



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, February 12, 2026

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, February 12, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Koch

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

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

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Koch excused at 9:15 a.m., Commissioner Bardwell excused at 10:57 a.m.

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Erica Dibble, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Jim Tussey, Alisha Proctor, Jim McLoskey, Julie Walthers, Robin Neff, Debbie Engelhardt, Shannon Beach, Ted Hull, Russ Spiers, Carrie Tabar, Josh Herman, Connie Keinath, Nancy Cook, Robert Baxter, Gary Fini, Jamie Nisidis, Gregg Campbell, Tiffany Reynolds, Shelly Lutz

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Amanda Ertman, Amy Prill, Angie House, Debbie Babich, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Bonnie Fackler, Brandon Bertram, Cody Horton, Echo Torrez, Eric Warsinsky, Estee Bitzer, Katie Robinson, Larry Zapfe, Steve Root, Barry Lapp, Kyle Nordstrom, Shannon Beach, Suzy Smith, Tim Green, Matthew Sexton, Jeff LeValley, Renee Francisco, Register Marianne Brandt, Mitch Davies, Scienna Nieschulz, Shelby Austin, Shelly Lutz, Sherri Billot, Tricia Sharp, Angie Daniels, Ashley Gaudett, Kandi Teddy, Tom McLane, Kristy Sutherland, Krystaria Skakle, Linda Strasz, Shannon Nelson, John Boggs, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Sally Minehart, Connie Keinath

At 8:15 a.m., there were a total of 36 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-029

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-030

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the January 29, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2026-M-031

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items, with the list of seasonal employee names added to Item 1, from the February 9, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. 2026 Seasonal Employees Hire Request -
Move to approve, per the recommendation from Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, the hiring of Mosquito Abatement 2026 Seasonal Employees pending a favorable background check, physical and drug screen.

Mike Sherman
Dennis Haley
John Adamczyk
Mike Emery
Rod Reid
Chance Snyder
Katie Knap

Kirk Bauer
Joe Benjamin
Lee Garnsey
Brandy Wynn
Jason Hall
Dan Sochocki
Mike Putnam

Rodney Spiers
Ron Turner
Richard Letts
Rick Domenick
Richard Myer
Jessica Dopp

- 2. Mosquito Abatement Purchase Request -

A. Move to approve the purchase of 6,325 gallons of Kontrol 4-4 adulticiding material from Veseries, Inc. at \$22.69 per gallon, for a total cost of \$143,514.25. This purchase was anticipated and budgeted for in the 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget.

B. Move to approve the purchase of 12,800 lb. of BTI larviciding material from Valent BioScience, LLC at a contracted cost of \$1.286 per pound, for a total cost of \$16,460.80. This purchase was anticipated and budgeted for in the 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget.

C. Move to approve the purchase of 2 new ULV truck foggers from Clarke, Inc. to replace 2 older worn-out units, for a total cost of \$37,948.00. This purchase was anticipated and budgeted for in the 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget.

3. Medical Care Community Funds Transfer Request -

Move to approve the request from Robert Cody Rabideau, Chief Executive Officer, to transfer \$217,684.84 from Medical Care Millage Fund 298-000-001-000 to General Fund 291-000-001-000 for capital improvements. \$68,034.84 for phone system upgrade completed by vendor Fusion I.T. LLC and \$149,650.00 to replace the kitchen rooftop HVAC unit by vendor John E. Green.

New Business

1. Resolution 2026-01 Honoring Ted C. Hull -

2026-M-032

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve and place on file the Resolution 2026-01 Honoring Ted C. Hull. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

2. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Review -

Jim Tussey, EDC Chair, provided an overview as to the need to reestablish the BRA in order to apply for grants. The meetings will be held on the same day as the Economic Development Commission (EDC) meetings. The EDC will manage any grants applied for and received.

Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the proposed Board appointments that will have the same members of the EDC Board with an expiration date that mirrors the member's term on the EDC Board.

2026-M-033

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to appoint members to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board as follows:

- Jim Tussey, Joe Greene, Debbie Powell and Mike Pattullo to a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2030.
- Thomas Bardwell, Kim Vaughan, Jenna Titel and Damian Wasik to a 6-year term expiring December 31, 2031.
- Brian Neuville, Corey Guza and Brandon Lee to a 1-year term expiring December 31, 2026.

This will establish staggered terms in order to reestablish the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board and to align the term expiration dates to the board member's term on the Economic Development Commission (EDC) Board. Future appointments will be to a full term of 6-years.

Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Controller/Administrator Discussion -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, presented two options regarding the restructuring of the Controller/Administrator's Office. Option #1 would split the position of Controller/Administrator into two positions and would have 4 staff members. Option #2 would retain the position of Controller/Administrator and would have 5 staff members. A breakdown of potential duties and expected budget impact was provided with each option.

The Board discussed the two options presented regarding the duties, the financial impact and the effect on the county and other departments. It was discussed whether the Board should allow the new person in the position of Controller/Administrator to assess the office and then make a recommendation as to the structure. The workload in the office was discussed as well as the need to have someone with a strong handle on the county finances in the office as that is the most important information for the Board in order to make decisions.

Controller/Administrator Dibble stated that staying on as a part-time Controller/Administrator is a short-time solution for her in order to assist in bridging the gap.

2026-M-034

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to maintain the current combined Controller/Administrator position; to authorize immediate recruitment for the Controller/Administrator position, to approve the addition of an Accountant position and to authorize the recruitment for that position; and to approve the position changes outlined in Option Two (2) effective March 14, 2026.

Yes: Kim Vaughan, Bill Lutz, and Matt Koch

No: Nancy Barrios and Thomas Bardwell

Motion Carried.

Commissioner Vaughan stated that two public hearings will need to be held regarding transitioning the Road Commission Board from elected to non-elected in order to place the matter on an upcoming ballot.

Commissioner Koch excused at 9:15 a.m.

New Business - continued

1. Filling of Vacant Court Records Clerk II Position in the County Clerk's Office -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented a request to fill a vacant position within the Clerk's Office due to a retirement. Clerk Fetting also provided a breakdown of the number of services that have been provided since the beginning of the year in order outline the need to fill the position.

2026-M-035

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the hiring of Shelby Austin for the budgeted vacant Court Records Clerk II position in the County Clerk's Office at the Step 1 rate of pay of \$18.89 per hour contingent upon a satisfactory physical, drug screening and background check. The tentative start date is February 27, 2026. Motion Carried.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission Appointment -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the request for appointment.

2026-M-036

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to appoint Joseph Ewald to the Parks and Recreation Commission to a partial-term expiring December 31, 2028. Motion Carried.

3. Advertise Vacancy on the Planning Commission -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the request to advertise for the open position due to the passing of Lonnie Kester. Clerk Fetting stated that Mr. Kester will be greatly missed on this Board.

2026-M-037

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the County Clerk to advertise for the vacant position on the Planning Commission due to the passing of Chairman Lonnie Kester. The Board would like to express their gratitude for Lonnie's dedicated service to the Planning Commission and to Tuscola County. Motion Carried.

4. Land Bank Authority Appointment -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the request for appointment.

2026-M-038

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to appoint Mark Ransford to the Land Bank Authority for a 3-year term beginning March 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

Recessed at 9:50 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:01 a.m. At 10:01 a.m., there were a total of 35 participants attending the meeting virtually.

5. Annual Vanderbilt Park Host Review -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reported that the Vanderbilt Park Host contract is up for renewal and is seeking if the Board would like to renew or to terminate the current contract and post the position.

2026-M-039

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to terminate the Contract for Park Management of Vanderbilt Park with Mark and Pam Shook with a 30-day written notice with an end date of March 14, 2026. Authorization to begin search for new park host is granted. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Bardwell excused at 10:57 a.m.

Old Business - continued

1. Stepping Up Resolution for Mental Health at the Jail -

2026-M-040

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve and place on file Resolution 2026-02 for Stepping Up Resolution for Mental Health at the Jail.

Yes: Nancy Barrios, Kim Vaughan, and Bill Lutz

Absent: Thomas Bardwell and Matt Koch

Motion Carried.

2. Request to Promote Vicki Crumby to a Full-Time Vacant Position and Hire a Vacant Part-Time Person -

2026-M-041

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve Register Marrienne Brandt to promote Vicki Crumby to a vacant full-time position due to a retirement in her office and advertise to fill the vacant part-time position, with an effective date of March 2, 2026. Motion Carried.

3. Update on Safety Measures at 6 Dangerous Intersections -

Erica Dibble, Controller/Administrator, reported that the solar lights have been received although under the current notice from the Road Commissioner is seeking guidance on whether the lights should be returned to the vendor. There is only a 30-day return window.

2026-M-042

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to return the 12 flashing solar lights that have been received from Traffic Safety Store and to hold off on ordering the rumble strips for the 6 intersections. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Lutz reported that he spoke to an MDOT Representative regarding sign installation. He was told that the Road Commission has to complete any paperwork for any signs placed at an M-Road intersection and any lighted signs would need to be hard-wired to power.

- 4. Closed Session to be Held Under Section 8(1)(c) for Strategy and Negotiation Sessions Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement -

2026-M-043

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz that the Board of Commissioners meet in closed session under Section 8(1)(c) for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement. The following individuals are allowed to attend this closed session : Erica Dibble, Shelly Lutz, Eean Lee, Jamie Nisidis of Braun Kendrick and Jodi Fetting at 10:01 a.m.

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

Motion Carried.

Reconvened from Closed Session at 10:54 a.m.

At 10:54 a.m., there were a total of 31 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Correspondence/Resolutions

- 1. Kalkaska County Resolution 2026-03
- 2. St. Joseph County Resolution 01-2026

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Koch
Absent

- Dispatch Authority Board
- Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works
- Jail Planning Committee
- MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)
- Recycling Advisory
- Local Units of Government

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison

Great Start Collaborative

Tom Lounsberry recently competed in an archery competition as a fund-raiser for the group.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

Local Units of Government Activity Report

- Village of Fairgrove is holding a fundraiser on February 28th for the Bean Festival.
- Fairgrove Township has been awarded a grant for an energy storage project.
- The Cass City Ambulance Authority is reorganizing.
- The Kingston Historical Society held a meeting.
- Local jurisdictions have attended an ice certification training.

Bardwell

Absent

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)

Local Units of Government Activity Report

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

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

Other Business as Necessary

None

Extended Public Comment

Gregg Campbell attended the Road Commission meeting this morning. The 6 intersections were not discussed at this meeting. At the meeting, it was reported Bevens Road will be used as a detour route this upcoming construction season.

Adjournment

2026-M-044

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO