



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, January 15, 2026

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

Commissioner Bardwell 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, January 15, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Bardwell

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lutz

Roll Call - Deputy Clerk Tanya Pisha

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

Commissioners Absent: Kim Vaughan

Others Present In-Person: Tanya Pisha, Eean Lee, Erica Dibble, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Russ Spiers, Jen Putman, Isabella Putman, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Amanda Ertman, Billy Putman, Addison Putman, Shelly Lutz, Joanna Samuelson, Gregg Campbell, Carrie Tabar

Also Present Virtual: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Mitch Davies, Karlee Romain, Angie House, Debbie Babich, Bonnie Fackler, Connie Keinath, Dan Lisowski, Kandi Teddy, Jamie LeValley, Jeff LeValley, Kristi Phipps, Rebecca Evans, Shanda Eichelberger, Shelly Lutz, Steve Root, Suzy Rockwell, Judge Nancy Thane, Barry Lapp, Larry Zapfe, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Echo Torrez, Tom McLane, Chad Tumblin, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Linda Strasz, Lori Offenbecher, Katie Robinson, Kyle Nordstrom, Register Marianne Brandt, Sandy Nielsen, Shannon Beach, Shannon Nelson, Stacey Wilcox, Amy Prill, Kristy Sutherland, Sherry Billot, Commissioner Kim Vaughan, Ashley Gaudett, Judy Cockerill, Krystaria Skakle, Robert Baxter, Josh Herman, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood

At 8:11 a.m., there were a total of 41 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-001

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2026-M-002

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the December 22, 2025 Regular meeting minutes, the December 22, 2025 Public Hearing minutes, the December 22, 2025 Organizational meeting minutes and the December 29, 2025 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

Russ Spiers, Ellington Township Supervisor, informed the board that Ellington Township submitted three work requests to the Road Commission concerning flashing stop signs, flashing stop ahead signs, and rumble strips at Hurds Corner and Deckerville Road, offering financial contribution from the Township.

Laura Boyke-Hawes expressed her concerns for safety at the intersections and wants to see the flashing signs up.

Consent Agenda

2026-M-003

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the January 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Health Department Personnel Policy Changes -

Move to approve the personnel policy changes effective January 1, 2026 per the recommendation from Amanda Ertman, Health Officer.

2. Equature Contract and Invoice -

Move to approve per the recommendation from Steve Anderson, Emergency Services for the Equature Invoice #29751 in the amount of \$8,154.18 from line-item 218-334-932-000. This is paying for year 3 of a 10-year service agreement for the phone call recording equipment in use at dispatch.

3. Request to Purchase 8 GIS Tablets -

Move to approve the purchase of 8 GIS tablets from Frontier Precision at the cost of \$37,869.00. The cost of this purchase was planned for and would be removed from the 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget.

4. Request to Hire Back Marianne Daily -

Move to approve the re-hire of Marianne Daily to return to work on February 2, 2026 pending the results of a background check and physical. This request is in preparation to prepare the new GIS tablets and mapping system for the upcoming mosquito season.

5. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board Appointments -

a. Move that per the recommendation of the EDC Board that the retirement resignations of John Tilt, Bob Wolak and Rose Putnam from the EDC Board of Directors be accepted effective December 31, 2025 with appreciation of their dedication and time spent on the Board.

b. Move that per the recommendation of the EDC Board that Corey Guza be appointed to the EDC Board of Directors to a partial-term effective January 1, 2026 which expires December 31, 2026. Mr. Guza is completing the remaining term due to the retirement resignation of Rose Putnam.

c. Move that per the recommendation of the EDC Board that Damian Wasik and Jena Tetil be appointed to the EDC Board of Directors for a 6-year term effective January 1, 2026 expiring on December 31, 2031. Motion Carried.

New Business

1. Family Planning Fee Increase for Transdermal Contraceptive Patches - Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, explained the recommended fee change.

2026-M-004

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the family planning fee schedule for Transdermal Contraceptive Patches effective January 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

2. Safety Equipment Purchase for 6 Dangerous Intersections - Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the quote that was provided by Billy Putman. The Board discussed the process needed for submitting a work order request to the Road Commission.

The six intersections are:

1. Hurds Corner Road and Deckerville Road
2. Irish Road and Birch Run Road
3. Birch Run Road and M-15
4. Hurds Corner Road and Bevens Road
5. Hurds Corner Road and M-46
6. Fairgrove Road and Vassar Road

2026-M-005

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the purchase of twenty-four (24) Removable Traffic Rumble Strips from Stop-Painting.com Quote # QN367800 in the amount of \$20,851.12 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund 483, which will be subject to subsequent determination of cost responsibility and reimbursement. Also, all budget amendments necessary are authorized. Motion Carried.

2026-M-006

to approve the purchase of twelve (12) Remote Battery Solar Assist Flasher Kits from the Traffic Safety Store for a total of \$1,682.93 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund 483, which will be subject to subsequent determination of cost responsibility and reimbursement. Also, all budget amendments necessary are authorized. Motion Carried.

2026-M-007

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to submit a work order to the Tuscola County Road Commission for installation of 12 solar flashing stop signs and 24 rumble strips at the 6 intersections. The work order to be submitted with a response required within 72 hours. The Tuscola County Road Commission is to have first right of refusal for the installation of said equipment. The Tuscola County Board will seek alternate installation company if the Tuscola County Road Commission refuses installation. If there is no response from the Tuscola County Road Commission, that will be considered a denial of the work order. Motion Carried.

3. Central Dispatch Director Vacant Position Update -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the recommendation from the Dispatch Authority Board to suspend the search at this time for a Dispatch Director.

2026-M-008

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that, per the recommendation of the Tuscola County Dispatch Authority Board, the recruiting efforts for the Director of Central Dispatch be suspended until after the August 4, 2026 election; current appointment of Carrie Tabar and Steve Anderson as Interim Co-Dispatch Directors will remain in effect until further notice. This arrangement can be re-evaluated by Tuscola County Dispatch Authority Board or the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners at any time. Motion Carried.

2026-M-009

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz that, per the recommendation of the Tuscola County Dispatch Authority Board, the stipend for Carrie Tabar and Steve Anderson as Interim Co-Dispatch Directors be increased to \$800.00 per pay period, effective January 17, 2026, due to the extended period of time and the increased duties. Motion Carried.

4. Central Dispatch Door Purchase -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, explained the requested budget amendment to provide budget relief to the Dispatch budget.

2026-M-010

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the payment to Dave's Glass LLC for the purchase and installation of the Ballistic Dark Bronze Aluminum Door and frame in the amount of \$10,800.00 from line item # 483-359-955-000, rather than line item 218-334-970-000 as indicated by the previous motion 2025-M-175. Motion Carried.

5. 2026 IRS Mileage Rate Increase -**2026-M-011**

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios that effective January 1, 2026 the standard county mileage rate be increased from \$.70 per mile to \$72.5 cents per mile as established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Motion Carried.

6. 2026 Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival Request to Use the Courthouse Lawn - Commissioner Nancy Barrios presented the annual request from the Pumpkin Festival.

2026-M-012

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the use of the Courthouse Lawn for the 2026 Pumpkin Festival from September 25, 2026 to October 5, 2026. Motion Carried.

7. Controller/Administrator Office Staffing Changes -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, informed the Board of Commissioners she will be stepping down, ending full-time employment on March 1, 2026 transitioning to part-time hourly work until an official end date of June 1, 2026. She presented an office restructure proposing to split the current Controller/Administrator role into two separate roles, and to utilize an existing budgeted vacant position for a sixth position in the office.

2026-M-013

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the use of an existing budgeted vacant position to begin the process of restructuring including dividing the County Controller and the Administrator roles. Controller/Administrator's office to return with finalized job descriptions and proposed salary ranges prior to job posting.

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

Absent: Kim Vaughan

Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Discussion on "Drive Safe" Marketing Campaign -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, introduced the idea of a Drive Safe campaign to address distracted driving suggesting a positive message approach be used, potentially utilizing social media, billboards, or local business. Following discussion, the Board of Commissioners approved forming a sub committee to review options, including cost-neutral strategies and potential partnerships with entities.

2. Amish Road Update -

Commissioner Bardwell provided an update on the Amish Bridge. They will be focusing on the Hadley Road Bridge as an alternative solution that would benefit both the Amish community and local residents. Commissioner Barrios is scheduled to meet with the Road Commission to discuss the Hadley Bridge as an alternative.

Correspondence/Resolutions

None

1. Cass County Resolution
2. Genesee Resolutions

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

None

Vaughan

Absent

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
Julie Matuszak is now the Chairperson. Jack Laurie's term ends in 2026.

Great Start Collaborative
2026 Camp Scholarships are open.
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee
Parks and Recreation Commission
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
Commissioner Barrios will be attending an upcoming meeting.
Local Units of Government Activity Report
Karen Southgate will be retiring effective May 8, 2026.
DHHS office moved to the former Rite Aid building in Lapeer.

Bardwell

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)
Meeting on January 15, 2026.
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Lutz

Board of Health
Community Corrections Advisory Board
Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works
Human Development Commission Board of Directors Liaison
Grant funding is available focusing on fixing windows and roofs, noting that the program has funds available.
Jail Planning Committee
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
MAC Judiciary Committee
MEMS All Hazard
Multi-County Recycling Committee
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Koch

No Report
Dispatch Authority Board
Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works
Jail Planning Committee
MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)
Recycling Advisory
Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

Commission Bardwell expressed appreciation for Sheriff Robinson's regular attendance at the Board meetings.

Extended Public Comment

Joanna Samuelson requested the data report that Eean is preparing to include the impact on public health.

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, clarified that the discussion about a marketing committee was solely for a Drive Safe Campaign to promote paying more attention on the road.

Commissioner Lutz stated there was another accident on Hurds Corner Road and Bevens Road.

Gregg Campbell thanked the Board for taking safety measures at the intersections that have been discussed.

Adjournment

2026-M-014

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Tanya Pisha
Tuscola County Deputy Clerk