



# MINUTES

## Board of Commissioners

### Meeting

**8:00 AM - Thursday, April 16, 2026**

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

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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, April 16, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Lutz

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Bardwell

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting

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

Commissioners Absent: Matt Koch

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Steve Anderson, Mike Miller, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Carrie Tabar, Jordan Wade, Shannon Beach, Scienna Nieschulz, Judge Amy Grace Gierhart, Angie Daniels, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Shelly Lutz, Samuel Putnam, Billy Putman, Jen Putman, Ken Dunton, Becky Anderson, Clayette Zechmeister, Larry Zapfe, Connie Keinath, Kyle Nordstrom, Angie House

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Alisha Proctor, Angie House, Bonnie Fackler, Brandon Bertram, Debbie Babich, Nicole Friday, Stephanie DuSute, Tricia Sharp, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Ashley Gaudett, Barry Lapp, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Debbie Engelhardt, Amy Prill, Tanya Pisha, Cody Horton, Thomas Anderson, Karlee Romain, Shannon Nelson, Estee Bitzer, Karly Creguer, Robert Baxter, Matthew Sexton, Register Marianne Brandt, Billy Putman, Jamie LeValley, Nancy Laskowski, Shannon Beach, Scienna Nieschulz, Echo Torrez, Erica Dibble, Greg Rynearson, Brent Dankert, Judy Cockerill, Kandi Teddy, Katie Robinson, Kristi Phipps, Krystaria Skakle, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Tom McLane, Linda Strasz, Rebecca Evans, Sally Minehart, Shelby Austin, Sherry Billot, Shelly Lutz, Toni James, Stacey Wilcox

At 8:18 a.m., there were a total of 42 participants attending the meeting virtually.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-086

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

### **Action on Previous Meeting Minutes**

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2026-M-087

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the March 26, 2026 Regular meeting, the March 26, 2026 closed session minutes and the Public Hearing minutes from April 2, 2026 and April 7, 2026. Motion Carried.

### **Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only**

-Ken Dunton - Addressed the Board regarding his employment at the Road Commission and service to Tuscola County.

-Billy Putman - Addressed the Board regarding the grant opportunity presented Monday by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) expressing support of applying for the grant.

-Judge Amy Grace Gierhart - Addressed the Board regarding the Non-Union employee raise requesting the amount match what the AFSCME unit received (2.5%) and for it to be retroactive.

### **Consent Agenda**

2026-M-088

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the April 13, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. JCL Security Contract Renewal for the Purdy Building -  
Move to approve the JCL Protection Security Services Contract for the Lobby Ambassador in the Purdy Building in a "short term" agreement from February 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026 with the term extension September 30, 2026, through December 31, 2027.
2. 2026 Equalization Report -  
Move to approve and place on file the 2026 Equalization Report as presented.
3. Request from Caro Parks and Recreation Superintendent Carrie Will to use the Courthouse Lawn on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. For the Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence as part of the Nationwide America 250 Celebration -

Move to approve the request from Caro Parks and Recreation Superintendent Carrie Will for the use of the Courthouse Lawn on July 8, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the public reading of the Declaration of Independence as part of the America 250 Celebration.

4. Dispatch Tower Inspection -

Move to approve the quote from Great Lakes Tower and Antenna Co. for the required Tower inspection at Tuscola County Central Dispatch for an amount of \$2,600.00.

5. Mosquito Abatement New Hire Request for Connie Blacker -

Move to hire Connie Blacker to replace seasonal Field Technician Jessica Dopp who moved into the vacant Utility Person Position with a start date of April 27, 2026 at Step 1 payrate of \$14.85 an hour pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen.

### **New Business**

1. Resolution 2026-06 Honoring Steve Anderson -

2026-M-089

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve and place on file Resolution 2026-06 Honoring Steve Anderson. Motion Carried.

2. Mosquito Abatement Request to Purchase Additional Mosquito Control Products -

Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, presented the request to order additional material due to the wet spring Tuscola County is experiencing.

2026-M-090

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to purchase 12,800 lbs. of additional Vectobac G granules from Sumitomo Biorational LLC for \$1.286 per pound, total cost of \$16,460.80. The funds for this purchase were anticipated for and would be removed from the 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget line-item 240-100-750-000. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

1. Aspire Quote for Inmate Medical -

2026-M-091

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the contract from Aspire for Inmate Medical Services at the Sheriff's Department, for an annual amount of \$280,000.00. Contract is for one year and will automatically be renewed unless notified. All necessary budget amendments and signatures are authorized. Also, approve a \$6,000.00 one-time set-up for the software program with a \$2,500.00 annual licensing fee approved. Motion Carried.

2. Mosquito Abatement New Vehicle Purchase Request -

2026-M-092

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the request from Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, for the purchase of two new budgeted work trucks from McDonalds Chevrolet in Millington Michigan, who was the low bidder for an amount of \$68,677.00 for both trucks. Funding to come from the Mosquito Abatement millage line-item 240-100-970-010. Motion Carried.

3. Discussion of Potential Non-Union Wage Increase -  
Treasurer Ashley Bennett provided information regarding the 2025 budget and the projection of not having to use fund balance pending the outcome of the audit. The status of the 2026 budget for the 1st quarter was discussed.

2026-M-093

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve a 2.5% increase for all non-union employees effective January 1, 2026. All budget amendments and signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

4. Medical Examiner Proposed Contract Amendment -

2026-M-094

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the First Amendment to the Independent Agreement with William R. Morrone, DO, MPH, for a six-month extension of the Medical Examiner's Service Agreement. For the period of January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026. The remaining terms of the agreement remain unchanged. All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

5. Road Commission Potential Ballot Discussion -

2026-M-095

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Tuscola County Resolution 2026-07 as read by Commissioner Bardwell for the following ballot language for the August 4, 2026 election:

**Transfer of Powers, Duties and Functions of Elected Board of County Road Commissioners to Appointed Board of County Road Commissioners**

Shall the powers, duties and functions of the elected Board of Tuscola County Road Commissioners be transferred to an appointed Board of Tuscola County Road Commissioners? If approved, the powers, duties and functions of the elected Board of Tuscola County Road Commissioners will be transferred to a Board of Tuscola County Road Commissioners whose members are appointed by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners.

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

Motion Carried.

6. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Request for Authorization to Apply and Administer USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant - Matter to be placed on the April 27, 2026 Committee of the Whole agenda.

**Correspondence/Resolutions**

None

**Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports**

***Lutz***

Board of Health -  
Meets tomorrow.

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 -  
The Road to Zero grant that was applied for was not awarded to Tuscola County.

Great Start Collaborative -  
Meets later in the month.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC) -  
Meets later in the month.

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee -  
Information was distributed to the Board regarding revised forms.

Parks and Recreation Commission -  
Will be reviewing the preliminary plan received from Spicer at the next meeting.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -  
Meets later today.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -

-DTE has begun an infrastructure upgrade in the Cass City area that will last through 2029.

-Village of Fairgrove Fire Chief expressed his appreciation of Steve Anderson at their meeting.

-There is an Arrive Alive Program that is an interactive simulator of distracted driving.

### ***Bardwell***

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District -

Huron County is to host the next meeting but no date has been set.

MAC Workers Comp Board

MAC Finance Committee -

A podcast recording will be released soon.

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) -

Meets later today.

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

### ***Koch***

Absent

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

At 8:18 a.m., there were a total of 42 participants attending the meeting virtually.

**Extended Public Comment**

-Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, thanked the Board for the adoption of the Non-Union wage increase.

**Adjournment**

2026-M-096

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m.  
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO