



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, September 11, 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, September 11, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Goodchild

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

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, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Michael Clinesmith, Mark Putnam, Tyler Ray, Tanya Pisha, Erica Dibble

Also Present Virtual: Mary Drier, Angie Daniels, Angie House, Debbie Babich, Shelly Lutz, Barry Lapp, Tim Green, Carrie Tabar, Rob Wrona, Amanda Ertman, Chad Tumblin, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Judy Cockerill, Connie Keinath, Eric Warsinskey, Kandi Teddy, Karlee Romain, Katie Robinson, Kristy Sutherland, Krystaria Skakle, Echo Torrez, Cody Horton, Register Marianne Brandt, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Ashley Gaudett, Kyle Nordstrom, Judge Nancy Thane, Pam Shook, Robert Baxter, Scienna Nieschulz, Shannon Beach, Shelly Lutz, Tricia Sharp, Matthew Sexton

At 8:11 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-218

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-219

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the August 28, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

- Clerk Jodi Fetting requested clarity on whether the Board would like the employment requests to be included under the Consent Agenda or if the Board would like the matters as separate motions. The Board stated the motions would remain in the Consent Agenda and that practice should continue in the future.

-Michael Clinesmith stated that the Spicer contract is set at \$6,500.00.

-Pam Shook is concerned that the cost to cover the Spicer contract will be taken from funds set aside for improvements at Vanderbilt Park. The fund balance has been generated by Vanderbilt Park and she is requesting the Board consider improvements at the Park.

Consent Agenda

2025-M-220

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the September 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Consent Agenda Item #2, Parks and Recreation request to approve site plan estimates by Spicer for Kayak launch on the Cass River, was removed and added as Item #1 under New Business. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Tuscola County Advisory Council on Aging Bylaws -

Move to approve and place on file the Council on Aging Bylaws as presented.

2. Sheriff's Request to Purchase Tactical Shields -

Move to approve the Sheriff's request to purchase twenty-one (21) Tactical Shields from Huron Valley Guns at the cost of \$2,825.00 each for a total of \$59,325.00 and twenty-one (21) Shield Carry Bags at \$72.00 each for a total of \$1,512.00 plus \$750.00 in shipping costs for a grand total of \$61,587.00 from line-item 207-309-932-000 and authorize all budget amendments.

3. Tuscola FY26 County Veterans Services Fund (CVSF) Grant Agreement -

Move to approve the FY26 County Veterans Services Fund (CVSF) Grant Agreement as presented and authorize all necessary signatures.

4. Sheriff's Request to Hire Raelyn Sonnenberg -

Move to hire Raelyn Sonnenberg to fill a vacant full-time Corrections Deputy position at the jail. Background check has been completed although the drug tests and physical are pending. She will start on or about October 13, 2025 at the Step 1 rate of \$21.96 per hour.

5. Dispatch Director's Request to Hire Nicole McMullen -

Move to approve Nicole McMullen to fill a vacant full-time Dispatcher position pending a satisfactory background check as well as a drug screen and physical. Approximate start date to be on or around September 29, 2025 at the Step 1 rate of \$19.14 an hour.

6. Dispatch Director's Request to Hire Remington Lough -

Move to approve Remington Lough to fill a vacant full-time Dispatcher position. His background check, physical and drug screen have been completed. Approximate start date to be on or around September 22, 2025 at the Step 1 rate of \$19.14 an hour.

7. Prosecutor's Request to Hire Rosemary Kuebitz -

Move to approve per Erica Walle, Prosecuting Attorney, to hire Rosemary Kuebitz to fill the vacant Assistant Prosecutor position in the Prosecutor's Office at Step 0 for \$50,000.00 annually. Also, to approve the position as a full-time immediate position to begin on or around September 15, 2025, contingent upon a favorable background check, drug screen and physical.

New Business

1. Parks and Recreation Request to Approve Site Plan Estimates by Spicer for Kayak Launch on the Cass River -

Board removed the matter from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Michael Clinesmith, Parks and Recreation Chair, explained that the kayak launch project was discussed at the last Parks and Recreation meeting as well as using fund balance towards the project.

Commissioner Goodchild asked if there is a cost estimate to complete the improvements requested by the Park Host at Vanderbilt Park. He would like to have the improvements prioritized over the kayak launch as Vanderbilt Park generates revenue while serving the community. Commissioner Goodchild would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to bring a plan and costs for the proposed improvements at Vanderbilt Park to an upcoming Board meeting.

Micheal Clinesmith reported that the Committee has been discussing various improvements that could be completed at the Park. The kayak launch project is to establish a plan for this project in the future. This will allow for an approximate cost for planning of the kayak launch in order to gather the funds that would be needed through possible grant opportunities. The Commission had requested \$12,000.00 originally for improvements at Vanderbilt Park from the fund balance. The \$6,500.00 requested would be an additional request for the Spicer Contract from remaining fund balance.

2025-M-221

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission's request for the \$6,500.00 fee to complete a concept plan and preliminary estimate cost for the canoe/kayak launch. This amount is to be taken from the Parks and Recreation fund balance. Also, authorize all necessary signatures and all budget amendments. This amount is not to be taken from the \$12,000.00 that is set aside in the Parks and Recreation budget for improvements at Vanderbilt Park. Motion Carried.

2. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Presentation -

Steve Currie, Executive Director of Michigan Association of Counties, presented to the Board about various matters that MAC is currently involved in including the FY26 State Budget.

2025-M-222

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve and place on file the Michigan Association of Counties presentation as presented. Motion Carried.

3. Clerk's Office Copier Lease Renewal Request -

Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, explained the proposed lease agreement for a new copier for the Clerk's Office from Galaxy Office.

2025-M-223

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the Clerk's Office to purchase a copier from Galaxy Office Machines in the amount of \$483.00 for 60 months/5 years from line-item 101-265-934-000 and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

4. Animal Control Request to Hire Wyatt Miller -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, presented the request to fill the part-time Kennel Attendant position.

2025-M-224

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, to hire Wyatt Miller for the vacant part-time Kennel Attendant position with Animal Control to start on or around September 15, 2025 at the Step 1 rate of pay \$16.92 an hour pending a favorable drug screening, physical and background check. Motion Carried.

5. Animal Control Request to Hire Brady Hudek -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, presented the request to fill the part-time Kennel Attendant position.

2025-M-225

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, to hire Brady Hudek for the vacant part-time Kennel Attendant position with Animal Control to start on or around September 15, 2025 at the Step 1 rate of pay of \$16.92 an hour pending a favorable drug screening, physical and background check. Motion Carried.

6. Dispatch Request to Hire Mitchell Davies -
Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, presented the request to fill a vacant Dispatcher position.

2025-M-226

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by John Goodchild to approve Jon Ramierz, Dispatch Director, to hire Mitchell Davies, who has 4 years of previous experience in our Dispatch Center, to fill the vacant full-time Dispatcher position at the Step 4 rate of \$21.54 an hour with a start date of October 1, 2025 pending a favorable background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

7. Michigan Counties Workers Compensation Fund Update -
Commissioner Thomas Bardwell presented a check in the amount of \$91,762.00 to the Controller/Administrator.
8. Juvenile Mental Health Court Request -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, presented the request for the budget amendments due to a reduction in the grant amount received.

2025-M-227

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve that per the request from Cindy McKinney-Volz, Deputy Court Administrator, that the following budget amendments for the Juvenile Mental Health Court Program Grant Fund 231 be approved:

Decrease revenue:

231-100-539-000 by \$15,802.00

Decrease expense:

231-100-727-000 Supplies by \$2,650.00

231-100-801-012 Prof & Contractual by \$3,090.00

231-100-801-600 MH Counseling by \$2,000.00

231-100-957-000 Training by \$3,000.00

231-100-801-024 Drug Testing by \$5,062.00 Motion Carried.

9. Resolution 2025-10 Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreements in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation and Entry of State Local Government Intrastate Agreement Concerning Allocation of Settlement Proceeds -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained the proposed resolution regarding the Opiate Lawsuit.

2025-M-228

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Resolution 2025-10 Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreements in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation and Entry of State Local Government Intrastate Agreement Concerning Allocation of Settlement Proceeds. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

10. Resolution 2025-11 Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreements in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation and Entry of State Local Government Intrastate Agreement Concerning Allocation of Settlement Proceeds - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained the proposed resolution regarding the Opiate Lawsuit.

2025-M-229

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Resolution 2025-11 Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreements in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation and Entry of State Local Government Intrastate Agreement Concerning Allocation of Settlement Proceeds.

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

Motion Carried.

11. Resolution 2025-12 Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreement in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained the proposed resolution regarding the Opiate Lawsuit.

2025-M-230

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Resolution 2025-12 Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreement in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation.

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

Motion Carried.

12. 2026 Draft Budget Calendar - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the draft 2026 Draft Budget Calendar. Board discussed the timeline. The date of November 10, 2025 should be changed to November 13, 2025 for the Budget Review.

2025-M-231

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Proposed Draft 2026 Budget Calendar as amended. Motion Carried.

Recessed at 9:52 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m., there were a total of 21 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Old Business

1. General Fund Budget Adjustment Request - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, presented the request on Monday.

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the General Fund Revenue Budget Amendments of \$192,084.00 as presented in the agenda packet on September 8, 2025 to correct budgeted revenues to actual revenues received, which includes the decrease of budgeted use of fund balance by the same amount. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Kalamazoo County Resolution 2025-980
2. Notice of Intent to Conduct Master Plan Update Village of Cass City Planning Commission
3. Courthouse Closure
4. Clerk's Office Closure -
Clerk Jodi Fetting explained that the Courthouse employees and the Clerk's Office employees are jointly participating in a staff training the afternoon of September 19, 2025 from approximately 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The courthouse will reopen as close to 4:00 p.m. as possible until 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Lutz

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works -

Commissioner Lutz and Commissioner Koch will be attending the meeting tomorrow.

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 -

A Homeless Service Report was presented. Participating counties are at capacity and maintaining a waiting list.

Goodchild

No Report

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 -
There was a meeting yesterday. The matter of how to use the Farmer's Market better and to allow an opportunity for food trucks to take advantage of the area were discussed.
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
MAC 7th District -
There will be virtual meeting held on October 15, 2025.
MAC Workers Comp Board -
Steve Currie presented today and Commissioner Bardwell presented the check.
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

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 and Commissioner Goodchild continue to work on the Amish road project. The matter to be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting for a full update.

At 10:11 a.m., there were a total of 23 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Michael Clinemith thanked the Board for the project funding for the Parks and Recreation kayak launch.

-Michael Clinesmith recognized that today is the 24th anniversary of 9-11 with a moment of silence and thanked all of those that served.

Adjournment

2025-M-233

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO