson reviewed Early Voting that is currently ongoing through November 1, 2026 with Election Day on November 3, 2026. Early Voting turnout for Tuscola County is trending similar to neighboring counties but is down from November 2024 Early Voting Turnout. Early Voting continues daily through November 1, 2026.

Adjournment

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting Rynearson
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO