



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, September 25, 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 25, 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: Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Tracy Violet, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Erica Dibble, Shelly Lutz, Connie Keinath, Tyler Ray, Jon Ramirez, Nancy Barrios, Brandon Weslock, Brian Bellware

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Eean Lee, Brandon Bertram, Angie Daniels, Angie House, Debbie Babich, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Katie Robinson, Ashley Gaudett, Amanda Ertman, Carrie Tabar, Karlee Romain, Tanya Pisha, Tom McLane, Judy Cockerill, Barry Lapp, Tim Green, Bonnie Fackler, Rob Wrona, Sherry Billot, Ryan Pierce, Trevor Chandler, Cody Horton, Cindy Hughes, Debbie Engelhardt, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Matthew Sexton, Marianne Daily, Toni James, Robert Baxter, Shannon Nelson, Dan Lisowski, Kyle Nordstrom, Shelly Lutz, John Boggs

At 8:02 a.m., there were a total of 16 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-234

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-235

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the September 11, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

-Clerk Fetting stated the Democratic nominee for the Board of Canvassers should be corrected from Alex Kirsch to Chuck Stockwell due to miscommunication. The motion in the Consent Agenda has been updated already.

Consent Agenda

2025-M-236

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the September 22, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Annual Delegation of School Plan Review and Inspection Authority -
Move to approve and place on file the Annual Delegation of School Plan Reviews and Inspection Authority forms presented by Jared Bush, Transportation Director/Facilities Manager for Tuscola Intermediate School District as presented.

2. Parks and Recreation Request to Apply for the Michigan Trailways and Greenways - Catalyst Grant -
Move to approve the request from Nancy Barrios, Parks and Recreation Commission Vice-Chair, to apply for the Michigan Trailways and Greenways - Catalyst Grant for \$5,000.00 with no match required.

3. Board of Canvasser Appointments -
Move to appoint Doug Lagos, Republican, and Chuck Stockwell, Democrat, to the Board of Canvassers to a 4-year term beginning on November 1, 2025.

4. Sheriff's Office Request for Seven (7) License Plate Readers (LPR's) from Flock Safety -
Move to approve the seven (7) License Plate Readers (LPR's) from Flock Safety in the amount of \$24,500.00 to be paid annually from line-item 270-309-809-000 and authorize all necessary signatures.

5. Michigan State Police (MSP) Post Door Locks and Hardware Request -
Move to approve the Michigan State Police (MSP) Post door locks and hardware request from Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director from Dave's Glass in the amount of \$4,575.00 from line-item 470-100-993-000.

6. NetSource One Renewal Quote -

Move to approve NetSource One Renewal Quote #NSOQ37163 in the amount of \$1,777.00 for a 1-year renewal. And authorize all necessary signatures.

7. Sheriff's Office Request to Hire John Darling -

Move to approve the hiring of John Darling to fill a vacant part-time Corrections Deputy position. A background check, drug test and physical have been completed. He is to start on or about October 1, 2025 at Step 1 rate of pay of \$21.96 per hour.

New Business

1. Discussion Regarding Proposed Health Insurance Renewal -

Brandon Weslock - Vice President of Operations, Brown and Brown, presented regarding the upcoming increases to the county health plans. In addition to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, bids were sought from Atena, Priority Health and HAP, which all three companies declined to bid. The State hard-cap increased by 2.9%. Prior to adjusting the county's stop-loss level, the health insurance cost increase is at 39%. With adjusting the hard-cap, the County could look at having the increase be 22%. Overall, the cost to the county will be increasing.

2. Discussion Regarding Benefits Strategy -

Brian Bellware, Managing Principal, Gibson, presented regarding his company assisting with providing more affordable health care options for Tuscola County. Gibson is a risk management company that can broker insurance carrier options. An employee would have the opportunity to access health care coverage in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The fee that the county would be assessed would be given to a foundation in order to assist with specific high costs in health care. In order to assist with savings for 2026, the first step would be looking at the pharmaceutical arm of the program and implementing the foundation assistance program.

Shelly Lutz stated that 4 different brokers were approached for options and Gibson is the only one that responded. If the Board decides to go with Gibson, then Brown and Brown would no longer be the County's broker.

2025-M-237

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Gibson to be Tuscola County's Broker of Record effective October 1, 2025 with a term of twenty-four (24) months with all signatures authorized as necessary.

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

No: Matt Koch

Motion Carried.

3. Animal Control Request to Hire Christine Caron -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, stated that Brady Hudek is not going to move forward with employment with Tuscola County. He is requesting that Christine Caron be approved.

2025-M-238

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

4. Dispatch Request for Additional Employee Pay -

Jon Ramirez, Dispatch Director, explained that Central Dispatch is 5 Dispatchers short currently and employees are averaging 54 hours of overtime per pay period. He is requesting a step-up wage to be offered while these employees are working additional hours to cover the department until the newly hired staff have been trained.

Shelly Lutz stated the additional cost would be approximately \$5,600.00 to offer this through December 31, 2025.

2025-M-239

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the recommendation of Dispatch Director, Jon Ramirez, that current Dispatchers with at least one year of consecutive experience who have been working long hours during this staffing shortage receive an additional \$2.00 per hour to their base wage effective September 29, 2025 with an end date of December 31, 2025.

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

Motion Carried.

Controller/Administrator Erica Dibble stated the budget adjustments will be presented in October for approval.

See Motion 2025-M-242 for start date correction.

5. Emergency Services Request for Portable Radios -

Steve Anderson, Emergency Services Coordinator, presented the purchase request for Portable Radios for the Road Patrol Officers.

2025-M-240

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Emergency Services request for Twenty-Eight (28) portable radios from Motorola APX N-50 Quote #3177227 in the amount of \$156,274.16 and an additional one-time mic fee of \$250.00 per radio in the amount of \$7,000.00 for a grand total of \$163,274.16 transferred from the road patrol fund balance to line-item 207-309-971-000 portable radio/in car camera fund and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

6. Proposed 2025-13 Resolution Opposing House of Representatives' FY26 Budget Cuts to County Revenue Sharing -
Commissioner Bardwell asked if this matter needed to be adopted today or if it could be delayed. Representative Greg Alexander would like to present to the Board on October 13, 2025 at 8:15 a.m. virtually. Matter to be placed on the agenda for October 16, 2025 for consideration.
7. Requesting Approval for Overnight Lodging in Bay City -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, requested permission for overnight stay as the mileage is less than what is detailed in the travel policy.

2025-M-241

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Jodi Fetting, County Clerk's request for overnight lodging to be reimbursed for the United County Officers Association Conference in Bay City, October 19-21, 2025. Motion Carried.

Recessed at 9:49 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:01 a.m.

Commissioner Koch excused at 10:01 a.m.

At 10:01 a.m., there were a total of 28 participants attending the meeting virtually.

8. Dispatch Request for Additional Employee Pay -

2025-M-242

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to correct Motion 2025-M-239 to have the start date corrected from September 29, 2025 to September 27, 2025 so it is at the beginning of the pay period per the request of Shelly Lutz, HR Director. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Updated Financials for 2026 Budget Process -
Controller/Administrator Erica Dibble stated the calendar was updated and is asking for approval of the amended calendar.

2025-M-243

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to approve the 2026 Budget Development Calendar-amended as presented. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Chippewa County Resolution 2025-19
2. Montcalm County Resolution 2025-11

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Koch

Absent

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
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
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Bardwell

No Report

Behavioral Health Systems 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

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 reported on the Amish Bridge as the DNR has reached out to Representative Alexander. There is discussion about having an easement completed for the project. An application will need to be completed to start this process.

-Commissioner Vaughan read a letter of resignation from Commissioner Goodchild stating his last day serving as a Commissioner will be September 25, 2025.

1. Commissioner Goodchild Resignation -

2025-M-244

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to accept the letter of resignation received from Commissioner John Goodchild effective September 25, 2025 with regret. Motion Carried.

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2025-M-245

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by John Goodchild to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO