



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, July 17, 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, July 17, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Koch

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lutz

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, Mike Miller, Shelly Lutz, Erica Dibble, Jon Ramirez, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Tyler Ray, Kristy Sutherland, Treasurer Ashley Bennett

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Brian Neuville, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Echo Torrez, Erica Dibble, Judy Cockerill, Karlee Romain, Rebecca Evans, Mary Drier, Register Marianne Brandt, Shannon Beach, Stephanie Dusute, Steve Anderson, Krystaria Skakle, Rob Wrona, Robert Sturza, Kandi Teddy, Robert Baxter, Kyle Nordstrom, Linda Strasz, Ashley Gaudett, Scienna Nieschulz, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Carrie Tabar, Toni James, Cindy Hughes, Cody Horton, Tim Green, Rita Papp, Amy Prill, Barry Lapp, John Boggs, Amanda Ertman, Bonnie Fackler, Dan Lisowski

At 8:38 a.m., there were a total of 34 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-165

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to adopt the agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-166

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the June 26, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

-Sheriff Ryan Robinson asked the Board to complete interviews for all applicants that have applied for the Controller/Administrator's position.

-Commissioner Vaughan read a letter from Mary Drier regarding the necessity of Tuscola County Dispatch 911.

Consent Agenda

2025-M-167

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the July 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. New Hire Request for Nikolaus Lewis -

Move to approve the hiring of Nikolaus Lewis to fill a vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy position to start August 18, 2025 at the Delta College Police Academy at Step 1 rate of pay of \$26.04 per hour. A grant through the Public Safety Academy Assistance Program was applied for on his behalf to offset the academy cost.

2. EGLE Scrap Tire Grant Agreement -

Move to approve the 2025 EGLE Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant Agreement in the amount of \$30,000.00 from May 16, 2025 until December 31, 2026 as presented and authorize all necessary signatures.

3. Johnson Controls Service Contract Proposal -

Move to approve the Johnson Controls Service Contract for a 2-year term starting August 8, 2025 and ending July 31, 2027 for the amount of \$18,618.00 for the first year and \$20,109.00 for the second year and authorize all necessary signatures.

New Business

1. Water Treatment Cooling Tower for Courthouse -

Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, reviewed the proposed agreement with HOH Water Technology.

2025-M-168

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve a 1-year agreement with HOH Water Technology for the price of \$3,200.00 per year, billed quarterly at \$800.00, for an Open Cooling Water - Cooling Tower for the Courthouse. Motion Carried.

2. Change Order for the Peoples State Bank (PSB) Building -
Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, reviewed the change order from Booms Construction which with the current change requests and credits from other matters that the net change order results in a credit amount that he expects to be taken off from the final bill.

Director Miller to prepare a report of the total change order requests in this project to present at an upcoming Board meeting,

2025-M-169

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Change Proposal Request (CRP) with Booms Construction in the amount of a credit of \$953.00 for supplies and installation of an electrified lockset at basement door 09, additional work by the Electrician is to assist the Security Contractor to install surface mounted raceway, and install a fire alarm dialer with any necessary budget amendments authorized. Motion Carried.

3. Recycling Committee Resignation -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, reviewed the resignation received from Terry Jones. Clerk Fetting expressed appreciation of Mr. Jones' service to Tuscola County.

2025-M-170

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz effective June 30, 2025, to receive and place on file the resignation of Terry Jones from the Recycling Committee with appreciation of his service to Tuscola County. Also, to authorize Clerk Fetting to advertise for this vacancy. Motion Carried.

4. Council on Aging Committee Resignation -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, reviewed the resignation received from Terry Jones. Clerk Fetting expressed appreciation of Mr. Jones' service to Tuscola County.

2025-M-171

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz effective June 30, 2025, to receive and place on file the resignation of Terry Jones from the Council on Aging with appreciation of his service to Tuscola County. Also, to authorize Clerk Fetting to advertise for this vacancy. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Presentation 2024 -
Maner Costerisan, Aaron Stevens, CPA, CGFM, presented the report at the July 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2025-M-172

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve and place on file the 2024 Tuscola County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as presented. Motion Carried.

2. Courthouse Lawn Request -

The Board discussed the presented request and security concerns with courthouse lawn use requests.

2025-M-173

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the request from the Democratic Party to use the courthouse lawn on July 17, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

3. Dispatch Chair Purchases -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, presented the request for purchasing office chairs for the Dispatch Center employees.

2025-M-174

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the chair purchases from Concept Seating in the amount of \$9,558.56 from line-item 218-334-970-000 per the recommendation from Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director. Motion Carried.

4. Dispatch Door Replacement -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, explained the proposed door replacement. This project will be paid from the capital outlay budget for Dispatch.

2025-M-175

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the Dispatch door purchase from Dave's Glass LLC in the amount of \$10,800.00 from line-item 218-334-970-000 for a 3'-0" x 7'-0" Ballistic Dark Bronze Aluminum Door and frame, furnish UL752 Tested and Rated Level 3 Aluminum Wide Stile door with narrow lite using glass clad polycarbonate IGU Low Spall to include demo and disposal of existing materials, closer, continuous hinge, threshold and sweep, caulking of materials, and to use existing electrified panic and access controls. Motion Carried.

5. 911 Dispatch Discussion/Adoption on Proposed Ballot Language -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, reported that legal counsel has prepared draft ballot language. The amount to place in the language is currently being discussed with Shelly Lutz and Erica Dibble.

Treasurer Ashley Bennett discussed if there were funds available that were budgeted as extra in either the health care line item or other department budgets that could be reserved for Dispatch 911 to assist the Dispatch 911 budget to get through to 2027 if the millage were not to be placed on a ballot until 2026.

Board discussed the matter at length.

2025-M-176

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve proceeding to the next steps to complete proposed ballot language for Dispatch 911 following the legal guidelines and requirements provided by Jamie Nisidis from Braun Kendrick. Proposed Ballot Language is to be prepared for November 2025 and for August 2026. Finalized ballot language and relative information and documents to be brought back to the next Committee of the Whole meeting on July 28, 2025 for further discussion and placed on the Board meeting agenda for July 31, 2025 for action. Motion Carried.

6. Chief Accountant Position Discussion -

Board discussed having Clayette Zechmeister return as a temporary part-time employee to provide assistance to the Controller/Administrator's Office.

2025-M-177

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve Clayette Zechmeister be hired as the temporary part-time Chief Accountant for 1 to 2 days per week at a rate of \$29.86 per hour with a start date on or around July 21, 2025 with a projected end date of September 19, 2025. This assignment may be concluded earlier or extended beyond that date with Board approval. Motion Carried.

Recess at 10:01 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:13 a.m.

At 10:01 a.m., there were a total of 31 participants attending the meeting virtually.

7. Discussion on a Controller/Administrator Appointment -

Board discussed the matter of receiving a new applicant for the Controller/Administrator's position. The Board is not going to pursue interviewing this candidate. The Board discussed moving forward in appointing Erica Dibble as the Controller/Administrator.

2025-M-178

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to offer the Controller/Administrator position to Erica Dibble with a proposed contract to be drafted and to be presented to the Board for final approval. The proposed contract to include the start date and the starting salary. Proposed contract to be placed on the July 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion with matter to be decided at the July 31, 2025 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Millington Village Council Public Hearing Letter and Notice -

Commissioner Lutz stated this is in reference to Stemco doing an addition to their current building.

2. Mid-State Health Network (MSHN) Resolution -

Commissioner Bardwell stated this resolution has not been adopted by Tuscola County yet as it is pending approval of the language in the resolution.

3. Overview of History and Effectiveness of Controller/Administrator -
A letter was submitted by Mike Hoagland and Clayette Zechmeister regarding the Controller/Administrator position.

2025-M-179

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve and place on file the Letter from Clayette Zechmeister and Michael Hoagland on the Overview of History and Effectiveness of Controller/Administrator as presented. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Koch

No Report

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

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

Bardwell

- Behavioral Health Systems Board
- Caro DDA/TIFA
- Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District -
Huron County hosted the meeting yesterday although the Commissioners did not attend as the invitation was not passed along to them.

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 -

Meets tomorrow

Community Corrections Advisory Board -
Tri-Cap met yesterday.

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

Other Business as Necessary

-Shelly Lutz referenced the hard cap legislation, HB 6058. The legislation is currently stalled.

Extended Public Comment

-Treasurer Ashley Bennett referenced a Finance Committee meeting that was supposed to be scheduled to discuss the salary of the Treasurer which still has not been scheduled. The investment amount earned by Treasurer Bennett has been significantly more than prior to her taking office. The Treasurer's Office is currently collecting summer taxes on behalf of many jurisdictions and is able to capture the administrative fees for providing this non-statutory duty. It is being consider not to offer this service next year.

Commissioner Bardwell addressed the Finance Committee meeting and it was stated that a meeting is to be scheduled.

-Jon Ramirez addressed the hiring procedures of the county and that all county employees when being hired need to complete a physical and drug screen but that was not required of a part-time person hired today.

Adjournment

2025-M-180

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO