



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, January 11, 2024

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

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Commissioner Bardwell 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 11, 2024, 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, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: Kim Vaughan

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Clayette Zechmeister, Steve Anderson, Cody Horton, Michael White

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Register Marianne Brandt, Shannon Beach, Crystal Knoblock, Bonnie Fackler, Dara Hood, Jon Ramirez, Carrie Tabar, Angie Daniels, Echo Torrez, Cody Horton, Barry Lapp, Tim Green, Brandon Bertram, Debbie Babich, Renee Francisco, Bob Baxter

At 8:08 a.m., there were a total of 18 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2024-M-001

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

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

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2024-M-002

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young to adopt the meeting minutes from the December 28, 2023 Regular meeting and closed session minutes. Motion Carried.

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

None

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Mosquito Abatement Re-fill Vacant Positions -

Move that per the request from the Mosquito Abatement Director that Laura Hill be promoted to the Department Biologist position effective January 15, 2024 at the Step 1 rate of pay of \$22.19 per hour. Also, Bonnie Fackler be promoted to fill the vacant Administrative Assistant position at the Step 1 rate of pay of \$18.85 per hour, pending satisfactory background check and physical.

2. Agreement for Enforcement Services in Arbela Township -

Move that the police services contract between Tuscola County Sheriff's Department and Arbela Township, to provide one officer for the year 2024 in the amount of \$99,978.00, for 2025 in the amount of \$103,212.00 and for 2026 in the amount of \$105,271.00, be approved and all necessary signatures are authorized.

3. Tuscola County Planning Commission 2023 Annual Report -

Move to receive and place on file the 2023 Tuscola County Planning Commission Annual Report.

2024-M-003

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the January 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

1. Materials Management Planning -

Mike Miller, Buildings and Grounds/Recycling Director, presented the matter at the January 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2024-M-004

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young that the Board of Commissioners notify the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that Tuscola County will be doing their own Materials Management Plan (MMP) and will continue to consult with adjacent counties about the option of preparing a multi-county plan. Also, all necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

2. COBRA Vendor Recommended Changes -

Shelly Lutz, Human Resource Director, presented regarding the matter at the January 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2024-M-005

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that per the recommendation of the Human Resource Director that the COBRA Benefits Services be changed from Isolved Benefit Services to Varipro for the 2024 calendar year for an approximate annual cost of \$1,780.00. Also, move that all signatures and necessary budget amendments be approved. Motion Carried.

3. Early Voting Election Inspector Pay -

Clerk Fetting explained that the County will act as a fiduciary to assist the local jurisdictions with the payment to Election Inspectors. The County will pay the Inspectors up front with the participating local jurisdictions to fully reimburse the County.

2024-M-006

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young in order to assist the local jurisdictions located in Tuscola County with the 9-days of early voting, Tuscola County will act as the fiduciary to pay election inspectors that work at a participating jurisdiction. The amount paid will be divided between the participating jurisdictions with full reimbursement paid to Tuscola County. Election Inspector pay will be processed through line item : 101-191-705-200 Part-Time Election Inspector with the reimbursement to be processed through line item 101-000-676-090 Reimbursement Election Inspectors. Also, all appropriate signatures and budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

4. Animal Control Part-time Kennel Attendant (matter added) -

Clayette Zechmeister explained the request to hire received from Animal Control Director Ray.

2024-M-007

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that per the recommendation of the Animal Control Director, that Vivian (Vince) Ferreira be hired to refill the vacant part-time Kennel Attendant position at Step 1 at \$16.67 per hour. The effective start date is January 16, 2024, which is contingent upon favorable background check, drug screen and physical results. Motion Carried.

5. Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) Board of Directors (matter added) -

Clerk Fetting presented the application for Nikki Bruno to the Board to fill the seat formerly held by Walter Szostak.

Sympathies were expressed to the Szostak family as Walter has recently passed.

2024-M-008

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young to appoint Nikki Bruno to the Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) Board of Directors to fulfill the term held by Walter Szostak. This partial term will end on March 31, 2025.

The Board would also like to express their sincere appreciation for the many years that Walter Szostak dedicated to the TBHS Board. Motion Carried.

## **Old Business**

None

## **Correspondence/Resolutions**

1. 2023 Audit Engagement Letter
2. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Podcast 83  
Clayette Zechmeister provided an overview of a proposed initiative regarding property taxes.
3. Indianfields Township Tax Abatement Notice

## **Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports**

### ***Lutz***

No Report

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

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

### ***Koch***

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Recycling Advisory

The Committee is concerned with moving forward with the multi-county plan and the costs that are expected to be associated with it.

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Local Units of Government

### ***Bardwell***

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA  
Informational meeting upcoming.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District  
Update provided.

MAC Workers Comp Board

MAC Finance Committee

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Almer Charter Township is looking for an opportunity to repair or replace the Township Hall.

Ellington Township has received approval to repair their hall from the damage incurred in a vehicle accident.

Clerk Fetting reported that the Ellington Township voters will vote at the Ellington Church of the Nazarene for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary. Clerk Fetting thanked the Church for graciously allowing the Township to utilize their facility for voting.

***Young***

No Report

Board of Public Works

County Road Commission Liaison

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***

Absent

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

### **Other Business as Necessary**

None

At 8:39 a.m., there were a total of 26 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **Extended Public Comment**

-Michael White, Birch Run Township, Saginaw County, addressed the Board regarding a sand pit he owns on M-46 in Juniata Township that is on State Land.

-Michael White also addressed the property tax initiative that was discussed.

-Cody Horton explained that the County GIS is meant to be used as a tool.

-Commissioner Koch addressed his strive for transparency even with not having Committee meetings at a public meeting.

### **Adjournment**

2024-M-009

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 a.m.  
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO