



MINUTES

Public Hearing Meeting

9:13 AM - Monday, December 22, 2025

H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723

Commissioner Vaughan called the Public Hearing of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building Board Room, 125 W. Lincoln St., Caro, MI 48723, on Monday, December 22, 2025, to order at 9:13 AM local time.

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, Eean Lee, Erica Dibble, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Kristy Sutherland, Amanda Ertman, Carrie Tabar, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Steve Anderson, Damian Wasik, Alisha Proctor, Jim Tussey, Jim McLoskey, Joe Greene, Tyler Ray, Connie Keinath, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Laura Boyke-Hawes

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Angie Daniels, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Ashley Gaudett, Bonnie Fackler, Chad Tumblin, Kandi Teddy, Katie Robinson, Kristi Phipps, Kristy Sutherland, Krystaria Skakle, Cindy Hughes, Cody Horton, Connie Keinath, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Debbie Babich, Echo Torrez, Kyle Nordstrom, Larry Zapfe, Linda Strasz, Register Marianne Brandt, Estee Bitzer, Heather Malloy, Brent Dankert, Jamie LeValley, Jeff LeValley, John Boggs, Matthew Sexton, Mitch Davies, Olivia Chapin, Shannon Beach, Shelly Lutz, Sherry Billot, Steve Root, Tanya Pisha, Tim Green

At 9:20 a.m., there were a total of 43 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Public Comment

None

Budget Review

1. Review of 2026 County Budget -

Commissioner Lutz asked for clarification on Jim Tussey's role on the Economic Development Commission (EDC) Board. Mr. Tussey stated that he is the Board Chair and all of the Board members serve as volunteers and do not receive a per diem.

Commissioner Bardwell provided an overview of the history of the EDC. The loss of the grant writer a few years ago was a loss to the EDC in receiving grants.

Mr. Tussey explained the importance of the EDC and their role in retaining business in Tuscola County. The EDC does hold a role in being able to apply for various grant opportunities.

Controller/Administrator Dibble presented two budgets for consideration by the Board. 2026 Budget Version 1.4 funds the EDC at \$100,000.00 and 2026 Budget Version 1.5 funds the EDC at \$120,000.00.

Commissioner Vaughan would like to fund the EDC at their full request of \$120,000.00.

Controller/Administrator Dibble, at the request of the Board, provided an overview of where the budget shortfall originally projected was resolved:

- The 483 Fund amount allocated was reduced.
- The 242 Fund amount allocated was reduced.
- Various Elected Officials and Department Heads provided cuts to line-items within their budgets.
- There were clean-up measures taken in various line-items to show a more accurate position.

Kristy Sutherland addressed the Senior Home Delivered Meals program that is a new millage where funds will be received for the first time in 2025.

Controller/Administrator Dibble explained that her plan moving into 2027 is to continue to meet with Department Heads regarding their respective budgets.

Additional Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Public Hearing adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO