



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, July 16, 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, July 16, 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, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Mark Putnam, Connie Keinath, Carrie Tabar, Larry Zapfe

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Angie Daniels, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Bonnie Fackler, Debbie Babich, Echo Torrez, Jordan Wade, Mitch Davies, Karly Creguer, Lori Offenbecher, Scienna Nieschulz, Stephanie DuSute, Tricia Sharp, Shannon Nelson, Stephen Root, Teressa Bonesteel, Shannon Beach, Robert Baxter, Ashley Gaudett, Amanda Ertman, Dan Lisowski, Shelly Lutz, Samuel Putnam, Chad Tumblin, Tom McLane, Linda Strasz, Kerry McCormack, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Kandi Teddy, Matthew Sexton, Agustin Campuzano, Beth Hoppe, Barry Lapp, Gregg Campbell, Cody Horton, Ryan Pierce, Tim Green, Tanya Pisha, Shelby Austin, Joshua Herman, Krystaria Skakle

At 8:11 a.m., there were a total of 42 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

Commissioner Barrios would like to discuss posting the salaries of county employees on the county website to allow for better transparency. Matter to be placed on the July 27, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2026-M-150

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2026-M-151

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adopt the meeting minutes from the June 25, 2026 Regular meeting and the meeting minutes from the June 29, 2026 Special Board meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda -

None

New Business

1. County Veterans Services Millage Renewal Discussion -
John Boggs, Veterans Service Officer, presented information regarding the upcoming renewal of the Veterans Service millage as well as a request for an increase in the millage as the department budget needs additional funding to be able to continue to provide services to the Veterans of the community.

2026-M-152

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve Resolution 2026-11 to place the County Veterans Services Millage Renewal and a County Veterans Services Millage Increase as two separate proposals on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

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

Motion Carried.

2. Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Activity Update -
Mark Putnam provided information regarding the name selection of The Parcels. The name of "Indian Dave Memorial Park" leads the survey. Mark is excited about the progress of the new park. Also, he is working on publishing two books with his brother. One describes the history of the local Chippewa in the county and one that contains history of the Caro community.

3. Flock Cameras Discussion -

Commissioner Thomas Bardwell presented questions that he has been asked regarding the use of Flock Cameras in the County. Sheriff Robinson presented how Flock Camera technology can be used to find a missing person or stolen vehicle. The Flock Camera system is only a license plate reader and when a search is completed there must be a complaint number attached to the search request.

4. Mosquito Abatement Appointment of Two Open Positions -

Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, presented the request to fill vacant positions within the Mosquito Department.

2026-M-153

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the request of Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, that Joseph Benjamin be promoted from his current role as Seasonal Night Shift Foreman to the vacant full-time Equipment Repair Technician position, effective Monday, July 20, 2026 at Step 1 of the pay scale at \$19.48 per hour. Motion Carried.

2026-M-154

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the request of Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, that Richard Domenick, be promoted from his current role as Seasonal Assistant Foreman to the vacant Seasonal Night Shift Foreman position, effective Monday, July 20, 2026 at Step 1 of the pay scale at \$19.10 per hour. Motion Carried.

5. Prosecutor's Office Request to Hire Kathleen Edds -

Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, presented the request on behalf of Prosecutor Walle.

2026-M-155

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the request of Erica Walle, Prosecuting Attorney, to hire Kathleen Edds to fill the vacant Secretary II position to begin on or around July 27, 2026, at the starting pay of Step 1 at \$18.67 per hour. Pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

6. Building and Grounds Request to Hire Donald Lawrie -

Mike Miller, Interim Administrator - Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, presented the request to fill a vacant position on the Custodial team.

2026-M-156

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the recommendation from Mike Miller, Interim Administrator - Buildings/Grounds and Recycling Director, to hire Donald Lawrie to fill a vacant custodian position to begin on July 20, 2026 at the starting pay of Step 1 at \$17.34 per hour. Background check, drug screen and physical have been completed. Motion Carried.

7. 2027 Budget Process and Calendar -

Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, presented the proposed budget calendar for 2027. Department Heads have been notified that the budget process is open in the BS&A program for entry of the 2027 budget requests.

2026-M-157

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the Proposed 2027 Draft Budget Calendar as presented. Motion Carried.

8. Controller/Administrator Position -

Commissioner Vaughan presented regarding appointing Mike Miller the permanent Controller/Administrator.

Commissioner Barrios questioned that when the position was advertised, there were applications and resumes received. She was not involved in any interviews of these candidates and asked whether the candidates withdrew. It was questioned regarding if the normal county hiring process was followed for filling the position.

Commissioner Koch stated that he is supportive of appointing Mike Miller as the Controller/Administrator.

Commissioner Bardwell stated that Mike Miller has brought improved communication with county departments. It was stated that the standard hiring process was not followed in filling this position. He wants the county to begin moving forward and would be supportive of the selection of Mike Miller.

2026-M-158

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that Michael Miller be offered the Permanent Controller/Administrator position. Furthermore, authorize Shelly Lutz, Human Resources Director, to negotiate the Controller/Administrator Employment Agreement with Michael Miller, with input from the Personnel Committee with the negotiated contract to be brought back to the Board on July 27, 2026 for review.

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

No: Nancy Barrios

Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Meeting with Birch Valley Solar Update -

Mike Miller, Interim Administrator, provided an update that Arbela Township has denied the current request and that decision will be appealed by Birch Valley Solar.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Notice of Public Hearing

2. Washtenaw County Resolution 26-121 Allocating Funds to Planned Parenthood of MI

3. 2026 Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Annual Conference -
The conference is coming soon. Commissioner Bardwell stated that Board members are being sought for the MAC Board.

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

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison -

The corner of Bay City Forestville and Cemetery Roads will be undergoing reconstruction.

Great Start Collaborative -

Met last week.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission -

The Commission now has access to the DNR website to upload Master Plan.
Meets next week.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -

Meets today.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -

Medical Care Facility has a new walking trail that is open to the public.

Elkland Township discussed ambulance service at their meeting.

Gilford Township is looking to add "Kids at Play" signs.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board -

-Looking for continued information for PHIP.

Caro DDA/TIFA -

Market participation has increased with the new Market Manager in place.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment -

Having a grant writer and the administrative fee associated with that was discussed.

MAC 7th District -

Meeting was supposed to be hosted by Huron County but was cancelled.

MAC Workers Comp Board -

Dividend amount to be distributed is still pending.

MAC Finance Committee -

Meets in August.

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

Local Units of Government Activity Report -

Almer and Ellington Township are discussing Road Commission.

Vaughan

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 -

Attended the time capsule opening in which newspapers and coins were discovered.

Lutz

Board of Health -

Meets tomorrow.

Community Corrections Advisory Board -

Meets next week.

Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison -

Meets in August.

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 -

There were three bridges replaced on Barnes Road. A citizen is concerned how a guard rail was installed in his front lawn.

Other Business as Necessary

None

Extended Public Comment

-Clerk Fetting provided an update regarding the August 3, 2026 Primary election.

-Commissioner Lutz expressed his appreciation as Representative Phil Green secured \$750,000.00 in funding for Watertown Township to purchase a new firetruck.

-A resident of Fremont Township expressed concern of Flock Cameras.

Adjournment

2026-M-159

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting

Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO