



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, March 12, 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, March 12, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Barrios

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Bardwell

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

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

Commissioners Absent: Kim Vaughan

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Ken Dunton, Gregg Campbell, Carrie Tabar, Erica Dibble, Shelly Lutz

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Debbie Babich, Mitch Davies, Erica Dibble, Shelly Lutz, Estee Bitzer, Kyle Nordstrom, Tanya Pisha, Stephanie Dusute, Shannon Beach, Larry Zapfe, Ashley Gaudett, Cindy Hughes, Shelby Austin, Tim Green, Kate VanAuken, Tom McLane, Register Marianne Brandt, Kelsey Dale, Bonnie Fackler, Chad Tumblin, Angie House, Amy Prill, Sherry Billot, Terry Blackmer, Linda Strasz, Krystaria Skakle, Cody Horton, Barry Lapp, Katie Robinson, Matthew Sexton, Judge Nancy Thane, Stacey Wilcox, Dan Lisowski, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Tyler Ray, Jamie LeValley, Amanda Ertman

At 8:12 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-061

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2026-M-062

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the February 12, 2026 Closed Session, February 26, 2026 Closed Session and the February 26, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

None

New Business

1. Courthouse Lawn Request -

Nancy Matuszak, National Day of Prayer Volunteer Coordinator, sent in a request explained by Interim Administrator Miller.

2026-M-063

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the use of the Courthouse lawn on Thursday, May 7, 2026 to hold the National Day of Prayer. This approval includes permission to display banners a few days in advance, erect a tent the day before the event and utilize the electrical outlet for a portable sound system. Motion Carried.

2. Register of Deeds New Hire Request for Lisa Will -

Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, presented the request at the recommendation of Register Brandt.

2026-M-064

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the recommendation of Marianne Brandt, Register of Deeds, to hire Lisa Will to fill the vacant part-time Account Clerk II position in the Register of Deeds Office starting March 23, 2026 at Step 1 rate of pay \$17.87 per hour pending a favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Motion Carried.

3. Discussion for a Possible Resolution for Command Sergeant Major Terry P. Richardson, U.S. Army (Retired) -

Nancy Barrios, Commissioner, would like to have the Board recognize Mr. Richardson for the Medal of Honor that he was awarded by the President. The Board would like to coordinate with the State Legislators for a recognition. Interim Administrator Miller to reach out to the State Legislators and Mr. Richardson to see if a presentation on May 14, 2026 would fit their schedules.

4. Magistrate New Hire Request -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, presented the request submitted by Chief Judge Amy Grace Gierhart to fill the Magistrate position due to the retirement of Joseph VanAuken. The Board would like to prepare a recognition to present to Joseph VanAuken for his years of service.

2026-M-065

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the request from Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, Chief Judge, to hire Attorney Alexandra Huntley to the Magistrate for the 71B District Court to replace Joseph VanAuken with a starting date of March 30, 2026. Motion Carried.

5. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) General Unit -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, reviewed the summary prepared by legal counsel for the tentative agreement ratified by the Union.

2026-M-066

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve to accept and ratify the February 27, 2026 tentative agreement with American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Also, further move that Chairman Vaughan is authorized to execute a final Collective Bargaining Agreement and all other necessary documents consistent with the terms of the tentative 1-year agreement with an effective date of January 1, 2026. Also, all appropriate budget amendments approved as necessary.
Motion Carried.

6. Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Road Patrol -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, reviewed the summary prepared by legal counsel for the tentative agreement ratified by the Union.

2026-M-067

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve to accept and ratify the February 22, 2026 tentative agreement with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Road Patrol. Also, further move that Chairman Vaughan is authorized to execute a final Collective Bargaining Agreement and all other necessary documents consistent with the terms of the tentative 1-year agreement with an effective date of January 1, 2026. Also, all appropriate budget amendments approved as necessary.
Motion Carried.

7. Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Dispatch -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, reviewed the summary prepared by legal counsel for the tentative agreement ratified by the Union.

2026-M-068

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve to accept and ratify the February 12, 2026 tentative agreement with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) Dispatch. Also, further move that Chairman Vaughan is authorized to execute a final Collective Bargaining Agreement and all other necessary documents consistent with the terms of the tentative 2-year agreement with an effective date of January 1, 2026. Also, all appropriate budget amendments approved as necessary.
Motion Carried.

8. Dispatch New Hire Request for Amanda Raymond -
Interim Co-Director Carrie Tabar presented the request to fill a vacant Dispatcher position.

2026-M-069

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve per the recommendation of Carrie Tabar, Interim Dispatch Co-Director, to hire Amanda Raymond, who has over 9 years of previous experience in our Dispatch Center, to fill the vacant Full-Time Dispatcher position at Step 4 at a rate of \$21.54 an hour with a start date on or around April 1, 2026 pending a favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Motion Carried.

9. Planning Commission Appointment -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the request for an appointment to the Planning Commission to fill a vacancy.

2026-M-070

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to appoint Emory Close to the Planning Commission for a partial-term expiring December 31, 2028. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) Board of Directors Term Correction -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, presented the request to correct the term beginning and ending dates on Consent Agenda Motion 2026-M-047 Item 2.

2026-M-071

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to amend Consent Agenda motion 2026-M-047 Item 2:
to appoint Daniel Grimshaw, Kenneth Partridge and Karen Snider to the Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems (TBHS) Board of Directors to a 3-year term beginning ~~March 1, 2026~~ April 1, 2026 and expiring ~~February 28, 2029~~ March 31, 2029. Motion Carried.

2. Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) Quote for Circuit Court -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, presented the request from Circuit Court to replace the video monitor solution for the Jury Box in Circuit Court.

2026-M-072

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) Quote recommended by Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer, for a TV/Rolling Cart for the Circuit Court Room in the amount of \$4,440.50 to be paid from line-item 483-359-955-000. All necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

Interim Administrator Mike Miller will bring a future forecast plan of Building and Grounds projects that will need to be completed in the upcoming years.

Correspondence/Resolutions

None

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison -

A copy of the agenda is provided but there are no supporting documents posted on the website or provided to Commissioner Barrios.

A road project is scheduled for this year on M-46 which will have a detour route utilizing Bevens Road beginning in May 2026.

Commissioner Barrios requested a financial update be provided to the Board of Commissioners.

Great Start Collaborative -
Meeting is later this month.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC) -
Meeting is later this month.

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission -
Expecting an update from Spicer regarding the land project along the Cass River.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -
Met in Bay County.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
-Elkland Township is preparing for their budget meeting.
-Attended a virtual training on budgets hosted through mi.gov.
-Attended a meeting at POET regarding carbon recapture program.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board -
Meets next week.

Caro DDA/TIFA -

Caro Market Manager has resigned. Budget and revenue are being discussed.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District -

Need to determine when the next meeting is scheduled.

MAC Workers Comp Board

MAC Finance Committee -

Cohl, Stoker and Toskey presented on regionalization of services.

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

Lutz

Board of Health -

Meets at the end of the month.

Community Corrections Advisory Board -

Meets next month.

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works -

Meets tomorrow.

Human Development Commission Board of Directors Liaison -

Meets next week.

Jail Planning Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MAC Judiciary Committee

MEMS All Hazard

Multi-County Recycling Committee -

Meeting was held for Tuscola County jurisdictions in which no one attended.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -

Village of Millington has received funding for an infrastructure project.

Koch

Dispatch Authority Board

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works -
Meets tomorrow.

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Recycling Advisory

Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

None

At 9:12 a.m., there were a total of 38 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Ken Dunton, Road Commission retiree, addressed the Board regarding the Road Commission. He also served as the County Surveyor for many years.

-Gregg Campbell, Ellington Township, appreciates the research that Commissioner Barrios has completed regarding the Road Commission. He spoke to the Road Commission budget.

Adjournment

2026-M-073

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting

Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO