



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, April 10, 2025

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, April 10, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Goodchild

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: John Goodchild, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Jon Ramirez, Erica Dibble, Michael Clinesmith, Mark Putnam

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Debbie Babich, Angie Daniels, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Estee Bitzer, Katie Robinson, Chad Tumblin, Carrie Tabar, Angie House, Ashley Gaudett, Greg Ryneanson, Shannon Beach, Register Marianne Brandt, Bonnie Fackler, Cody Horton, Linda Strasz, Tanya Pisha, Judge Nancy Thane, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Bob Baxter

At 8:03 a.m., there were a total of 17 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-086

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

#### Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-087

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the March 27, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

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

-Clerk Jodi Fetting addressed the vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission as to the correct number of vacancies. Michael Clinesmith, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, explained the need for 10 members. After discussion, it was agreed there are three vacancies.

### **Consent Agenda -**

2025-M-088

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that the Consent Agenda Minutes from the April 7, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

1. Brightspeed BEAD Grant Application Support - County Commissioner Matt Koch received a request for a letter of support. Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer, explained that there may be more requests forthcoming. CIO Lee is requesting a blanket letter to respond to these requests that the County will remain neutral as to the company for rural broadband services.

2025-M-089

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer, to draft a letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to remain neutral as to what company provides rural broadband services to Tuscola County residents. The Board of Commissioners remain supportive of providing rural broadband services in general to Tuscola County residents. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

1. Parks and Recreation Commission Request to Apply for a Historical Grant for a Sign at Vanderbilt Park -

2025-M-090

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the request from Michael Clinesmith, Parks and Recreation Chair, to apply for a Historical Grant for a sign at Vanderbilt Park with all appropriate signatures authorized. Motion Carried.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission Request to Remove Two Committee Members and Advertise for Three Vacant Positions -

2025-M-091

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the request from Michael Clinesmith, Parks and Recreation Chair, to remove Paul Newby and Donavan Norman from the Parks and Recreation Commission Board due to lack of activity and to authorize the County Clerk to advertise for three vacant positions on the Parks and Recreation Commission Board. Motion Carried.

3. 2024 Planning Commission Annual Report -

2025-M-092

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve and place on file the 2024 Planning Commission Annual Report as presented. Motion Carried.

4. 2025 Equalization Report -

2025-M-093

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by John Goodchild to approve and place on file the 2025 Equalization Report as presented. Motion Carried.

5. Presentation of the Mosquito 2024 Annual Report -

2025-M-094

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve and place on file the Mosquito 2024 Annual Report as presented. Motion Carried.

6. Sheriff's Request for New Optics System for Sheriff's Office Firearms -

2025-M-095

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that per the request of Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, to approve the New Optics Systems for Sheriff's Office firearms be approved for Quote #1 Vance's Law Enforcement in the amount of \$40,987.50. Overtime for training cost necessary for the New Optics Systems approved up to \$11,022.00. Also, authorize the transfer of fund balance in the amount of \$52,009.50 from line-item 207-000-390-000, to cover the cost of the firearms in the amount of \$40,987.50 to line-item 207-309-975-000, and the cost of the training in the amount of \$11,022.00 to line-item 207-309-706-000. All authorized signatures and budget amendments approved as necessary. Motion Carried.

7. MEVO Kit Request -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, explained the cost of the devices in the kit is included in the presented pricing.

2025-M-096

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that per the request of Jon Ramirez, 911 Dispatch Director, to approve that the MEVO Kit be approved for a total first year investment of \$8,850.00 with the use of fund balance from line-item 218-334-970-000 and authorize all necessary signatures after Board review of the contract. The contract for year 2 will be at \$5,520.00 to be paid from line-item 218-334-970-000. After the initial 2 years, the contract to be reviewed by the 911 Dispatch Director and the Board prior to renewal. Motion Carried.

8. Rolka Property, LLC Second Amendment to Commercial Lease Agreement -

2025-M-097

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve that the Rolka Property, LLC agreement be modified to reflect the updated agent's name to Meritage Management, LLC as shown in the Second Amendment to Commercial Lease Agreement. Effective April 10, 2025, the lease agreement changes the rent payments to be made payable to Meritage Management, LLC at 429 N. State Street, Suite 102 Caro, MI 48723. Motion Carried.

9. Mosquito Abatement Department Request to Hire Chance Snyder for the 2025 Mosquito Season -

2025-M-098

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the request of Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to hire Chance Snyder to fill the open Technician position for the 2025 Mosquito Season starting at Step1 rate of pay of \$14.85 per hour pending a favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Tentative start date to be April 14, 2025. Motion Carried.

10. Mosquito Abatement Department Request to Hire Gabriella Ramirez for the 2025 Mosquito Season -

2025-M-099

Motion by John Goodchild, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the request of Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to hire Gabriella Ramirez to fill an open Technician position for the 2025 Mosquito Season starting at Step1 rate of \$14.85 per hour pending a favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Tentative start date of April 21, 2025. Motion Carried.

**Correspondence/Resolutions**

1. Animal Shelter Recognition Email
2. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2025

**Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports**

***Lutz***

Board of Health -  
Meets tomorrow.

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

***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***

Behavioral Health Systems Board  
Caro DDA/TIFA -  
First farmer's market was held last weekend.  
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment  
MAC 7th District  
MAC Workers Comp Board -  
Meeting was held and a significant dividend is on track at this time.  
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

***Koch***

Dispatch Authority Board  
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works  
Recycling Advisory -  
Meets next Wednesday.  
Jail Planning Committee  
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)  
Local Units of Government

**Other Business as Necessary**

-Renewable Energy Meeting - Millington Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. on April 14, 2025.

-April 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. there will be a reception for Representative Alexander at Beagio's in Kingston.

-The Board would like the Senators and Representatives to be invited to an upcoming Board meeting to provide an update.

**Extended Public Comment**

-Michael Clinesmith stated the Tuscola 2020 Board has been disbanded.

-Michael Clinesmith addressed the need for rural broadband services.

-Commissioner Goodchild announced Representative Bierlein will be at Wisner Township Hall today from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

-CIO Eean Lee explained how to make a challenge if the BEAD map shows you should have service and do not.

-Clerk Fetting announced that she has been awarded her Master Certified County Officers certificate from the United County Officers Association.

-Clerk Fetting explained that there will be a training today for the local City and Township Clerks regarding the changes to earned sick time. She expressed her appreciation to Tuscola Township Clerk Michelle Hicks for organizing.

-Commissioner Bardwell provided an update on the potential of building an Amish Road to allow for the Amish to cross the Cass River instead of traveling M-53.

### **Adjournment**

2025-M-100

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO