



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Organizational Meeting

9:30 AM - Monday, December 30, 2024

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

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Clerk Fetting called the Organizational 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 Monday, December 30, 2024, to order at 9:30 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Koch

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, Shelly Lutz, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Greg Rynearson, Renee Francisco, Angie House, Erica Walle, Prosecutor Mark Reene

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mark Haney, Carolyn Lorenz, Carrie Tabar, Debbie Babich, Echo Torrez, Katie Robinson, Judge Nancy Thane, Krystaria Skakle, Mike Miller, Linda Strasz, Ashley Gaudett, Jon Ramirez, Karlee Romain, Register Marianne Brandt, Sarah Balcueva, Tanya Pisha, Steve Anderson, Cindy Hughes, Kristy Sutherland

At 10:08 a.m., there were a total of 27 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2024-M-360

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

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

None

## New Business

1. Nominations for and Election of Board Chairperson -

Clerk Fetting reviewed the process of electing the Board Chairperson. The Board needs to decide if the Chairperson's term shall be for 1 year or 2 years. The Board has the option to cast their vote via a Secret Ballot or by Nominations from the floor.

2024-M-361

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to have the Board Chairperson position be for a 1-year term.

Yes: Thomas Young, Thomas Bardwell, and Matt Koch

No: Kim Vaughan and Bill Lutz

Motion Carried.

2024-M-362

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Kim Vaughan to vote for the Board Chairperson via a secret ballot. Motion Carried.

2. Secret Ballot for Board Chairperson -

Clerk Fetting distributed a ballot that contained all of the Commissioners' names for each member to consider.

Clerk Fetting read the votes cast on the Secret Ballots.

The tally was four votes for Kim Vaughan and one vote for Thomas Bardwell.

Clerk Fetting declared Kim Vaughan the successful Commissioner to serve as Board Chairperson. This will be for a 1-year term.

Clerk Fetting turned the meeting over to Commissioner Vaughan.

3. Nominations for and Election of Board Vice-Chairperson -  
Clerk Fetting explained that the Vice-Chairperson serves for a 1-year term and that the process to elect the Vice-Chairperson is to accept nominations from the floor.

Chairman Vaughan called for nominations.  
Commissioner Koch nominated Commissioner Bardwell.  
Commissioner Vaughan nominated Commissioner Lutz.

Commissioner Vaughan called for additional nominations, with none, nominations were closed.

Clerk Fetting called for a vote for the first nomination of Commissioner Bardwell.

Koch - Yes  
Young - Yes  
Bardwell - Yes  
Lutz - No  
Vaughan - No

Nomination passed.

Commissioner Bardwell elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson for a 1-year term.

4. Finance, Personnel and Building and Grounds Standing Committee Commissioner Appointments -  
Board discussed the current Standing Committee Appointments in considering the appointments for 2025.

2024-M-363

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the Finance, Personnel and Building and Grounds Standing Committee appointments as follows: Finance - Commissioner Bardwell and Commissioner Koch; Personnel - Commissioner Young and Commissioner Vaughan; Building & Grounds - Commissioner Lutz and Commissioner Koch. Motion Carried.

5. Board and Commission Appointments -  
Board discussed the current appointments of each Commissioner. Commissioner Lutz discussed that it is difficult to attend the All Hazards meeting as the HDC meeting is at the same time.

2024-M-364

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the Commissioner Liaison Committee appointments to remain the same as 2024. Motion Carried.

6. Board Rules - Review and/or Update -

Board discussed the current Board Rules with a revision date of February 9, 2023. Commissioner Bardwell would like to consider clearer language for Rule 6.2 Form of Address. Clerk Fetting will try to obtain other county's Board Rules for review by the Commissioners. Matter to be placed on a January agenda once the additional information is gathered. No action was taken at this time.

Commissioner Vaughan referenced a guidebook provided by Cohl, Stoker Toskey, P.C. which is a summary of the Open Meetings Act. Clerk Fetting will scan the guide and email to the Commissioners.

7. Adoption of 2025 Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting Schedule -

Board reviewed the proposed meeting schedule. Clerk Fetting as for consideration of not holding the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 10, 2025 as that is a holiday week and that makes it difficult to turn around the agendas. Board agreed to remove that meeting date.

2024-M-365

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the 2025 Committee of the Whole and Full Board Meeting Schedule as presented with the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 10, 2025 removed. Motion Carried.

8. Adoption of the 2025 County Holiday Schedule -

2024-M-366

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the 2025 Tuscola County Holiday Schedule as presented. Motion Carried.

**Other Business as Necessary**

None

**Public Comment**

Clerk Fetting asked for an updated Organizational Chart to be provided to Elected Officials and Department Heads to assist newer staff. Clayette Zechmeister stated that one is included in the annual financial report but can be emailed separately to those individuals.

**Adjournment**

2024-M-367

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO