



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, May 15, 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, May 15, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Lutz

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Goodchild

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, Tracy Violet, Steve Anderson, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Jon Ramirez, Pennie Rienas, Deb Cook, John Boggs, Justin Nitz, Dan Liskowski, Shannon Beach, Cody Horton, Tyler Ray, Monica Freier, Angie Daniels, Amanda Ertman, Mark Zmierski, Josh Herman, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Kristy Sutherland, Mary Ann Eagle, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart

Also Present Virtual: Debbie Babich, Erica Dibble, Estee Bitzer, Greg Rynearson, Amanda Raymond, Angie House, Bonnie Fackler, Ashley Gaudett, Cindy Hughes, Carrie Tabar, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Register Marianne Brandt, Barry Lapp, Amy Powell, Stacey Wilcox, Curtis Elenbaum, Echo Torrez, Al White, Heather Thomas, Diane Wilder, Debbie Englehart, Judy Cockerill, Karlee Romain, Linda Strasz, Katie Robinson, Katie Gebhardt, Suzy Rockwell, Judge Nancy L. Thane, Scienna Nieschulz, Tanya Pisha, Toni James, Suzy Rockwell, Steve Root, Krystaria Skakle, Mary Drier, Cindy McKinney-Volz

At 8:08 a.m., there were a total of 33 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-110

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-111

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to adopt the meeting minutes from the April 24, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

-Clerk Jodi Fetting addressed the Board regarding the item listed under Other Business as Necessary with no topic which does not allow for proper review or public comment.

Consent Agenda

2025-M-112

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that the Finance Committee meeting minutes from the April 25, 2025 meeting and the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the May 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Saginaw Intermediate School District (SISD) Bus Routing Software -
Move to approve the request from Cody Horton, GIS Director, to provide parcel and address point data to support Saginaw ISD Transportation Supervisor, Christopher Greenleaf, for their bus routing system for special education students located in Cass City, Kingston, Unionville and Vassar.
2. Mosquito Abatement Purchase Request -
Move to approve that per the request of Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to purchase a new Luxeo 6z microscope from Miller Precision Optical Instruments, Inc. in the amount of \$2,686.55 with all necessary signatures authorized.
3. Sheriff's Office Request for Out-of-State Travel -
Move that per the request of Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, to approve out-of-state travel for Sergeant Wade, Sergeant Hemerline, and Deputy Broecker to Avon Lake, Ohio, June 17-18, 2025, for Red Dot Sight System training which was recently installed on the newly acquired pistols.
4. Airport Zoning Board Appeals (AZBA) Board of Directors Appointment -
Move to approve the appointment of Scott Steel to the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals (AZBA) Board of Directors to the partial term which expires on December 31, 2026.

5. Dumpster Pad Bids -

Move to award the Request for Proposal (RFP) to Agnew Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$29,468.00 for the dumpster pad and approach replacement. This project was budgeted for in the Capital Improvements fund.

6. Courthouse Sidewalk Replacement Bid -

Move to award the Request for Proposal (RFP) to Agnew Construction, LLC, at a cost of \$24,310.50 for the Courthouse sidewalk replacement. This project was budgeted for in the Capital Improvements fund.

New Business

1. Health Department Personnel Policy Changes -

Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, reviewed the proposed changes which were required to reflect the Earned Sick Time Act legislation.

2025-M-113

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that per the recommendation from Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, the changes to the Health Department Personnel Policy are approved as presented. Motion Carried.

2. Health Department Financial Audit Report -

Heather Thomas, Gardner, Provenzano, Thomas & Luplow P.C., reviewed the Tuscola County Health Department audit which had a favorable review although the Health Department did need to use fund balance in order to balance the budget. Health Officer Ertman reported that non-mandated services may need to be cut in order to balance future budgets.

2025-M-114

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve and place on file the Health Department Financial Audit Report from Fiscal Year 2024. Motion Carried.

3. Veterans Affairs New Director Introduction -

Mark Zmierski, Veterans Affairs Director, introduced the new Director, John Boggs, as Director Zmierski is retiring May 30, 2025. Director Zmierski provided an overview of funding of the program and services that are offered by the Department.

4. Region VII Area Agency on Aging -
Monica Freier, Interim Executive Director, provided an update of the program and funding for services offered.

Mary Ann Eagle, Human Development Commission, addressed the cost to provide meals to seniors has increased and is higher than previous years.

Kristy Sutherland, Human Development Commission, reported that the funds received from Region VII cover approximately 25% of the funds needed for the program. There is currently no waiting list for the program.

Monica Freier stated there will be a vacancy on the Region VII Board on October 1, 2025 when Bill Sanders retires. Applicants are needed. The Board meets twice per month in Bay City.

5. 2025 Tax Rate Request -
Angie Daniels, Equalization Director, presented the 2025 Tax Rate Request for approval and signature.

2025-M-115

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by John Goodchild to approve, per the recommendation of Angie Daniels, Equalization Director, the 2025 Tax Rate Request as presented. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Community Corrections FY2026 Grant Application -

2025-M-116

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Resolution 2025-06 FY 2026 Community Corrections Grant Application as presented. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

2. Electronic Lock for the Magistrate's Office -
The Board would like to know which line-item the funding will come from and if any grants can be applied for. Matter to be placed on the next Board Agenda.
3. 2025 Materials Management Plan Budget -

2025-M-117

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve, per the recommendation from Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds & Recycling Director, the 2025 Materials Management Plan Budget as presented in the amount of \$9,876.00. Motion Carried.

4. Mosquito New Hire Request for Jessica Dopp -

2025-M-118

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the hiring of Jessica Dopp to fill the vacant Technician position at Mosquito Abatement starting on or around May 19, 2025, at the Step 1 rate of pay of \$14.85 per hour pending a satisfactory background check, physical, and drug screening. Motion Carried.

5. Sheriff's Office Request to Hire Larissa Drozdowski for the Vacant Full-Time Road Patrol Deputy Position -

2025-M-119

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the hiring of Larissa Drozdowski for the vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy position, who has successfully completed the required background check, drug screening, psychological evaluation, and physical examination. Larissa is scheduled to begin training at the Delta College Police Academy on August 18, 2025. The starting rate of pay will be at Step 1 on the pay scale at \$26.04 per hour. A grant application was submitted on her behalf through the Public Safety Academy Assistance Program to help offset the cost of the academy. Motion Carried.

6. Sheriff's Office Request to Hire Remington Lough for the Vacant Full-Time Road Patrol Deputy Position -

2025-M-120

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch to extend a conditional offer to Remington Lough for the vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy position, pending successful completion of a background check, drug screening, psychological evaluation, and physical examination. He is scheduled to begin training at the Delta College Police Academy on August 18, 2025. The starting rate of pay will be at Step 1 on the pay scale at \$26.04 per hour. A grant application has been submitted on his behalf through the Public Safety Academy Assistance Program to help offset the cost of the academy. Motion Carried.

7. Dispatch New Hire Request for Lindsay Deming -

2025-M-121

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the hiring of Lindsay Deming to fill a vacant full-time Dispatcher position with a tentative start date on or around June 3, 2025, at Step 1 on the pay scale of \$19.14 per hour, contingent upon satisfactory background check, drug and physical screen. Motion Carried.

8. Dispatch New Hire Request for Stephanie Stone -

2025-M-122

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the hiring of Stephanie Stone to fill a vacant full-time Dispatcher position with a tentative start date on or around June 17, 2025, at Step 1 on the pay scale of \$19.14 per hour, contingent upon a satisfactory background check, drug and physical screen. Motion Carried.

Other Business as Necessary

1. Board Chair - Kim Vaughan -

Commissioner Vaughan stated that the Board meetings are for the ability to discuss issues and solutions, not for the Board to be insulted. The previous hire for the position of Controller/Administrator was supported by many at that time which he does not blame those who were in support as his resume was impeccable. Afterward the appointment, Vaughan received complaints about his lack of communication. Prior to having an evaluation, the previous Controller/Administrator submitted a written letter of resignation. Other Departments were able to carry on except for the Controller/Administrator's Office.

Commissioner Vaughan wants to give Shelly and Erica a chance to do the job they have been assigned.

The Controller/Administrator's position discussion will be held with those that need to be involved.

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board -
Meets next week.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment -
There is a meeting regarding the Caro Dam on June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brentwood.

MAC 7th District

Caro DDA/TIFA -

Paige Rushlo is the new Market Manager and Commissioner Bardwell is encouraged by what is happening at the market.

MAC Workers Comp Board -
Meets on May 28, 2025.

MAC Finance Committee

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Goodchild

No Report

Board of Public Works

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

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
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Vaughan

Board of Health -
Meets tomorrow.
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 -
Meets tomorrow.
Community Corrections Advisory Board
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

Koch

Dispatch Authority Board -
Met on June 13, 2025.

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works -
Met on June 13, 2025.

Recycling Advisory

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

None

Extended Public Comment

-Detective/Sgt. Justin Nitz - Stated that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. He would like Tuscola County to offer options to employees for programs to assist with the issue. The free insurance plan is not sufficient to cover for mental health care.

-Shelly Lutz stated that there is an EAP available and will send information out.

-Commissioner Bardwell would like to see the county health insurance bid out to offer a lower cost and better benefit option. The bid process should go outside of Brown and Brown.

-Angie Daniels stated that some providers are no longer accepting our Blue Cross/Blue Shield program and those that are accepting it have a long wait list in order to get an appointment.

-Clerk Fetting addressed the seriousness of the topic that Detective Nitz spoke about and should not be kid about.

-Pennie Rienas addressed the Board regarding the Controller/Administrator's Office and quality control that is lacking regarding duplicate checks being issued and the illegible checks being printed. She also stated the Clerk and the Treasurer should be given control of the checks until a trained Controller/Administrator is appointed.

Adjournment

2025-M-123

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, CCO