



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, March 26, 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, March 26, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Koch

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lutz

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

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

Commissioners Absent: Thomas Bardwell

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Carrie Tabar, Prosecutor Erica Walle, Eric Hinojosa, Cassie Gibbs, Mark Piotrowski, Bernard LaBombard, Rosemary Kuebitz, Brad Kamrad, Carrie Venus, Noelle Gallegas, Robin Neff, Tyler Steger, Amy Gregor, Shelly Lutz, Angie House, Erica Dibble

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Bonnie Fackler, Debbie Babich, Paige Rushlo, Mitch Davies, Scienna Nieschulz, Stephanie Hinojosa, Shelly Lutz, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Erica Dibble, Angie House, Angie Daniels, Shannon Beach, Tom McLane, Matthew Sexton, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Jeff LeValley, John Boggs, Kyle Nordstrom, Larry Zapfe, Sherry Billot, Tim Green, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Cody Horton, Ashley Gaudett, Kristi Phipps, Katie Robinson, Register Marianne Brandt, Karlee Romain, Connie Keinath, Barry Lapp, Shelby Austin, Tanya Pisha, Tricia Sharp, Echo Torrez, Dan Lisowski, Amanda Ertman, Josh Herman, Rita Papp, Shannon Nelson

At 8:19 a.m., there were a total of 40 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-074

Motion by Matt Koch, 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-075

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the March 12, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2026-M-076

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the March 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Health Department's 2025 Maner Costerisan Audit Findings on Financial Statements and Funding -

Move to approve and place on file the Health Department's 2025 Maner Costerisan audit findings on financial statements and funding presentation as presented.

2. Drain Commissioner's 2025 Annual Report -

Move to approve and place on file the Drain Commissioner's 2025 Annual Report as presented.

3. Mosquito Abatement New Hire Request -

Move to approve the recommendation from Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to hire Tyler Bailey a seasonal Field Technician to begin on March 30, 2026 at the starting pay of Step 1 \$14.85 an hour pending a satisfactory background check, drug screen and physical.

New Business

1. Resolution 2026-04 Honoring Eric J. Hinojosa -

2026-M-077

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve and place on file Resolution 2026-04 Honoring Eric J. Hinojosa.

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

Motion Carried.

2. Sheriff's Department Annual Report -
Sheriff Robinson presented the annual report for the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department.

2026-M-078

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve and place on file the Sheriff's Department's 2025 Annual Report as presented. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Opioids Settlement -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, reviewed the information provided by legal counsel regarding the proposed settlement.

2026-M-079

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve 2026-05 Resolution Authorizing Entry of Participation Agreements in Partial Settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation.

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

Motion Carried.

New Business continued

3. 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-080

Motion by Matt Koch, 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: Mike Miller, Shelly Lutz, Erica Dibble, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Eean Lee and Jodi Fetting at 8:30 a.m.

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

Motion Carried.

Recessed to Closed Session at 8:30 a.m.
Reconvened from Closed Session at 8:42 a.m.

2026-M-081

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Mediator's recommendation for the POAM - Corrections Unit for a wage increase of 2% retroactive to January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 with an additional 2% on July 1, 2026 moving forward. This is for a 1-year contract term. All other agreed upon terms to be included in the contract. Chairman Vaughan is authorized to execute the final agreement and all necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

4. Discussion of Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Wages -
Erica Walle, Prosecuting Attorney, reviewed the request to increase the salary beginning amount and step amounts for the Chief Assistant Prosecutor's wages.

2026-M-082

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the new Chief Assistant Prosecutor wage scale, effective March 30, 2026, per the recommendation of Prosecuting Attorney Erica Walle. The wage scale will rectify the disparity between the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney pay scale and the Assistant Prosecutor pay scale. Based on the current staffing shortages, budget amendments will not be necessary for 2026. Motion Carried.

5. Discussion About Bringing in Special Prosecutors to Assist with Vacant Positions and Work Loads -
Erica Walle, Prosecuting Attorney, presented the request to use Special Prosecutors while the position of the Chief Assistant Prosecutor's Office remains vacant.

2026-M-083

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve, per the recommendation of Prosecuting Attorney Erica Walle, the use of current funds allocated to the Chief Assistant Prosecutor position to pay the cost of Special Prosecutors to assist in trying cases during the time period the Chief Assistant Prosecutor position remains vacant. All budget amendments approved as necessary. Motion Carried.

Old Business continued

2. Proposed New Hire for the Controller's Office Vacant Accountant Position -
Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, reviewed the request to fill the position at Step 1.

2026-M-084

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Samuel Putnam to fill the vacant Accountant position in the Controller/Administrator's Office to start on or around April 13, 2026 at the rate of \$25.64 per hour, pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Washtenaw County Resolution 26-055 Supporting State Legislative Action

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

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

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison

Great Start Collaborative

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee -
Attended recent meeting.

Parks and Recreation Commission -
Waiting on the final site plans for The Parcels.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -
Attended recent meeting.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
*Attended multiple local government meetings.

*Met with Representative Alexandar in Lansing regarding the Amish Bridge project.

*Village of Cass City is working on a sign ordinance for businesses on Main Street.

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

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
Jail Planning Committee
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
MAC Judiciary Committee -
A Veterans Grant program has been approved but is waiting on funding.
MEMS All Hazard
Multi-County Recycling Committee
Local Units of Government Activity Report -
*The old Bowling Alley in Tuscola Township will be demolished.
*There was an accident at Irish Road and Birch Run Road.

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

None

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2026-M-085

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO