



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Monday, November 24, 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 Monday, November 24, 2025, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Barrios

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

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

Commissioners Absent: Matt Koch

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Erica Dibble, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Amanda Ertman, Michael Clinesmith, Mark Ransford, Cody Horton, Connie Keinath

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Kyle Nordstrom, John Boggs, Stephanie Farrett, Ellen Gross, Angie House, Carrie Tabar, Bonnie Fackler, Steve Root, Judy Cockerill, Angie Daniels, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Ashley Gaudett, Barry Lapp, Robert Baxter, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Scienna Nieschulz, Shannon Nelson, Sherry Billott, Tanya Pisha, Tim Green, Tom McLane, Register Marianne Brandt, Matthew Sexton, Olivia Chapin, Tricia Sharp, Dan Lisowski, Toni James, Tyler Ray, Shannon Beach, Chad Tumblin, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Connie Keinath, Debbie Babich, Echo Torrez, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Jenna Smith, Kandi Teddy, Karly Creguer, Kristi Phipps, Kristy Sutherland, Krystaria Skakle, Larry Zapfe, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Katie Robinson, Linda Strasz, Mitch Davies, Judge Nancy Thane

At 8:09 a.m., there were a total of 38 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2025-M-294

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2025-M-295

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2025 Regular meeting and Closed Session, the November 17, 2025 Finance Committee meeting and the November 18, 2025 Regular meeting and Closed Session. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

None

New Business

1. Tuscola County FY2024 Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) Review -

Ellen Gross and Stephane Farrett presented the MGT Plan. The allowable CAP was at 10% and was recently increased to 15%. Tuscola County has a motion to set this at 5%. It was suggested to review any fees set by the Board of Commissioners to determine if any increase is warranted. Erica to review the CAP for 2025 with an analysis to be brought back to the Board. Erica to review the indirect costs applied at 5% for the various funds and to bring back to the Board.

2025-M-296

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to place on file the Tuscola County FY2024 MGT Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) Review as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS) -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained that the process of paying the appellate attorneys has recently changed and adjustments need to be implemented to remain compliant. This was previously a part of the court budget and is no longer. This is now a state shared service so budget amendments need to be made to allow for a county contribution portion and a state contribution portion.

2025-M-297

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell that per the recommendation from Judge Amy Grace Gierhart that the expenditures and State of Michigan Reimbursement revenue for appellate attorneys be removed from the Unified Court Budget and placed in a Non-Unified Court Line Items for expenditures and revenues in the General Fund, effective October 1, 2025. Also, all budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

3. Parks & Recreation Commission Requests -

Michael Clinesmith, Tuscola County Parks & Recreation Commission Chair, reviewed the requests to secure bids for cornhole equipment at Vanderbilt Park. Also, he presented on the cement pad needed for the historical sign.

The 2026 Parks and Recreation Committee Schedule was presented with an increase in the number of meetings which was the reason for the requested increase in the 2026 budget. The Board discussed that the additional meetings may not be necessary unless a project is underway.

2025-M-298

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the cornhole equipment for Vanderbilt Park with Doty in the amount of \$2,579.00. Motion Carried.

2025-M-299

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the two (2) cement pads for the cornhole boards with Creative Concrete in the amount of \$1,500.00 and \$750.00 for cement for the historical sign. Motion Carried.

2025-M-300

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve and place on file the 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule. Motion Carried.

4. Discussion on Vanderbilt Park Internet & Automation -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, requested for a bid to be brought back to the Board for providing internet at Vanderbilt Park with the hopes of having an automated process to purchase park passes.

2025-M-301

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to authorize checking into internet and automation options for Vanderbilt Park and bring back information on the cost back to the board at a later date. Motion Carried.

5. 2026 Clean Sweep Grant Program for Review -

Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, reviewed the counties that participate in the grant and that Tuscola County acts as the fiduciary.

2025-M-302

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the 2026 Clean Sweep Grant from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 in the amount of \$25,000.00 as presented and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

6. Request to Purchase a New Horizontal Baler -

Mike Miller, Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, reviewed the request to purchase a baler for the Recycling Center. The option of leasing versus purchasing as well as necessary electrical work was discussed. This purchase will qualify to use grant funds that are available.

2025-M-303

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the purchase of a new horizontal baler for recycling for the total cost of \$77,340.00 to be paid through our Materials Management Planning (MMP) Grant. Motion Carried.

7. Council on Aging Appointment-

Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the request to fill a vacancy on the Council on Aging.

2025-M-304

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to appoint Roberta Schmenk to the Council on Aging for a partial-term expiring December 31, 2025 and a 1-year term beginning on January 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

8. Varipro Agreement -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained this is a renewal for the Flexible Spending provider for employees. This is now administered by the County's new broker of Gibson.

2025-M-305

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Varipro Rate Addendum Disclosure of Commissions and Fees with Tuscola County for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

9. Request to Use The People's Building Board Room for a Community Event -

Mark Ransford, Partner, Ransford-Wasik, LLC, explained the request to use the community room in the People's Building for an upcoming event.

2025-M-306

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve the use of the Board Room in the People's Building for a Community Event on December 31, 2025, with insurance certificates to be provided prior to the event. Also, the event is to be staffed by a County-approved private security firm or a licensed law-enforcement officer. Motion Carried.

10. Review & Discuss Pool Cars -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, discussed the available County pool cars. The Ford Fusion had an insurance claim in which the county received \$13,500.00. The Chevy Malibu is available for use except in the summer months as then it is dedicated to the Equalization Department. The Drain Commissioner's Office has requested approval previously to purchase a new truck for use by that Department. Drain Commissioner Hood has reached out to several dealerships to obtain pricing. The current truck assigned to the Drain Commissioner's Office has a trade-in value of approximately \$10,000.00. The Animal Control department also had a vehicle that had a recent insurance claim and may need to have that vehicle replaced. The matter of using the Drain Commissioner Office's truck as an extra county pool vehicle or as the Animal Control replacement vehicle was discussed rather than trading it in.

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

11. Fund Balance Reviews for Funds 483 - Capital Improvement Fund , 244 - Equipment/Technology Fund and 488 - Jail Improvement Fund -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained the 2026 Budget figures have been updated and the projected deficit has been reduced from \$1.9 million to just under \$1.0 million. The reduction was a result of updated expenditures and amended projected interest earned. Board would like to see a list of adjusted line items that impacted the reduced deficit for the next meeting.

Recessed at 9:55 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

At 10:03 a.m., there were a total of 40 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Old Business

1. Discussion on Road Commissioners Being Appointed or Elected -

Commissioner Vaughan reviewed HB5125 (Public Act 14) and HB5125 (Public Act 15) of 2012 that addresses a transition of Road Commissioners from being elected to being appointed. He stated that the Board of Commissioners created the Road Commission board via a motion (2010-M-083). Commissioner Vaughan is going to reach out to other counties that have moved from an elected to an appointed Road Commission Board for their insight.

Matter to be placed on the next Board agenda with a proposed resolution prepared for review and possible adoption.

2. 2026 Budget Calendar Update -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained that there needs to be a notice published in the newspaper regarding the Budget Public Hearing 6-days in advance of the hearing. The Board discussed the upcoming meetings:

December 8, 2025 - Committee of the Whole with Department Heads in attendance for 2026 budget discussions.

December 11, 2025 - Board of Commissioners meeting to be rescheduled.

December 15, 2025 - Board of Commissioners meeting rescheduled from December 11, 2025.

December 22, 2025 - Board of Commissioners meeting with Budget Public Hearing to be set for 9:00 a.m.

3. 2026 Budget Status Update -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained the 2026 deficit is currently projected at just under \$1.0 million. The Board discussed the amount required to be in county reserves to remain compliant.

4. Review of Non-Mandated Services -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, presented a list of Departments that are Mandated and that are Non-Mandated.

5. Review of Salary and Fringe Cost Per Department -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed a list of Departments and the salaries and fringe benefits that are associated with the Department for the Board to have a scale of a cost of a full-time employee.

The matter of a salary increase for the Board of Commissioners is to be placed on the next agenda for discussion about whether the salary increase should be frozen. Motion 2024-M-172 established a salary increase for the Commissioners each year through 2028.

The Board would like the matter of a hiring freeze for the county to be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Correspondence/Resolutions

None

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Lutz

Board of Health -

Commissioner Lutz expressed his appreciation of the Veterans Affairs department for assisting a local Veteran gain access to benefits.

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 -

The number of people on the Homeless waiting list and the number of people that have utilized the Shelter was discussed.

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison

Great Start Collaborative -

Met last week.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission -

Caro City has trees along State Street that will be decorated by local businesses.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -

The name has been updated to Watershed AOC. The project list was reviewed and Commissioner Barrios is looking at a potential grant opportunity.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -

Will be participating in an upcoming Cass City Ambulance meeting and discussed the letter from Gilford Township to the Road Commission.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board -

Meets tonight.

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

Board of Health -
Met last Friday.

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

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-307

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO

