



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, July 31, 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, July 31, 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, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Shelly Lutz, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Judge Nancy Thane, Sheila Long, Karen Southgate, Linda Strasz, Mark Putnam, Nancy Barrios, Tyler Ray, Michael Clinesmith, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Estee Bitzer, Erica Dibble, Clayette Zechmeister, Philip Fulks

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Angie Daniels, Angie House, Clayette Zechmeister, Carrie Tabar, Erica Dibble, Kyle Nordstrom, Scienna Nieschulz, Debbie Babich, Jon Ramirez, Rebecca Evans, Kristen Misener, Katie Robinson, Krystaria Skakle, Marianne Dailey, Mark Ransford, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Tricia Sharp, Chad Tumblin, Ashley Gaudett, Amanda Ertman, Estee Bitzer, Heather Malloy, Judy Cockerill, Karlee Romain, Register Marianne Brandt, Nicole Friday, Rob Wrona, Olivia Chapin, Tom Gilchrist, Alecia Little, Barry Lapp, Echo Torrez, Stephanie Dusute, Dan Lisowski, Greg Rynearson, Kevin Campbell, Wendy Franks, Jamie Pierce, Krystaria Skakle, Marianne Dailey, Mark Ransford, Toni James, Curtis Elenbaum, Amy Prill, Amy Kotsch, Eric Warsinskey, Paige Rushlo, Kristy Phipps, Renee Francisco, Shannon Beach, Sherry Bilot, Bob Baxter, Suzy Smith

At 8:44 a.m., there were a total of 55 participants attending the meeting virtually.

### Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-181

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-182

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the July 17, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

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

-Mark Putnam shared his vision for Vanderbilt Park.

-Nancy Barrios shared her positive experience in working with Brian Neuville and asked that he be considered for the Controller/Administrator position.

-Mary Drier addressed the direction of the Board regarding meetings that were to be held but were not in reference to the Controller/Administrator's position.

### **Consent Agenda**

2025-M-183

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the July 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Netsource One Renewal Quote -

Move to approve the Netsource One quote NSOO36669 in the amount of \$6,450.00 for the 2025 Cisco Flex Renewal with all signatures authorized as necessary. Also, all budget amendments as necessary are authorized.

2. Netsource One Renewal Quote -

Move to approve the renewal of the Netsource One quote number NSOQ36863 in the amount of \$342.00 for a 1-year maintenance on the Cisco SMARTnet 24-port Gigabit PoE Switch with all signatures authorized as necessary. Also, all budget amendments as necessary are authorized.

3. Fire System Monitoring Service Agreement with Summit Fire Protection -

Move to approve the fire monitoring agreement with Summit Fire Protection in the amount of \$840.00 annually for a 5-year agreement with an annual increase not to exceed 5% per year and authorize all necessary signatures. Also, all budget amendments as necessary are authorized.

## **New Business**

### 1. Child Care Fund Presentation -

Karen Southgate, Director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Linda Strasz, Chief Probation Officer, reviewed the proposed contract terms to be entered into with List Psychological Services and also reviewed the FY 2026 Child Care Fund Budget request.

#### 2025-M-184

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement with List Psychological Services. The agreement will be effective from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. This agreement includes 1,980 hours at a unit rate of \$34.00 per hour, totaling \$67,320.00. Additionally, it covers \$500.00 for client assistance purchases and \$5,000.00 for mileage reimbursement, bringing the total to \$72,820.00 and authorize all necessary signatures. Also, all budget amendments as necessary are authorized.

Motion Carried.

#### 2025-M-185

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the FY 2026 MDHHS County Child Care Fund (DHS-2091) contingent upon State of Michigan approval. Also, all necessary signatures and budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

### 2. Vanderbilt Park Sign -

Michael Clinesmith, Parks and Recreation Chair and Nancy Barrios, Parks and Recreation Vice-Chair, presented information regarding the proposed signage at Vanderbilt Park. They are requesting a waiver of the bid process as there is only one manufacturer of the proposed sign.

#### 2025-M-186

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to waive the bidding process for the purchase of the 3-sided kiosk sign to be placed at Vanderbilt Park due to only one manufacturer available. Thus, further approve the Pannier Quote in the amount of \$3,750.00 for (3) Panels + Surface Mounted Base. Project to be paid for by the America 250 MI grant. Also, all budget amendments and signatures as necessary are authorized. Motion Carried.

### 3. New Hire Request for Elijah Morey to Fill a Full-Time Corrections Position -

Sheriff Ryan Robinson presented the hiring request.

#### 2025-M-187

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve Elijah Morey to fill a vacant full-time Corrections Deputy position to start on or around August 18, 2025 at the Step 1 rate of \$21.96 per hour. The background check, physical and drug screen have been completed. Motion Carried.

## Old Business

1. Request for a Part-Time Person in the Maintenance Department -  
Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, presented the request at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 28, 2025.

2025-M-188

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the request from the Buildings and Grounds Director, Mike Miller, to hire a part-time position for the Maintenance Department. This position will be no more than 28 hours per week at Step 1 of the pay scale, which is \$18.28 per hour.

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

No: Thomas Bardwell

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Bardwell expressed concern of hiring for new positions as the County has not received a budget status for 2025 as of yet or a forecast for 2026.

2. Michigan State Police (MSP) Update and Counterproposal to Lease -  
Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, presented the counterproposal received from the State of Michigan at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 28, 2025.

2025-M-189

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Counterproposal Lease as presented from the State of Michigan regarding the Michigan State Police (MSP) Lease No. 10724-2024 as presented with all signatures as necessary approved. Motion Carried.

3. Update on 911 Dispatch Proposed Millage -  
Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, and Shelly Lutz, Interim Administrator/HR Director, reported that they have met regarding the proposed millage and would be supportive of placing the millage on the August 2026 ballot.

2025-M-190

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by John Goodchild to proceed forward with a Special Election on the November 4, 2025 ballot for the County 911 Central Dispatch Millage.

Yes: Thomas Bardwell

No: John Goodchild, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, and Matt Koch

Motion Failed.

2025-M-191

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to proceed with the necessary steps to have the County 911 Central Dispatch Millage included on the August 4, 2026 ballot.

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

Motion Carried.

Clerk Fetting asked when the proposed Dispatch 911 millage language will be presented to the Board for approval as to not have this matter be overlooked.

Commissioner Vaughan stated this matter shall be placed on the Board Agenda for August 14, 2025.

Commissioner Bardwell asked that all county millages be reviewed to determine if the millage rate amount is still valid or if there is enough of a fund balance that the millage rate amount could be reduced.

#### **New Business continued**

4. Closed Session to Consider Litigation or Settlement Position Material Exempt From Disclosure Under the Attorney-Client Privilege -

2025-M-192

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Board meet in Closed Session, pursuant to Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss with our attorney trial and/or settlement strategy regarding tax-foreclosure litigation or settlement position of Tuscola County with Erica Dibble, Ashley Bennett, Estee Bitzer, Clayette Zechmeister, Jodi Fetting, Shelly Lutz, and Eean Lee to be allowed to attend the closed session with Attorney Kevin Campbell from Cummings, McClorey, Davis and Acho attending virtually at 9:00 a.m.

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

Motion Carried.

Reconvened from Closed Session at 9:58 a.m.

Recessed at 9:58 a.m.

At 9:58 a.m., there were a total of 51 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

At 10:10 a.m., there were a total of 51 participants attending the meeting virtually.

5. Class Action Lawsuit - Fox et al v Saginaw County et al 19-cv-11887 (matter added) -

2025-M-193

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the terms of the Proposed Settlement Agreement and the Cost Sharing Agreement for the Fox et al v Saginaw County et al case number 19-cv-11887 with Cummings, McClorey, Davis and Acho, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, with the Board Chair being authorized to sign all documents as necessary.

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

Motion Carried.

**Old Business continued**

4. Discussion on the Controller/Administrator Employment Agreement -

A proposed 1-year contract with a salary of \$110,000.00 was presented at the July 28, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2025-M-194

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the one-year Employment Agreement with Erica Dibble for the Tuscola County Controller/Administrator position commencing on August 4, 2025 with all appropriate signatures and budget amendments authorized.

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

No: Thomas Bardwell

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Bardwell stated he had concern with the contract amount and the 2nd candidate was not interviewed and given a professional courtesy. Clayette Zechmeister has been brought back to provide assistance in the finance department. County has no insight as to where the county financials stand.

Commissioner Bardwell stated that secondary employment was a concern that the Board had with Neil Hammerbacher when he held the Controller/Administrator position and he believes Erica Dibble needs to be held to the same standard.

**Correspondence/Resolutions**

1. Houghton County Resolution #25-08

## **Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports**

### ***Bardwell***

Behavioral Health Systems Board -  
A resolution from TBHS will be forthcoming to be presented to the 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

### ***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

### **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**

No Report

Board of Health

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

### **Other Business as Necessary**

-Commissioner Bardwell received a bankruptcy notice regarding the opioid suit that he provided to Shelly Lutz.

### **Extended Public Comment**

-Clerk Fetting asked the Commissioners when the Step-up pay given to two employees would be reviewed with the pay reduced now that a Controller/Administrator has been appointed and when the effective date would be.

-Commissioner Vaughan stated this matter will be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting with an effective date of August 4, 2025.

-Sheriff Robinson asked the Board what options for health insurance are being looked at outside of Brown and Brown. He is concerned as the cost of health care is increasing, the county financial outlook is uncertain, it is a negotiation year and the cost of health care could have a negative impact on county employees.

-Shelly Lutz stated that is a project currently being worked on but a report will not be available for 4-6 weeks. There are some limitations as Tuscola County is self-funded.

### **Adjournment**

2025-M-195

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.  
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO