



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners

Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, April 30, 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, April 30, 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: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Jordan Wade, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Karen Southgate, Krista Mackowich, Connie Keinath, Alisha Proctor, Carrie Tabar, Larry Zapfe, Angie Daniels

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Debbie Babich, Brandon Bertram, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Ashley Gaudett, Echo Torrez, Brent Dankert, Kandi Teddy, Estee Bitzer, Katie Robinson, Krystaria Skakle, Samuel Putnam, Shannon Nelson, Tanya Pisha, Tom McLane, Shelly Lutz, Judy Cockerill, Barry Lapp, Bonnie Fackler, Olivia Chapin, Register Marianne Brandt, Linda Strasz, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Shelby Austin, Tim Green, Scienna Nieschulz, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Bonnie Fackler, Angie Daniels, Josh Herman, Toni James, Tricia Sharp, Cindy Hughes, Heather Malloy, Karly Creguer, Matthew Sexton, Robert Baxter

At 8:13 a.m., there were a total of 34 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-097

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-098

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the April 16, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2026-M-099

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the April 27, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Lawn Mowing Service Potential Extension -

Move to approve a 1-year extension for the 2026 lawn mowing services with Laser Cut Lawn Care from Unionville who agreed to continue the 2025 pricing of \$32,200.00.

New Business

1. Prosecutor's Office New Hire Request for Lori Selvidge to fill the Open Chief Assistant Prosecutor Position -
Erica Walle, Prosecutor, explained the request to fill the open position at a higher step rate.

2026-M-100

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve Lori Selvidge to fill the open Chief Assistant Prosecutor position. Ms. Selvidge has 17 years of legal experience including 14 years in criminal law. Wages starting at Step 6 at the rate of \$109,390.00 (this includes the 2026 pay increase) annually with a tentative start date of May 12, 2026 pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

2. Introduction of Krista Mackowiak the New Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director -
Karen Southgate, Director, announced that she is retiring effective May 8, 2026. Krista Mackowiak has been named the incoming Director to fill the position.

3. Update of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) - Karen Southgate, Director, provided an update for the region of Huron, Lapeer and Tuscola Counties with a focus on the statistics for Tuscola County.
4. 2025 Mosquito Abatement Annual Report - Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, provided an overview of the 2025 Mosquito Abatement Annual report. The Field Technicians have seen an increase in tick activity this Spring.

2026-M-101

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve and place on file the 2025 Mosquito Abatement Annual Report as presented. Motion Carried.

5. 911 Central Dispatch New Hire Request - Carrie Tabar, Interim 911 Dispatch Director, presented request to fill a vacant position.

2026-M-102

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the recommendation of Carrie Tabar, Interim Dispatch Co-Director, to hire Trisha Rulason to fill the vacant full-time Dispatcher position at Step 1 at a rate of \$19.52 an hour with a start date on or around May 14, 2026 pending a favorable physical, drug screen and background check. Motion Carried.

6. General Fund Financial Projections for 2026-2031 - Ashley Bennett, County Treasurer and Connie Keinath, Chief Accountant, presented a budget forecast that included the history of the budget for previous years. The trends for the next 5 years are only projections based on the county departments staying fiscally responsible for the respective departments. Treasurer Bennett would like a quarterly projection report provided on a quarterly basis to the Board in order for them to make more informed financial decisions.

The Board expressed their appreciation for the financial update prepared and presented.

Commissioner Bardwell would like a projection prepared for the County's MERS Defined Benefit program funding to be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

Angie Daniels, Equalization Director, reviewed the taxable value statistics as those are continuing to trend upward. Those will be watched closely as the property studies are prepared by the Equalization Department.

Old Business

1. Resolution Discussion Affirming Local Health Department to Approve Non-Residential Onsite Wastewater Systems Discharging Less than 1,000 Gallons Per Day Pursuant to Local Sanitary Codes and Under State Law -

2026-M-103

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve and place on file Resolution 2026-08 affirming Tuscola County Health Department's authority to approve onsite non-residential wastewater systems.

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

Motion Carried.

2. Health Department Lobby Redesign -

2026-M-104

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the request from Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, to remodel the lobby of the Health Department with assistance from Mike Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds. Funding is provided by an infrastructure grant; no County funds are required for this project. Motion Carried.

3. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Request for Authorization to Apply and Administer USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant -

Alisha Proctor, EDC Director, has reached out to the Road Commission in which they are planning to apply for the grant as well and are planning to apply independently. Director Proctor plans to attend the next Road Commission meeting to discuss whether the grant could be applied for jointly. Matter to be placed on the next meeting's agenda on May 11, 2026.

4. JAVS Proposal for New Microphones for the People's Building -

2026-M-105

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the JAVS proposal for new microphones for the Peoples Building for an amount of \$5,332.96 per the recommendation of Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer. Funds to come from line-item 244-259-000-000. Also, all appropriate budget amendments are approved as necessary. Motion Carried.

5. Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel (MIDC) New Hire Request for Phillip Fulks to Fill the Vacant MIDC Staff Attorney Position -

2026-M-106

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Matt Koch per the recommendation of Geoffrey Stuart, Indigent Defense Counsel Administrator, to approve Philip Fulks to fill the open Staff Attorney position. Mr. Fulks brings 30 years of legal experience in criminal defense. Wages starting at \$71,191.00 annually with a tentative start date on or around May 12, 2026, pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

6. Committee Recommendation for Medical Examiner Services -

Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, has reviewed the proposals received and completed reference checks. He is recommending Michigan Forensics, PLLC who was the low bidder.

2026-M-107

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Michigan Forensics, PLLC proposal, who was the low bidder for Medical Examiner Services. Also, approve the Interim Administrator to work with legal counsel and Michigan Forensics to develop a one-year contract for the Board's review and approval with the intent that Michigan Forensics to begin to provide Medical Examiner Service effective on July 1, 2026. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Cass City Notice of Master Plan Update Review
2. Caro Chamber of Commerce Letter to Deputy Nordstrom

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Koch

No Report

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

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
MEMS All Hazard
Multi-County Recycling Committee
Local Units of Government Activity Report -
Will be attending the ceremony for fallen officers on May 6, 2026.

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison -

- Road Commission Boards state-wide: 36 elected, 43 appointed, 5 county form of government.
- Tuscola County Road Commissioners do not receive benefits.
- Larger stop signs have been installed at Bevens Road and Hurds Corner Road.
- There was recognition of Road Commissioner employees for an innovative design project.
- Brent Dankert has not been involved in the Amish Bridge project other than to answer questions.

Great Start Collaborative -

- Award recipients from Tuscola County were recognized.
- The Family Enrichment Center will be hosting a celebration with many local families invited.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC) - Karen Southgate will be retiring from MDHHS.

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee - Legislative platforms are being discussed.

Parks and Recreation Commission -

- Candidate interviews have been scheduled for the Park Host position.
- Spicer has provided a site plan which will be reviewed.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -

The commission has changed name to Saginaw Bay Area Concern.

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board - New RFP is being developed.

Caro DDA/TIFA -

- How TIFA funding is spent is being discussed.
- The Market Manager and DDA Executive positions are to be combined. Candidate interviews are being processed.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment -

- There has been a positive impact by meeting with local businesses, with retention of local businesses, and with applying for grants.
- Walbro ownership has changed.

MAC 7th District

MAC Workers Comp Board Meets soon.

MAC Finance Committee
NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) -
Met recently and an update was provided.
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Vaughan

Board of Health - Was unable to attend the last meeting.
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 - Update provided by Commissioner Barrios.
Tuscola County Fair Board Liaison
Local Units of Government Activity Report

Other Business as Necessary

The Board decided to cancel the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 11, 2026 and to move the Board meeting from May 14, 2026 to May 11, 2026. Clerk Fetting will post the change.

At 10:13 a.m., there were a total of 39 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Jessica Wright, Silverwood, addressed her current delinquent taxes on her property at Shay Lake and the pending property foreclosure.

-Eugene Carlock, Kingston, addressed the property foreclosure process and if there were steps that could be taken to stop the auction of a property.

Adjournment

2026-M-108

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO