



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, March 13, 2025

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

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, March 13, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Goodchild

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lutz

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: John Goodchild, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz

Commissioners Absent: Thomas Bardwell, Matt Koch

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Amanda Ertman, Erica Dibble, Angie House, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Alecia Little, Bob Baxter, Stephanie DuSute

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Rebecca Evans, Bonnie Fackler, Estee Bitzer, Angie Daniels, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Tricia Sharp, Ashley Gaudett, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Debbie Babich, Echo Torrez, Jon Ramirez, Katie Robinson, Shannon Beach, Register Marianne Brandt, Suzy Smith, Tanya Pisha, Barry Lapp, Jodi Barrons, Linda Strasz, Judy Cockerill, Renee Francisco

At 8:25 a.m., there were a total of 25 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-061

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to adopt the agenda as amended.
Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-062

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to adopt the meeting minutes from the February 27, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda -

None

New Business

1. Court Magistrate Appointment (matter added) -
Commissioner Vaughan reported that the County's Insurance company has responded that a bond can be issued for Ms. Fisher-Ruiz as a contractual staff member.

2025-M-063

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the appointment of Attorney Kristen Fisher-Ruiz as a contractual magistrate for the 71B District Court effective March 12, 2025. Also, approve the request that the pay for this position be increased from \$5,000.00 to \$7,500.00 annually (\$625.00 per month). The previous \$5,000.00 that was budgeted for the on-call Employee Magistrate in the Unified Court budget for 2025 will need to be moved from line item 101-130-704-000 to the Contractual Visiting Judge line item 101-130-820-000. This position will be contractual between the Courts and Ms. Fisher-Ruiz. Moving forward the \$5,000.00 previously allocated for this position from line item 101-130-704-000 will be allocated annually to 101-130-820-000. All budget amendments required are authorized. Motion Carried.

2. 2024 Annual Drain Report -
Dara Hood, Drain Commissioner, presented the annual report.

2025-M-064

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve and place on file the 2024 Annual Drain Report. Motion Carried.

3. Memorandum of Understanding -
Steve Anderson, Emergency Manager, presented the request to renew the Memorandum of Understanding.

2025-M-065

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Medical Care Facility to allow Emergency Management the use of their office building for an Emergency Operations Center from March 13, 2025 until March 13, 2030. Also, all signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

4. District Health Department No. 2 - 2024 Homeland Security Grant Program Subrecipient Funding Agreement -
Steve Anderson, Emergency Manager, presented the request to have the agreement approved for signature.

2025-M-066

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the District Health Department No. 2 - 2024 Homeland Security Grant Program Subrecipient Funding Agreement for Fiscal Year 2024. Also, all signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

5. Health Department Lobby Remodel -
Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, presented the request for approval to remodel the lobby of the Health Department. A grant has been applied for and received to cover the infrastructure costs.

2025-M-067

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the Health Department lobby remodel grant. Motion Carried.

6. Bullet Proof Vest Request -
Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, presented the request for bullet proof vests.

2025-M-068

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the recommendation by the Safety Committee and Undersheriff Baxter for 25 bullet proof vests at a cost of \$990.00 each for a total of \$24,750.00, money to be transferred from the road patrol fund balance to the uniform fund 207-309-746-000. Motion Carried.

7. 2025 Materials Management Plan Budget -
Mike Miller, Recycling, Buildings and Grounds Director, explained this request is for Tuscola County only.

2025-M-069

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the 2025 Materials Management Plan Budget to be Submitted to EGLE. Motion Carried.

8. Request to Fill a Vacant Part-Time Custodial Position -
Mike Miller, Recycling, Buildings and Grounds Director, explained the request.

2025-M-070

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the hiring of Peggy Smith to fill the vacant part-time Custodial position at Step 1 rate of pay of \$16.92 per hour pending favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Tentative start date to be March 17, 2025. Motion Carried.

9. 2025 Pumpkin Festival Request to Use the Courthouse Lawn -
Shelly Lutz, HR Director/Interim Administrator, presented the annual request.

2025-M-071

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the use of the Courthouse Lawn for the 2025 Pumpkin Festival from September 27, 2025 to October 6, 2025. Motion Carried.

10. National Day of Prayer Request - Shelly, HR Director/Interim Administrator, presented the annual request.

2025-M-072

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the use of the Courthouse lawn for the National Day of Prayer to be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Old Business

None

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. MAC News Article
2. Resolution to Support Local Control and Claim of Appeal Against Michigan Public Service Commission Order 2025-02-023
3. Birch Valley Solar - Vassar-Tuscola County HQ9-PBXH-RK4NE-79-23007849.01
4. Preliminary Governance Letter

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Goodchild

No Report

Board of Public Works
Behavioral Health Systems Board
County Road Commission Liaison
Great Start Collaborative
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee
Region VII Economic Development Planning
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
Tuscola 2020
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Bardwell

Absent

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

Vaughan

No Report

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
Jail Planning Committee
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
MAC Judiciary Committee
MEMS All Hazard
Multi-County Recycling Committee
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Human Development Commission Board of Directors Liaison -
Update provided as to the number of clients the Shelter serviced.

Koch

Absent

Dispatch Authority Board

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

Recycling Advisory

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

-FOIA Policy (matter added) - Commissioner Vaughan stated he wanted the FOIA policy to be clarified so all requestors are treated equally. In the past, if the FOIA request was under \$50.00 it would be provided at no cost to the requestor. Moving forward, he would like it to be if under 15 minutes to complete then the FOIA would be provided at no cost but if it takes longer than 15 minutes there would be a cost billed.

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2025-M-073

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO