



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting

**8:00 AM - Thursday, August 29, 2024**

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, August 29, 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, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Neil Hammerbacher, Steve Anderson, Angie Daniels, Register Marianne Brandt, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Tom McLane, Shelly Lutz, Dara Hood, Katie Robinson

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Bob Baxter, Debbie Babich, Renee Francisco, Estee Bitzer, Jodi Barrons, Tim Green, Ashley Gaudett, Greg Rynearson, Echo Torrez, Barry Lapp, Amanda Ertman, Tanya Pisha, Shannon Beach, Crystal Knoblock, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Judy Cockerill, Sheriff Glen Skrent, Register Marianne Brandt

At 8:03 a.m., there were a total of 16 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2024-M-189

Motion by Thomas Young, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the agenda as amended.  
Motion Carried.

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

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2024-M-190

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Young to adopt the meeting minutes from the August 15, 2024 Regular meeting and Closed Session meeting. Motion Carried.

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

None

### **Consent Agenda**

2024-M-191

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the August 26, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Move to adopt the L-4029 Tax Rate Request for the 2024 Winter Tax Levy.
2. Move to accept and place on file the 2023 Dispatch-911 Annual Report.
3. Move to adopt the 2025 Budget Calendar.

### **New Business**

1. Approval of the Michigan State Police's 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Work Agreement -  
Steve Anderson, Emergency Manager, explained the proposed work agreement.

2024-M-192

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Young to approve the Michigan State Police 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Work Agreement as presented by Steve Anderson, Emergency Manager, and to authorize all required signatures for the agreement. Motion Carried.

2. Approval to Hire an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney to Fill a Vacancy -  
Neil Hammerbacher, Controller-Administrator, explained the request received from Prosecutor Mark Reene.

2024-M-193

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that per the request from Prosecuting Attorney, Mark Reene, that Tyler Steger be hired to fill the vacant full-time Assistant Prosecuting Attorney position. Based on Tyler's years of experience at Sanilac County, as well as interning at other Prosecutor's Offices, Tyler's pay be approved at Step 3 of the pay scale at \$74,213.90 per year, contingent upon satisfactory background, drug and physical screen with a tentative start date on or around September 16, 2024. Motion Carried.

3. Closed Session to Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal Statute -

2024-M-194

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Board of Commissioners meet in Closed Session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute specifically, records and information of measures desired to protect the security and safety of County employees, officials and visitors as well as County property which are exempt from public disclosure under Section 13(y) of the Freedom of Information Act. Also, Ashley Bennett, Marianne Brandt, Jodi Fetting, Katie Robinson, Neil Hammerbacher, Eean Lee, Angie Daniels, Shelly Lutz, Tom McLane, Steve Anderson and Dara Hood are authorized to attend at 8:18 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Recessed to Closed Session at 8:18 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:44 a.m.

At 9:44 a.m., there were a total of 24 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Recessed to at 9:45 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

At 10:02 a.m., there were a total of 21 participants attending the meeting virtually.

2024-M-195

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Thomas Young to award a 180-day Building Security Contract to JCL Protection for \$39,000.00 commencing September 9, 2024 and all necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

2024-M-196

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch to have the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department, or other authorized agency, provide a temporary Security Officer from August 30, 2024 through September 6, 2024. Motion Carried.

2024-M-197

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to purchase security equipment for the H.H. Purdy Building as discussed in closed session. Motion Carried.

4. Presentation of the Annual Actuarial Valuation Report for the County's Defined Benefit Pension Plan -

Matthew Taylor, Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS) Representative, provided an overview of the highlights of the report.

2024-M-198

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to receive and place on file the MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

1. Tuscola County Board of Commissioner meetings being recorded (matter added) - Board discussed having the Board of Commissioner meetings recorded and available to view online for a certain period.

2024-M-199

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch to record and publish all Tuscola County Board of Commissioner Committee and Board meetings on the county website beginning on September 9, 2024. Recorded meetings to be retained for a 3-year period. Motion Carried.

2. Board Rules (matter added) - Commissioner Bardwell would like the matter added to the September 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. The Lapeer County Board procedures were referenced as a possible model to look at.

### **Correspondence/Resolutions**

1. Currently Adopted Board Rules
2. Commencement Ceremony Invitation Extended to the Board of Commissioners
3. Invitation to Madeline Fata at the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) to Address the Board of Commissioners Regarding a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (CREO) for Tuscola County.
4. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) August 16, 2024 Legislative Update
5. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) August 23, 2024 Legislative Update

### **Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports**

#### ***Vaughan***

Board of Health

County Planning Commission

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

The meeting regarding the Caro Dam was well attended. There will be a feasibility study completed in order to bring forward design options and costs associated with each.

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  
Medical Care Facility thanked the Board for its assistance in restoring the property as discussed at the last Committee of the Whole meeting.  
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***

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

***Bardwell***

No Report  
Behavioral Health Systems Board  
Caro DDA/TIFA  
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment  
MAC 7th District  
MAC Workers Comp Board  
MAC Finance Committee  
NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

## Local Units of Government Activity Report

### **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

### **Other Business as Necessary**

-Commissioner Bardwell referenced the Huron County Board minutes from August 27, 2024 as a hiring freeze was enacted. Also, a contract was entered into with MIFSIM.

-LEAD Participants were discussed.

At 10:49 a.m., there were a total of 25 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### **Extended Public Comment**

-Eean Lee expressed concern of virtual participation during closed session with the recording of meetings. Board would encourage in-person attendance for closed sessions meetings.

### **Adjournment**

2024-M-200

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.  
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO