



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, January 12, 2023

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

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Commissioner Vaughan called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln Street, Caro, MI 48723, on Thursday, January 12, 2023, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Young

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, Mike Miller, Steve Anderson, Ken Dunton, Cody Rabideau, Jon Ramirez, Register John Bishop

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Dara Hood, Mary Drier, Brandon Bertram, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Matt Brown, Kate Curtis, Pam Shook, Rachel Adam, Mark Haney, Mitchell Holmes, Cody Horton, Debbie Babich, Renee Francisco, Barry Lapp, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Bob Baxter, Shannon Beach, Jon Ramirez, Tuscola GOP, Mike Slade

At 8:02 a.m., there were a total of 19 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2023-M-008

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

#### **Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2023-M-009

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the December 29, 2022 Regular meeting and January 3, 2023 Organizational Meeting. Motion Carried.

**Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only**

None

**Consent Agenda**

2023-M-010

Motion by Thomas Young, seconded by Matt Koch that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the January 9, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) -

Move that the county health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBS) be renewed for January through December 2023. This action includes the fixed administrative fees for the estimated 186 contracts at \$65.57 each with an estimated annual cost of \$146,352. Also, all appropriate signatures are authorized.

2. State Application for Training Funds -

Move that per the request from Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, that Tuscola County make application to obtain funds from the Michigan 911 Training Fund. Also, all appropriate signatures are authorized.

3. 2023 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Standard Mileage Rate -

Move that effective January 1, 2023, the standard county mileage rate be increased from \$0.585 per mile to \$0.655 per mile as established by the Internal Revenue Service.

4. Human Development Commission (HDC) Board Appointment -

Move that Commissioner William Lutz be appointed as the Commissioner liaison to serve on the Tuscola County Human Development Commission Board of Directors left vacant by appointed member Matthew Bierlein.

5. Appointment to Region VII Council on Aging -

Move to appoint Patricia LaBair to the Region VII Council on Aging for a 1-year term expiring December 31, 2023.

6. Sheriff's Department Hiring to Fill Vacant Part-time Corrections Position -

Move that per the request from Undersheriff Baxter Rebecca Bills be hired for a part-time Corrections position. A background investigation, physical & drug test have been completed. Rebecca Bills will start at a part-time wage of \$19.73 per hour. Scheduling will commence upon Board approval.

7. Controller/Administrator Unused Vacation Time Carryover Request -

Move that per the request from Clayette Zechmeister, Controller/Administrator, that authorization is given to carry over any unused vacation hours earned (27.5 hours) from the time period of January 12, 2022 to January 12, 2023. Extenuating circumstances required the Controller/Administrator to perform numerous responsibilities resulting in the inability to use this vacation time in the normal 12--month period. The hours carried over shall be used before January 12, 2024.

8. Pump House Demo Bids at The Parcels -

Move to authorize Mike Miller, Director of Building and Grounds, to repost the bid for the Pump House Demolition located at the northwest corner of Chambers Road and Washburn Road in Caro, Michigan.

**New Business**

1. Dispatch Outage Update (matter added) -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, provided an update regarding the outage experienced on January 10, 2023.

2. Re-fill Vacant Account Clerk III Position - Ashley Bennett, County Treasurer

2023-M-011

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz Move that per the recommendation of Ashley Bennett, Tuscola County Treasurer, that Estee Bitzer be hired to fill the vacant full-time Account Clerk III position (\$17.33 per hour), pending a favorable background check, drug screen and physical. Her expected start date will be January 17, 2023 pending all of her required information is received by that date. Motion Carried.

3. Update on the Appointment Process to Fill the Pending Register of Deeds Vacancy -

Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, updated the Board that a meeting has been set for the Statutory Appointment Commission which will be held on January 24, 2023. The Statutory Appointment Commission will provide notice of the vacancy, review the applicants and make the appointment.

4. Multi-Year General Fund Revenue Versus Expenditures Comparisons -

Clayette Zechmeister, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the charts and graphs included in the agenda packet.

## Old Business

1. Proposed Renovations for the People State Bank Building -

2023-M-012

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young Move to agree to the terms with the Firm of NJB Architects, Inc. for professional services including architectural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and structural engineering to complete the additions and renovations to Tuscola County Offices in the People's State Bank building in Caro for the amount of \$115,200.00. Also, establish a budget in the Capital Fund (483) with the use of funds in the provision of government services fund balance.

Yes: Thomas Young, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, and Matt Koch

Motion Carried.

2. Proposed Renovations for the People's State Bank Building -

2023-M-013

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz Move to accept the schematic design presented by NJB Architect, Inc. in the probable construction costs of \$1,772,340.00 with a \$265,851.00 contingency for the People's State Bank in Caro, Michigan. Next steps are to proceed with the design development and construction documents, assist in obtaining bids from contractors and conduct construction administration. Also, establish a budget in the Capital Fund (483) with the use of funds in the provision of government services fund balance.

Yes: Thomas Young, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, and Matt Koch

Motion Carried.

## Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Legislative Update January 6, 2023 - The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)
2. 2023 - MAC - State Priorities - Final
3. Branch County Resolution 2023-01
4. Opioid Lawsuit (matter added) - Clayette will be scheduling a closed session to discuss the disbursements of the settlement.
5. Ottawa County Lawsuit Regarding the Health Department (matter added) - Commissioner Vaughan discussed a recent lawsuit outcome.

## Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

### *Vaughan*

No updates

Board of Health

County Planning Commission  
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment  
MAC Environmental Regulatory  
Mid-Michigan Mosquito Control Advisory Committee  
NACO-Energy, Environment & Land Use  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Tuscola County Fair Board Liaison  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

***Lutz***

Board of Health  
Community Corrections Advisory Board  
Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison  
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works  
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)  
MAC Judiciary Committee  
MEMS All Hazard -  
Discussed the Hemlock grain fire and that over 80 Fire Departments joined together in the battle.  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

***Koch***

No Updates  
Behavioral Health Systems Board  
Recycling Advisory  
Jail Planning Committee  
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)  
Local Units of Government

***Bardwell***

No Updates  
Behavioral Health Systems Board  
Caro DDA/TIFA  
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment  
MAC 7th District

MAC Workers Comp Board  
MAC Finance Committee  
TRIAD  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

**Young**

Board of Public Works  
County Road Commission Liaison  
Update provided regarding the fiber optic being halted due to the Road Commission pulling Thumb Electric's permits.  
Dispatch Authority Board  
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works  
Great Start Collaborative  
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)  
Jail Planning Committee  
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee  
Region VII Economic Development Planning  
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative  
Meeting coming up on January 19, 2023. Commissioner Young is going to address phragmities in Tuscola County.  
Senior Services Advisory Council  
Tuscola 2020  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

**Other Business as Necessary**

-Commissioner Koch stated that he intends to have County employee retirement benefits remain status quo and that Tuscola County employees are the most valuable asset of the County.

At 8:53 a.m., there were a total of 27 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**Extended Public Comment**

-Register John Bishop asked if solar revenue would offset the loss of wind revenue.

-Eean Lee spoke regarding halting the fiber optic project of Thumb Electric.

-Cody Rabideau introduced himself as the new Administrator at the Medical Care Facility.

-Pam Shook spoke regarding the condition of the road in Vanderbilt Park.

-Kate Curtis thanked Commissioner Young for addressing Clerk Fetting in a professional capacity and giving that respect.

### **Adjournment**

2023-M-014

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO