



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, January 29, 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 29, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Lutz

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Koch

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, Billy Putman, Jen Putman, Abigail Putman, Isabella Putman, Tyler Ray, Karly Creguer, Cody Horton, Shelly Lutz, Connie Keinath

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Clerk Jodi Fetting, Jeff LeValley, Debbie Babich, Mitch Davies, Angie House, Amanda Ertman, Jamie LeValley, Cody Horton, Chad Tumblin, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Bonnie Fackler, Commissioner Kim Vaughan, Dan Lisowski, Kyle Nordstrom, Shelly Lutz, Stephanie DuSute, Steve Root, Connie Keinath, Sherry Billot, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Larry Zapfe, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Shannon Beach, Cindy Hughes, Amy Prill, Alecia Little, Ashley Gaudett, Kandi Teddy, Linda Strasz, Register Marianne Brandt, Sally Minehart, Shannon Nelson, Katie Robinson, Barry Lapp, Krystaria Skakle, Mark Ransford, Angie Daniels, Echo Torrez, Estee Bitzer, Kristi Phipps, Suzy Rockwell, Tom McLane, Scienna Nieschulz, Matthew Sexton

At 8:05 a.m., there were a total of 30 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-015

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-016

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the January 15, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2026-M-017

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the January 26, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Tuscola County Behavioral Health System (TBHS) Board Appointment -

Move to appoint Steve Zissler to the Tuscola County Behavioral Health System (TBHS) Board of Directors for a partial-term expiring March 31, 2026 and for the appointment to continue as a full-term appointment effective April 1, 2026 expiring March 31, 2029.

2. Staffing Discussion at Central Dispatch -

Move to proceed with the recruiting process for the supervisor position at Central Dispatch.

New Business

1. Animal Control Request to Hire Lisa Louk -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, requested to hire Lisa Louk at Step One once successfully completing the background check and drug screen. Effective hire date of February 9, 2026.

2026-M-018

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve, per the recommendation of Animal Control Director Tyler Ray, the hiring of Lisa Louk to fill the vacant part-time Animal Control Kennel Assistant position at Step 1 rate of pay of \$16.92 per hour pending favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Tentative start date on or around February 9, 2026. Motion Carried.

2. Leidos Maintenance Support Agreement Contract Quote No. Q-24871 - Steve Anderson, Emergency Services Coordinator/Interim 911 Dispatch Co-Director, reviewed the standard annual maintenance agreement contract quote for Court Security.

2026-M-019

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve Leidos Maintenance Support Agreement Contract Quote No. Q-24871 per the recommendation from Steve Anderson, Emergency Services Coordinator/Interim 911 Dispatch Co-Director, in the amount of \$8,200.00 for the period of March 25, 2026 thru March 24, 2027 from line-item 101-303-932-000 Courthouse Security and authorize all signatures as necessary. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Jail Door Request -

2026-M-020

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the quote for replacing door #5 for the exercise yard and as an emergency exit door at the Jail from Pauly Jail Building Company, proposal #0119261148 in the amount of \$39,935.00. Project is to be paid from the Jail Capital Improvement Fund 288. All budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

2. Amendment to the 2026 Extension Services Agreement with Michigan State University Extension -

2026-M-021

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Amendment number one (1) of the Agreement for Extension Services provided by Michigan State University, in the amount of \$77,572.00 to be paid from MSU Millage Fund 279; for the purpose of hiring new program educators and assistants per the recommendation from Karly Creguer, District 10 Director MSU Extension. All budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

3. Medical Examiner Provider Discussion -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, provided the current Independent Provider Agreement between Tuscola County and Provider, William Morrone. The current agreement has expired, Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, will get an updated proposal from Provider, William Morrone and bring back to the Board.

2026-M-022

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator to begin the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for Medical Examiner services. Approval to work with the Sheriff, Emergency Manager and any other relevant departments to determine scope of services needed and approval to advertise as required by our purchasing policy. Motion Carried.

4. Road Commission Ballot Language -
Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reported there is no update with the request to move forward with new potential ballot language.

2026-M-023

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz

As Amended:

to approve Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, to work with the County's attorney on potential ballot language to disband the Road Commissioner's Board and to put the Road Commission under the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners with the ballot proposal planned to be presented to the voters on the August 2026 ballot. Motion Carried.

2026-M-024

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz

Amendment#1:

to approve Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, to work with the County's attorney on potential ballot language to disband ~~for transitioning~~ the Road Commissioner's Board ~~to non-elected members~~ with the ballot proposal planned to be presented to the voters on the August 2026 ballot. Motion Carried.

2026-M-025

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz

Amendment #2:

to approve Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, to work with the County's attorney on potential ballot language to disband ~~for transitioning~~ the Road Commissioner's Board and to put the Road Commission under the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners ~~to non-elected members~~ with the ballot proposal planned to be presented to the voters on the August 2026 ballot. Motion Carried.

5. Animal Control ProMaster Van a Total Loss -

Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, reviewed the assessment appraisal for the ProMaster Cargo Van, which is deemed a total loss. A total payout of \$17,200.00 that would go toward a replacement vehicle.

2026-M-026

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to authorize the Controller/Administrator's Office to surrender ownership of the Animal Control van - a 2019 Promaster Cargo Van 1500 (Vin ending 7705) - which has been deemed a total loss by the insurance carrier, claim number 2503794. The County agrees to release the vehicle to the insurance company for salvage removal, with a total settlement amount of \$17,200.00, and to remove the County license plate and any County-owned property prior to pick up. All budget amendments related to the settlement amount are authorized. Motion Carried.

6. Controller/Administrator Position (matter added) -

Commissioners discussed the hiring of a Controller/Administrator. Matter to be placed on upcoming meeting for further discussion.

7. Letter Received from the Road Commission (matter added) -

2026-M-027

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to authorize Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, to contact County legal counsel in regards to a recent letter received from the Road Commission. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Iron County Resolution
2. Washtenaw County Resolution 26-012
3. Washtenaw County Resolution 26-013

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Lutz

No Report

- 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
- Jail Planning Committee
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- MAC Judiciary Committee
- MEMS All Hazard
- Multi-County Recycling Committee
- Local Units of Government Activity Report

Barrios

- County Road Commission Liaison
Updated that the Road Commission has new agenda out.
- Great Start Collaborative
Barrios has attended a recent meeting.
- Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)
- MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee
Barrios will be attending upcoming meeting.
- Parks and Recreation Commission

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Informed that the Amish have a directory which includes maps, locations, along with business in the guide.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

Called a special meeting that was January 27, 2026.

MAC 7th District

A recent meeting was held.

MAC Workers Comp Board

MAC Finance Committee

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

Local Units of Government Activity Report

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

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

Commissioner Barwell expressed his concerns regarding the different scams that are happening in the County.

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2026-M-028

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Tanya Pisha
Tuscola County
Deputy Clerk