



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, November 13, 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, November 13, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Koch

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

Commissioners Present In-Person: Nancy Barrios, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, Matt Koch

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Erica Dibble, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Geoffrey Stuart, Billy Putman, Isabella Putman, Prosecutor Erica Walle, John Boggs, Shannon Delorge, Stacey Dudewicz, Jamie Nisidis, Matt Lozen

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Amanda Ertman, Angie Daniels, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Ashley Gaudett, Barry Lapp, Bonnie Fackler, Brandon Bertram, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Connie Keinath, Debbie Babich, Echo Torrez, Ellen Gross, Jon Ramirez, Billy Putman, Scienna Nieschulz, Shannon Nelson, Teresa Bonesteel, Katie Robinson, Kristi Phipps, Kristy Sutherland, Kyle Nordstrom, Linda Strasz, Mitch Davies, Shannon Beach, Stephanie Dusute, Stephanie Farrell, Steve Root, Tanya Pisha, Tim Green, Tom McLane, Sherry Billot, Kandi Teddy, Brent Dankert, Sarah Trumble, Judy Cockerill, Krystaria Skakle, Ryan Pierce, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Toni James, Dan Lisowski, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Cody Horton, Register Marianne Brandt

At 8:04 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-273

Motion by Nancy Barrios, 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-274

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the October 30, 2025 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

None

New Business

1. Discussion About Hurds Corner Road -
Billy Putman addressed the Board as he recently attended a Road Commission meeting. There have been Townships that have sent emails to the Road Commission with concerns of intersections within their respective jurisdiction. Five intersections were discussed with having rumble strips and/or solar stop signs installed at them. It was requested to look at having the Road Commissioners to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners rather than elected by the people.

Matter to be placed on the December 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2. Michigan Assigned Counsell Renewal FY26 -
Geoffrey Stuart, Managed Assigned Counsel, and Matt Lozen, Regional Director, reviewed how the county share portion of Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel (MIDC) is calculated. Mr. Lozen said the MIDC attorney's salary is set by the Attorney General's Office, the Administrative staff of MIDC is set by the County Board of Commissioners, and Mr. Stuart reviews the contracted attorney invoices to determine if the costs are appropriate.

2025-M-275

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the request from Geoffrey Stuart, Managed Assigned Counsel, for the Compliance Plan and Cost Analysis Renewal FY 2026 in the amount of \$2,129,768.24, including Tuscola County's Local Share of \$255,199.23 as presented, with wage increases to be determined by the Board of Commissioners with the 2026 Budget process and authorize all signatures and budget amendments. Motion Carried.

3. Closed Session in Accordance with Section 8(1)(c) for Strategy Sessions Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement -

2025-M-276

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that the Board meet in closed session, pursuant to Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act, in order to discuss strategy connected with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with Jamie Nisidis with Braun Kendrick, Erica Dibble, Jodi Fetting, Shelly Lutz and Eean Lee to be allowed to attend the closed session at 9:10 a.m.

Yes: Nancy Barrios, Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, and Matt Koch

Motion Carried.

Closed Session at 9:10 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

At 10:18 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Recessed at 10:18 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

4. Tuscola County FY2024 Cost Allocation Plan Review -
Matter to be placed on the November 24, 2025 meeting agenda.
5. Boards and Commissions Annual Appointments -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, reviewed the annual appointment list for various Boards and Commissions.

2025-M-277

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to appoint the following members to the respective Boards and Commissions:

- a. Cory Skinner and Matt Foley to the 911 Dispatch Authority Board for a 2-year term expiring December 31, 2027.
- b. Don Clinesmith to the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028.
- c. Eugene Davison, Carolyn Wymore, Jane Rymarczyk, and Sharon Klawender to the Council on Aging for a 1-year term expiring December 31, 2026.
- d. Patricia Sauber to the Jury Board for a 6-year term expiring December 31, 2031.
- e. Alissa Boulton to the Department of Human Services Board to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028.
- f. William Thomas and Isabella Hill to the Parks and Recreation Committee to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028.
- g. Lonnie Kester and Jane Rymarczyk to the Planning Commission to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028.
- h. Patricia Frazer and Michael Warchuck to the Recycling Committee to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2028.
- i. Ann Cherry to the Health Department Board of Directors for a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2030.
- j. Thomas Bardwell and Kim Vaughan to the Economic Development Commission (EDC) Board of Directors for a 6-year term expiring December 31, 2031.
- k. Henry Wymore to the Region VII Board of Directors as the Tuscola County Representative for a partial-term expiring March 31, 2028.

l. Frank Franzel to the Verteran's Affairs Committee to a partial-term expiring December 31, 2027 and Catherine Cirisan to a full-term expiring December 31, 2029.
Motion Carried.

2025-M-278

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to appoint Patricia Gray to the Land Bank Authority to a 3-year term of office effective March 1, 2025 expiring February 29, 2028. This appointment was missed in February of 2025 and is considered retroactive for an effective date of service. Motion Carried.

2025-M-279

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the County Clerk to advertise as necessary for any seats remaining vacant on the various Boards and Commissions. Motion Carried.

Clerk Fetting stated the Board of Canvassers meets today at 1:00 p.m. to certify the results from the November 4, 2025 Special Election. The overall turnout was 17% which it was expected to be low for this election.

Clerk Fetting excused at 10:43 a.m.

6. Fire Suppression Blueprints for Old Storage -
Mike Miller, Building/Grounds and Recycling Director, explained the need to have suppression tanks remain at the old storage building as the Building Codes Department is currently using the space.

2025-M-280

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Fire Suppression Quote from Total Fire Protection in the amount of \$14,176.00 for installation in the Old Storage Shed.

Motion Carried.

7. 2025 - 2026 Contract for Mental Health Services for Jail Inmates -
Shannon DeLorge, Contract Manger for Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems and Stacey Dudewicz, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), presented on the proposed annual contract.

2025-M-281

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the Contract for Mental Health Services for Jail Inmates between Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) and Tuscola County from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 for the amounts listed on Attachment A of the Contract and authorize all necessary signatures. Also, all necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

8. New Hire Request for Liberty Masker -
Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, presented the request to hire Liberty Masker for the vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy Position.

2025-M-282

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Liberty Masker for the vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy Position. She has successfully completed the background check, drug screening, psychological evaluation and physical. She is scheduled to begin at the Delta College Police Academy on January 12, 2026. Her rate of pay will be Step One at \$26.04 per hour. A grant application was submitted on her behalf through the Public Safety Academy Assistance Program to help offset the cost of the academy. Motion Carried.

9. New Hire Request for Gabriel Farver -
Robert Baxter, Undersheriff, presented the request to hire Gabriel Farver for the vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy Position

2025-M-283

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Gabriel Farver for the vacant full-time Road Patrol Deputy Position. He has successfully completed the background check, drug screening, psychological evaluation and physical. He is scheduled to begin the Delta College Police Academy on January 12, 2026. His rate of pay will be Step One at \$26.04 per hour. A grant application was submitted on his behalf through the Public Safety Academy Assistance Program to help offset the cost of the academy. Motion Carried.

10. Use of the Courthouse Lawn Request -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, presented the request which is included in the agenda packet.

2025-M-284

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Caro Women's Interfaith Committee for Christmas to use the Courthouse Lawn to display a Nativity Scene from Saturday, November 29, 2025, through Saturday, January 3, 2026. Motion Carried.

11. FY26 County Veteran Service Fund Grant Update -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, provided an update on the grant.

2025-M-285

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the FY26 County Veterans Service Fund Grant Update for \$48,969.24 as presented and authorize all signatures. Motion Carried.

12. Budget Amendment #3 General Fund -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the request that was included in the agenda packet.

2025-M-286

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve Budget Amendment #3 as presented and all necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Easement Application for Public Road -
Thomas Bardwell, Vice-Chairperson, provided an update regarding the progress on the Amish Road project.

2025-M-287

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve Commissioner Bardwell to proceed with the Proposed Easement Application with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the easement of the Amish bridge as presented and authorize all signatures. Motion Carried.

2. 2026 Budget Calendar Update -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the need to amend the budget calendar.

2025-M-288

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the authorization of Erica Dibble to post public notice of hearing in the Advertiser and on the Tuscola County website on or before November 21, 2025. The Budget meeting is scheduled to be held on December 22, 2025. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Letter to the Board from the Courts - The letter was in reference to the Expungement Fair held at the courthouse.

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

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison-

Commissioner Barrios attended the Tuscola County Road Commission meeting last week and will be attending an upcoming meeting next week for the Road Commission Task Force.

Great Start Collaborative-

Meets next week.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission-

Commissioner Barrios will be attending a meeting next week at Wisner Township.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative-

Meets next week.

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Commissioner Barrios attended meetings at Village of Gagetown and Elkland Township last week and toured the PSB Building.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA-

The Market Manager is looking for office space.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment-
Erica Dibble is still looking into who is to develop the agreement.

MAC 7th District

MAC Workers Comp Board

MAC Finance Committee

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

Dispatch Authority Board

Attended the 911 Authority Board meeting. Various 911 issues throughout the state was discussed.

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works

Recycling Advisory

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

-Commissioner Vaughan discussed the Road Commissioners being elected officials rather than appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Matter to be added to the next agenda.

At 11:33 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Prosecutor Erica Walle thanked the Board for their questions and engagement regarding the statewide budgetary disparities faced by the Prosecutor's Office and the MIDC offices.

Adjournment

2025-M-289

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO

Tanya Pisha
Deputy Clerk