



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, June 12, 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, June 12, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Koch

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, Jon Ramirez, Bob Baxter, Shelly Lutz, Erica Dibble, Jim Tussey, Rita Papp, Tyler Ray, Zackary Szymanski, Nate Geinzer

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Chet Janik, Carrie Tabar, Debbie Babich, Kyle Nordstrom, Ryan Pierce, Scienna Nieschulz, Angie House, Steve Root, Toni James, Karly Creguer, Angie Daniels, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Amanda Raymond, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Judy Cockerill, Katie Robinson, Linda Strasz, Register Marianne Brandt, Tanya Pisha, Krystaria Skakle, Olivia Chapin, Shannon Beach, Bonnie Fackler, Ashley Gaudett, Tricia Sharp, Barry Lapp, Eric Warsinskey, Billy Putman, Debbie Engelhardt, Janie Hermerline, Rita Papp, Steve Anderson, Jon Ramirez

At 8:10 a.m., there were a total of 27 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-134

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-135

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to adopt the meeting minutes from May 29, 2025 Regular meeting and the closed session minutes from May 29, 2025. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

-Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, reported that an amended letter from Deb Parker for the request to use the courthouse lawn was not received. Clerk Fetting asked the Board to approve the request as presented.

Consent Agenda

2025-M-136

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Committee of the Whole Minutes and Consent Agenda Item from June 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Dispatch Annual Report -

Move to approve and place on file the 2024 Dispatch Annual Report as presented.

New Business

1. Double Haul Solutions -

Nate Geinzer, Founder and CEO, presented to the Board regarding the steps that would be taken in the search for a Controller/Administrator candidate. This company offers executive coaching and recommends a facilitated evaluation at the end of the first year. Mr. Geinzer was under the understanding that the County was looking for an Administrator only, but Shelly confirmed that the County is looking for a Controller/Administrator.

2. Michigan Leadership Institute -

Chet Janik, Consultant, reviewed the steps that would be taken to secure a desired candidate for the Controller/Administrator position. This company is a non-profit organization composed of retired professionals which allows for a lower fee.

The discussion of moving forward to utilize a search company to find a Controller/Administrator candidate to be placed on the June 23, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

3. Tuscola Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Move to 362 Green Street, Caro - Jim Tussey, EDC Chairman, provided a recap of the meeting regarding the Caro Dam. The options discussed were to do nothing, to remove the dam, to complete a mild renovation project or to complete a major renovation. There are some grant opportunities that are being explored.

The EDC has hired Alisha Proctor as the new EDC Director. EDC is planning to move into the MSU Extension (MSUe) building to share the space with MSUe in order to conserve costs. There are some interior renovations that are being requested to be completed.

Chairman Vaughan expressed that the Board should approve the move as it is a county building. The renovations would need a budget established for the proposed renovations and a line-item established for the costs of the renovation.

Jim Tussey stated the MSUe is proposing to pay for the materials and EDC has an outside donor that is willing to pay for the cost of the labor so there would be no liability cost to EDC or the County. The County bidding process would be followed.

The agreement with MSU Extension will need to be reviewed regarding the sublease option to EDC.

The Board would like to review the MSUe contract before approving the move. Matter to be placed on the June 26, 2025 Board agenda.

Board discussed whether the EDC meetings are to follow the Open Meetings Act. Jim Tussey stated that legal counsel will need to review that and provide guidance. Currently, the meetings are held as an open meeting.

The size of the EDC Board was also discussed and the by-laws may be amended to adjust the size to a smaller Board.

4. Treasurer's Office New Hire Request - Ashley Bennett, Treasurer, has submitted a request to fill a vacant position.

2025-M-137

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the Treasurer's Office request to hire Sherry Billot to fill the vacant Abstract Tax Clerk Position in the Treasurer's Office at \$20.25 an hour Step 1, contingent on a successful background check and drug screening. Her projected start date would be on or around June 30, 2025. Motion Carried.

5. Sheriff's Office K-9 Purchase Request - Steve Anderson, Emergency Services Coordinator, explained that a grant has been secured for the K-9 dog purchase. He reviewed the reasons for the recommended company to purchase the K-9 dog from.

2025-M-138

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the purchase of the K-9 dog from Faus McHenry in the amount of \$13,600.00 to come from Homeland Security line-item 261-100-957-000 that will be 100% reimbursed and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

6. Dispatch Request to Renew a Contract with Netsource One -
Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, reviewed the proposed contract renewal.

2025-M-139

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the renewal contract with Netsource One in the amount of \$7,799.00 for a one-year contract and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

7. 2024 Allocation for the 236 Fund - Victim Services (matter added) -
Erica Dibble, Chief Accountant, has reviewed the 236 Fund for the Victim Advocate, located in the Prosecutor's Office, as the salary and fringe benefits exceeded what was awarded in the grant. The request is for general fund appropriation in the amount of \$3,051.00.

2025-M-140

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the 2024 General Fund Appropriation, line-item number 101-000-390-000, of \$3,051.00 to the Victim Services Fund, line-item 236-000-539-000. Motion Carried.

Recess at 10:15 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

There were 25 people attending the meeting virtually at 10:25 a.m.

Old Business

1. Cheboyganing Creek Intercounty Drain Bonds, Series 2025, Resolution 2025-08 -

2025-M-141

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve and place on file Resolution 2025-08 Pledging FFC to Bonds for Cheboyganing Creek Intercounty Drain.

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

Motion Carried.

2. Dispatch Special Election Discussion -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, addressed the issue of placing a Dispatch 911 millage on an upcoming ballot.

The Board discussed the amount that would be raised if only the surcharge increase was placed on the ballot, which is not a sufficient amount. If only the surcharge issue is placed on the ballot, the cost of the election cannot be reimbursed from the surcharge funds raised. A legal opinion will be sought to determine if the cost of the election can be reimbursed from the funds generated by a millage placed on the ballot.

Director Ramirez has an amount estimated as the total that would need to be generated to make Dispatch 911 sustainable but would like to discuss with Shelly Lutz and Erica Dibble further. If the millage were to not be successful, he estimates the need for a General Fund transfer in an amount up to \$500,000.00.

Clerk Fetting stated the filing deadline is Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to place a matter on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

2025-M-142

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to have legal counsel draft ballot proposal language for Dispatch 911 funding for the language to tentatively be placed on the November 2025 ballot. Legal counsel to work with the Dispatch Director and the Interim Administrator on length of millage and the amount needed to be raised. Matter to be brought back to the Board for final review and adoption no later than the July 17, 2025 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

3. Sheriff and Undersheriff Wage Comparison and Discussion -

Undersheriff Robert Baxter presented the costs that would be realized if the Board were to adopt the requested increase of 7% above the Lieutenant's wage for the Undersheriff position and 10% above the Undersheriff's salary for the Sheriff's position. The Undersheriff's increase would be effective for the current pay period forward and the Sheriff's increase would take effect January 1, 2026.

2025-M-143

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve a 5.61% pay increase for Undersheriff Robert Baxter, effective June 7, 2025. This increase would establish a 7% wage differential between the Undersheriff and that of the Lieutenants' wages (base wage plus longevity pay). This 7% differential is to be maintained in the future. The proposed increase will be fully covered by the road patrol fund, line item 207-309-704-000. All budget amendments approved as necessary. Motion Carried.

2025-M-144

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve a salary increase for Sheriff Ryan Robinson, to take effect on January 1, 2026. This adjustment aims to establish and sustain a 10% differential between the Sheriff's and Undersheriff's compensation in the future. The proposed increase will be fully covered by the road patrol fund, line item 207-309-703-000. All budget amendments approved as necessary. Motion Carried.

4. Marine Patrol Grants and Summer Patrols -
Undersheriff Bob Baxter reviewed the amount that was awarded in the grant and what the amount of the county match portion is.

2025-M-145

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the allocation of \$2,137.50 from the Provisional Government Services (PGS) budget line item 101-000-390-000. These funds will satisfy the 25% matching requirement for the 2025 Marine Safety Program Grant Agreement which has approved \$8,550.00 in State Funds. All signatures and budget amendments approved as necessary. Motion Carried.

5. Courthouse Lawn Use Request -
The Board discussed the request from Deb Parker, Democratic Party Chair, to use the courthouse lawn on June 14, 2025. Board was concerned about how the request letter was written.

2025-M-146

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the request from Deb Parker, Tuscola County Democratic Party Chair, to use the courthouse lawn on Saturday, June 14, 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Yes: Matt Koch

No: John Goodchild, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, and Bill Lutz

Motion Failed.

6. Update on Amish Bridge -
John Goodchild, County Commissioner, provided an update on building the bridge over the Cass River for the Amish community to utilize and allow for them to bypass using M-53. He stated this issue is of utmost importance to him for the safety of the Amish community. A coordination of efforts will be needed to get this project completed. Commissioner Goodchild reviewed who he has reached out to for help and asked the other Commissioners for assistance.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Genesee County Juneteenth Resolution #2025-1808
2. Genesee County Pride Month Resolution #2025-1789

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

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

Goodchild

Board of Public Works

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

Behavioral Health Systems Board

County Road Commission Liaison -

Working on getting in contact with the Road Commission as their Board meeting falls at the same time as the Board of Commissioners meeting.

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

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District

MAC Workers Comp Board -
Meeting was just attended and will provide a detailed report at an upcoming meeting.

MAC Finance Committee -
Meets Friday.

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) -

Met yesterday.

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Lutz

Board of Health -
Meets Friday.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works -
Meets tomorrow.

Jail Planning Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MAC Judiciary Committee -
Urgency of funding for 911 Dispatch Centers across the state was discussed.

MEMS All Hazard

Multi-County Recycling Committee

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Human Development Commission Board of Directors Liaison

Koch

No Report

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

-Commissioner Bardwell questioned if the Controller/Administrator and Prosecutor's salary was tie-barred by motion of the Board or if was unofficially the same amount.

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2025-M-147

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch Move to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO