



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, February 9, 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, February 9, 2023, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Koch

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

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, Marie Swick, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Kate Curtis, Judge Jason Bitzer, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Steve Anderson, Ken Dunton, Pam Shook

Also Present Virtual: Rachel Adam, Tuscola GOP, Tracy Violet, Shirley Schaefer, Mark Haney, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Angie Daniels, Cody Horton, Christy Poulos, Debbie Babich, Renee Francisco, Tim Green, Barry Lapp, Mitchell Holmes, Amanda Ertman, Mary Drier, Dara Hood, Matt Brown, Steve Root, Kim Brinkman, Mark Ransford, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Jon Ramirez

At 8:09 a.m., there were a total of 20 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2023-M-023

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young to adopt the agenda as presented.  
Motion Carried.

#### Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2023-M-024

Motion by Thomas Young, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the January 26, 2023 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

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

-Kate Curtis addressed the Board regarding the manner in which budget requests are presented and considered by the Board.

**Consent Agenda**

2023-M-025

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the February 6, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Proposed General Fund Health Insurance Budget Adjustments -

Move to amend the budgeted health insurance line items within the General Fund that reflect changes after open enrollment:

Decrease: 101-711 \$53,000.00  
130-711 \$16,383.00  
215-711 \$17,800.00  
229-711 \$43,200.00  
253-711 \$5,198.00  
265-711 \$17,600.00

Increase: 230-711 \$53,400.00  
303-711 \$17,800.00  
304-711 \$10,000.00

Also, budget for health insurance incentive for those not taking the health insurance:

Increase: 101-703-020 \$4,000.00  
130-704-020 \$1,200.00  
229-704-020 \$2,000.00  
236-704-020 \$2,000.00  
253-704-020 \$240.00  
265-704-020 \$2,000.00  
304-704-020 \$6,000.00

Surplus offset of \$54,541.00 will be moved to the General Fund Contingency 101-890-965-000.

## **New Business**

### 1. Prosecutor's Office Potential Restructure -

2023-M-026

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young that per the request from Prosecutor Mark Reene to approve the part-time position of Secretary II Victim Advocate be authorized at the rate of \$18.15 per hour, Step 4 on the union scale, for up to 22.5 hours per week. Position to be funded by the Prosecutor's Forfeiture Fund (266). Also, authorize necessary budget amendments through the use of forfeiture fund balance. Motion Carried with Bardwell dissenting.

-Commissioner Bardwell spoke that if rules and procedures are in place the Board should follow those when making decisions.

-Clayette Zechmeister stated that the Board has the authority to adjust the county budget throughout the year even when the request is not made in the budget preparation cycle.

-Commissioner Vaughan spoke as to why he favorably considered the Prosecutor's requests.

-Clerk Fetting addressed the Board regarding a Full-Time employee request in the Clerk's Office during the budget preparation cycle and stated that budget request was not considered as there was not enough funding to support adding any full-time employees to the county budget.

-Commissioner Young expressed that there is an unknown amount of marijuana money coming to the county which could possibly be used to fund the 2023 budget requests that were not adopted.

-Commissioner Koch would like the unfunded request brought to the Board for review and consideration.

2023-M-027

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to have all 2023 unfunded budget requests brought back to the Board for consideration and to look at how those requests could be funded. Motion Carried.

### 2. Prosecutor's Office Manager Position -

2023-M-028

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that per the request from Prosecutor Mark Reene that the non-union salary position of Office Manager for the Prosecutor's Office be approved. Also, promote Robin Neff to this new position effective February 18, 2023 at the Step 1 rate of \$51,951.00 annually. Also, authorize budget amendments through the use of Contingency funds in the amount of \$81,225.00. Additionally, authorization to advertise and refill the vacant budgeted full-time position in the Prosecutor's office that this promotion would leave. Motion Carried with Bardwell dissenting.

-Clerk Fetting thanked the Board for bringing the unfunded 2023 budget requests back to the Board for consideration and for the precedence that was set today in creating a full-time employment position.

-Judge Bitzer spoke to the Board that the uneasiness they are feeling today is not for funding the position but in the manner in which it was done.

-Clerk Fetting stated that the battle for the increase in the Chief Deputy's Salary came with much opposition and debate although this new full-time additional position with a similar salary was adopted with little opposition.

3. Media Release Regarding MV Realty's Homeowner Benefit Program -  
Marie Swick, Chief Deputy Register (Acting Register of Deeds), explained the scam that is affecting the residents of Tuscola County where a resident unknowingly signs their house over to MV Realty's Homeowner.

4. Annexation Request from Cass City -

2023-M-029

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young that the Village of Cass City Annexation Public Hearing be scheduled for March 30, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Purdy Building. Motion Carried.

5. Michigan Association of County Clerks (MACC) Training Request for Overnight Accommodations -

2023-M-030

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young to authorize the Clerk to forgo the Travel Policy's 60-mile radius restriction and to be allowed to stay overnight at the Michigan Association of County Clerk's (MACC) Conference being held February 16-17, 2023 in Bay City, Michigan. Motion Carried.

6. General Appropriations Act Review -  
Clayette Zechmeister, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the proposed General Appropriations Act.
7. Opioid Distribution Update -  
Clayette Zechmeister, Controller/Administrator, explained the settlement in the Jansen suit and the distribution payment. The funds received do have to be used for specific purposes.

## **Old Business**

1. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Board Rules as of March 25, 2021 -  
Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Board Rules.

2023-M-031

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young to approve the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Board Rules as amended with an amendment to Section 5.2 by removing "the attachments" and to Section 5.3 by removing "and/or faxed". Motion Carried.

2. Pump House Demolition Bids for the Parcels -  
Director Miller has reviewed the bids that were opened at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Three Contractors met the specifications in the bid and one did not. The one that did not is because of a different solution proposed to securing the pipe that the other Contractors were not given the opportunity to consider.

2023-M-032

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that due to the recent information supplied to the Director of Buildings and Grounds that the bid for demolition at the parcels be rebid with the latest specifications. Motion Carried.

3. Jail Millage Discussion/Direction -  
Clerk Fetting reviewed the filing deadlines to move forward to place the millage on the August 8, 2023 ballot.

2023-M-033

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to proceed with the necessary steps to have the County Jail and Sheriff's Facility Millage included on the August 8, 2023 ballot. Motion Carried.

### **Correspondence/Resolutions**

1. Farm Bureau Invitation
2. Legislative Update January 27, 2023 - The Michigan Association of Counties Commissioner Young would like a project list completed that Senator Lauwers requested on Monday for potential funding projects.
3. Legislative Update February 3, 2023 - The Michigan Association of Counties
4. SAFEbuilt Courtesy Reminder of Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rate Increase

### **Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports**

#### ***Koch***

No Update.

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Recycling Advisory

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Local Units of Government

#### ***Bardwell***

Behavioral Health Systems Board -

A new CEO has not been appointed and there is still a vacancy for a partial-term board member who must be a past or present consumer.

Caro DDA/TIFA  
Planning for planting flowers in the Spring in Caro's downtown area is underway.  
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment  
MAC 7th District  
Meeting has been scheduled.  
MAC Workers Comp Board  
MAC Finance Committee  
TRIAD  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

### ***Young***

Board of Public Works  
County Road Commission Liaison  
Attended the last meeting and Vanderbilt Park along with Gilmore Road was discussed.  
Dispatch Authority Board  
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works  
Great Start Collaborative  
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)  
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee  
Region VII Economic Development Planning  
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative  
Senior Services Advisory Council  
Tuscola 2020  
Local Units of Government Activity Report

### ***Vaughan***

Board of Health  
Meets next Friday.  
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 -

Has received communication from residents regarding the snow plowing in Tuscola County.

### **Lutz**

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

Meeting upcoming.

Jail Planning Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MAC Judiciary Committee

MEMS All Hazard

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Human Development Commission Board of Directors Liaison

### **Other Business as Necessary**

-Special Building and Grounds meeting has been scheduled for February 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. regarding Vanderbilt Park.

At 10:00 a.m., there were a total of 26 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **Extended Public Comment**

-Kate Curtis questioned how the benefits for the Prosecutor's Office Manager would be paid for as that was not discussed by the Board.

-Kate Curtis addressed Commissioner Vaughan's comments in the meeting regarding the Board approving the Chief Deputy wage increase as he voted no on the salary increases.

-Judge Bitzer stated he was encouraged by comments made by Clerk Fetting, FOC Director Curtis, Commissioner Bardwell and Commissioner Koch and respects each of them because they are advocating for employees.

-Judge Bitzer discussed how procedure and protocol can help to make these tough decisions.

-Judge Bitzer discussed security concerns within the courthouse in relation to action taken by the Board regarding this matter.

-Shirley Schaefer addressed the Board regarding Vassar Township elections and thanked Clerk Fetting, Prosecutor Reene and Sheriff Skrent for meeting with her. She expressed her appreciation of Clerk Fetting and her team for their attention to detail during Vassar Township's Post-Election Audit.

- Clerk Fetting explained the Post-Election Audits completed in Tuscola County were a success with the audit of the Governors' contest verifying the hand-counted results matched exactly to the results reported on Election Night.
- Clerk Fetting welcomed the Commissioners to have a direct conversation with her about needs in the County Clerk's Office.
- Clerk Fetting thanked the Board for implementing the storage space solution.
- Clerk Fetting explained the policy for Proposal 2022-2 has not been released yet by the Bureau of Elections but it is expected to drastically increase the workload on the Clerk's Office as well as the Local Clerk. The changes to auto-expungement will also impact the Clerk's Office.
- Pam Shook stated, as the Vanderbilt Park Manager, she has not been invited to the Special Building and Grounds meeting regarding Vanderbilt Park. Pam addressed her lack of being able to participate at the Parks and Recreation meeting. Pam addressed the increase of ice fisherman on the ice and that there was no police patrol to review parking permits not purchased.
- Clayette Zechmeister stated she will send an agenda for the Special Building and Grounds meeting to Pam Shook.
- Commissioner Vaughan stated in the past, budget requests are considered and approved throughout the year outside of budget request time.
- Eean Lee thanked the Board for what they do on a daily basis.
- Eean Lee understands that the Board works hard but the concerns are brought to the Board to be productive.
- Kate Curtis addressed again her appreciation of the important work that the Board does but the Board also needs to consider other perspectives when making decisions.

## **Adjournment**

2023-M-034

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO