



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, August 28, 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, August 28, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lutz

Roll Call - Deputy Clerk Tanya Pisha

Commissioners Present In-Person: Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz

Commissioners Absent: John Goodchild, Matt Koch

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Tanya Pisha, Erica Dibble, Prosecutor Erica Walle, Alisha Proctor, Tyler Ray

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Angie Daniels, Katie Robinson, Rob Wrona, Judy Cockerill, Angie House, Debbie Babich, Jon Ramirez, Dara Hood, Ashley Gaudett, Bonnie Fackler, Cody Horton, Karlee Romain, Dan Lisowski, Ryan Pierce, Jessica Tumblin, Linda Strasz, Register Marianne Brandt, Shelly Lutz, Echo Torrez, Amanda Ertman, Scienna Nieschulz, Shannon Beach, Robert Baxter, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Kandi Teddy, Barry Lapp, Chad Tumblin, Shannon Nelson, Tim Green, Toni James, Nick Sakon, John Boggs

At 8:23 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-206

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to adopt the agenda as amended.
Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-207

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to adopt the meeting minutes from the August 14, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2025-M-208

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the August 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Economic Development Commission (EDC) Request for Board of Commissioners to Reinststate Active EDC Board Members -

1a. Move to appoint Jim Tussey, Joe Greene, Debbie Powell and Mike Pattullo to the EDC Board of Directors for a 6-year term effective beginning January 1, 2025 and expiring December 31, 2030.

1b. Move to appoint Thomas Bardwell to the EDC Board of Directors to a partial-term beginning effective January 1, 2025 and expiring December 31, 2025.

1c. Move to appoint Brandon Lee to the EDC Board of Directors to a partial-term beginning effective January 1, 2025 and expiring December 31, 2026.

1d. Move to affirm the appointments of Robert Wolak, Kim Vaughan and John Tilt to the EDC Board of Directors with a term expiring December 31, 2025.

1e. Move to affirm the appointments of Brian Neuville and Rose Putnam to the EDC Board of Directors with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

1f. Move that due to resignations from the EDC Board of Directors that Keith Baur, Bill Bushaw, Mike Green, Gary Fritz, Josh Rodammer, Joe Pomeroy, Zygmunt Dworzecki, Jeff Laverty and Kim Stevenson be respectively removed from the EDC Board of Directors with appreciation of their dedicated service. Also, any open terms of seats would be closed and the EDC Board of Directors be reduced by the 9 seats in order to align with the EDC by-laws.

1g. Move that due to 3 or more absences at an EDC Board of Directors meeting that Madison Clements, Colleen Langenburg, Thomas Raymond, Cindy Kruse, Doug Daniels, Sam Palmeter, Jody Dean, Michael Day, Michael Rolando and Megan Bartolowits be respectively removed from the EDC Board of Directors with appreciation of their dedicated service. Also,

any open terms of seats would be closed and the EDC Board of Directors be reduced by the 10 seats in order to align with the EDC by-laws.

2. Request to Purchase Additional Fogging Material -

Move to approve Mosquito Abatement to purchase 3 additional 275-gallon totes of Kontrol 4-4 at a cost of \$6,237.00 each for a total cost of \$18,711.00. \$12,000.00 to be transferred from line-item 240-100-970-160 (Tire Clean Up) to line-item 240-100-750-000 (Abatement Material) and \$6,711.00 to be transferred from line-item 240-100-932-000 (Equipment Repair and Maintenance) to line-item 240-100-750-000 (Abatement Material) for a total of \$18,711.00.

3. Rules of the Tuscola County Drain Commissioner for Stormwater Drainage -

Move to approve and place on file the August 2025 Rules of the Tuscola County Drain Commissioner as presented by Dara Hood, Drain Commissioner.

4. Wolverine Power Systems Agreement 2025 -

Move to approve the generator service agreement with Wolverine Power Systems for Level 2 Maintenance Program on 5 units (includes Two (2) Visits Annually - Major & Minor) in the amount of \$5,710.00 and Optional: 2 Hour Load Bank Test on 5 Units in the amount of \$3,150.00, for a combined total of \$8,860.00 from line-item 101-265-932-000 and authorize all necessary signatures.

5. Tuscola County Medical Care Facility Fund Transfer Request -

Move to approve the request from Robert Rabideau, Tuscola County Medical Care CEO, for the transfer of funds request from Millage Fund line-item 298-000-001-000 to General Fund line-item 291-000-001-000 for various Capitol Projects in the amount of \$10,539.00 for a Bladder Scanner, \$8,350.00 to replace sprinkler heads Willow Run Alderman, \$33,091.54 to replace Cisco Switches - Phase 1, \$5,499.00 for a new Blast Chiller Alderman Kitchen, \$7,610.39 for a new Ice Machine Alderman, \$426,545.00 for new flooring on the 1st & 2nd floors residents' rooms, and \$5,067.00 for a new storm water pump for a total amount of \$496,701.93.

6. Courthouse Rosary Gathering Request -

Move to approve the request from Dave Kolacz to use the Courthouse steps on October 11, 2025 at noon for approximately an hour to hold a rosary gathering.

New Business

1. Request to Add Entry Level Pre-Bar Admission Step to the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Wage Scale -

Erica Walle, Prosecuting Attorney, reviewed the need to add a Step 0 to the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney pay scale to attempt to attract a law school graduate awaiting their bar results. Mark Reene's last day with Tuscola County will be August 31, 2025.

2025-M-209

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the addition of a lower entry level step to the Assistant Prosecutor pay scale, to be applied to an individual hired into the position with a Juris Doctorate Degree from an accredited law school, but who has not yet passed the state bar examination. The step shall carry a reduced annual salary rate of \$50,000.00, with the employee to be advanced to Step 1 of the pay scale effective immediately upon passing the bar exam. Motion Carried.

2. Animal Control Promotion Request -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, explained the request for the promotion of Vincent Ferreira due to the resignation of an Animal Control Officer (ACO).

2025-M-210

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve, per the recommendation of Animal Control Director Tyler Ray, the promotion of the current full-time Kennel Attendant, Vincent Ferreira, to full-time Animal Control Officer (ACO) at Step 1 of the pay scale, at a rate of \$20.52 per hour, effective September 4, 2025, due to a recent resignation. Motion Carried.

3. Animal Control Request for an Employee Restructure -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, reviewed the request to eliminate a full-time position and make it into two part-time positions.

2025-M-211

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve, per the recommendation of Animal Control Director Tyler Ray, that the full-time Kennel Attendant position established under motion 2024-M-239 be restructured back into two part-time Kennel Attendant positions at a rate of \$16.82 per hour. All necessary budget amendments are authorized.

Motion Carried.

4. Clerk's Office Copier Lease Renewal Request -

Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, requested the matter be placed on the September 11, 2025 agenda.

5. Sheriff's Office Purchase Request for a Speed Alert RADAR Sign -

Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, presented the request and that there are funds available in the budget for the new sign.

2025-M-212

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the request from Sheriff Ryan Robinson to purchase a Speed Alert RADAR message sign from All Traffic Solutions in the amount of \$18,251.13 to be paid from line-item 101-333-978-010, using the Secondary Road (P.A. 416) grant funds and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

6. Road Commission Fund Transfer Request -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the request received from the Road Commission for the fund transfer.

2025-M-213

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the fund transfer request Voucher # Bridge 2025-1 from Mike Tuckey, Finance Director, of the Tuscola County Road Commission in the amount of \$984,176.72 from 296 Voted Bridge Millage Fund 296-100-999-201 to the 201 County Road Fund 201-100-699-296. Motion Carried.

7. Request to Hire Connie Keinath for the Vacant Chief Accountant Position - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the request to hire Connie Keinath as the new Chief Accountant at Step 2 due to her experience. Clayette's last day will be September 19, 2025. The new Chief Accountant tentatively will start September 15, 2025.

2025-M-214

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the request from Controller/Administrator Erica Dibble to hire Connie Keinath to fill the vacant Chief Accountant position with a start date on or around September 15, 2025, starting at Step 2 on the wage scale (\$60,559.12 annually) due to her many years of experience and work in local county government accounting. Appointment is contingent upon a satisfactory completion of a background check, drug screen, and physical. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Tuscola County Draft Lease Agreement as Requested - Controller/Administrator Erica Dibble reached out to Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) and it is recommended that the tenants have content and liability insurance above what the County has.

2025-M-215

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the draft lease agreement with Economic Development Commission Motion Carried.

2. Opening of Bids for Michigan State Police (MSP) Parking Lot - Building/Grounds and Recycling Director Mike Miller presented the recommendation of Yeager Asphalt as they met the specifications and were the lowest bidder.

2025-M-216

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the bid received from Yeager Asphalt in the amount of \$22,770.00 for the Michigan State Police (MSP) Parking Lot and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

3. Update on People's State Bank (PSB) - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, presented an updated spreadsheet. The previous spreadsheet reflected that the project was \$7,000.00 over budget, but after further review it appears to be \$1,500.00 over budget.

4. Updated Fund Balance Report -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the unassigned fund balance in which the PGS funds are included. Controller/Administrator Dibble is recommending that the PGS funds remain in Unassigned Funds line-item not in a separate line-item. Currently, a 5-year projected budget forecast is being worked on.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. MAC 2025 Annual Conference Information -
The MAC Conference is being held September 30, through October 2, 2025 in Grand Traverse. If a Commissioner is planning to attend please let the Controller/Administrator's Office know right away as the registration deadline is August 29, 2025.
2. Berrien County Resolution -
Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, is to review Senate Bills 293 and 294 bring back to the Board if he would like a resolution adopted.

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

Absent

Board of Public Works

Behavioral Health Systems Board

County Road Commission Liaison

Great Start Collaborative

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison
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
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC 7th District -
The meeting date will be provided once it is set.
MAC Workers Comp Board -
Meets next week.
MAC Finance Committee -
Meets in September.
NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)
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

Koch

Absent

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

None

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2025-M-217

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO

Tanya Pisha
Deputy Clerk