MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, August 13, 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, August 13, 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, 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, Tom McLane, Beth Hoppe, Kristy Sutherland, Cynthia Woolbright, Dan Lisowski, Cody Horton, Tim Zube, Carrie Tabar

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Angie House, Cody Horton, Debbie Babich, Shelly Lutz, Sheila Guilds, Scienna Nieschulz, Carrie Tabar, Connie Keinath, Larry Zapfe, Matthew Sexton, Samuel Putnam, Shannon Beach, Steve Root, Tanya Pisha, Tim Green, Stacy McCallum, Linda Strasz, Amanda Ertman, Amy Prill, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Josh Herman, Katie Robinson, Jeff LeValley, Cindy Hughes, Barry Lapp, Echo Torrez, Angie Daniels, Jamie LeValley, Eric Warsinskey, Register Marianne Brandt, Tyler Ray, Shelby Austin, Toni James, Judy Cockerill, Tricia Sharp, Sherry Billot, Chad Tumblin, Shannon Nelson, Maggie Root

At 8:12 a.m., there were a total of 34 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-182

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-183

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to adopt the meeting minutes from the July 30, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda -

None

New Business

1. Public Hearing - Human Development Commission (HDC) Notice of Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

   Recessed to Public Hearing at 8:04 a.m.
   Reconvened from Public Hearing at 8:08 a.m.

2. Request to Approve Signatures for the Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) -
   Kristy Sutherland, Community Programs Director, presented the request during the Public Hearing.

2026-M-184

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve Kim Vaughan, Board Chair and Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, to sign both the Certifying Officer Designation for Local Units of Government and the Authorized Signature Designation Form for the Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for Tuscola County Emergency Homeowner Rehabilitation. Motion Carried.

3. U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Presentation for the Michigan Declaration 21660 & 21661 -
   Cynthia Woolbright, Public Affairs Specialist, provided information regarding the program offered by the SBA for small businesses impacted by the severe weather occurence in April 2026.

4. Increase from Tiggs Canteen for Jail Inmate Meal Contract -
   Dan Lisowski, Jail Leiutenant, explained the amount of the increase. The fund balance in the 2026 budget is projected to have a sufficient balance to cover the proposed increase.

2026-M-185

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the pricing increase on the Tiggs Canteen Jail Inmate Meal Contract effective August 9, 2026 and to authorize Dan Lisowski, Jail Administrator, to sign the Meal Price Acknowledgement form as recommended by Dan Lisowski, Jail Administrator and to authorize all necessary signatures. Motion Carried.

5. Sheriff's Office Request to Purchase Virtual Crash Accident Reconstruction Software - Sheriff Ryan Robinson and Detective Sergeant Zube explained the software program that is being requested to purchase to assist in accident reconstruction.

2026-M-186

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the recommendation from Sheriff Ryan Robinson to purchase the Virtual Crash Accident Reconstruction Software for the amount of $11,999.00 to come from the Revenue Sharing - Public Safety Fund 205-321-965-205. All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

6. New GIS Data Sharing Agreement -
Cody Horton, GIS Director, explained the proposed agreement.

2026-M-187

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios per the recommendation from Cody Horton, GIS Director, to enter into the GIS Data Sharing Agreement with Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB). The agreement continues until either party provides a 60-day written notice requesting termination. The fee structure to be followed as outlined in the agreement for only restricted download and use by all State of Michigan government agencies with no further provisions. All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

7. Mobile Loading Dock Ramp Request from Dockzilla Company -
Beth Hoppe, Recycling Director, presented the request and explained how the dock will be used at the Recycling Center.

2026-M-188

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve per the recommendation from Beth Hoppe, Recycling Director, to purchase a replacement mobile loading dock from Dockzilla Company for the amount of $44,444.00. This mobile loading dock will be purchased using the Materials Management Plan Grant. All necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

8. Recycling Request to Promote Ryan Root to Full-Time -
Beth Hoppe, Recycling Director, presented the request to fill a full-time position.

2026-M-189

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the recommendation from Beth Hoppe, Recycling Director, to promote Ryan Root from part-time Material Handler to full-time to fill an open position at Recycling to be effective August 17, 2026, at his current Step 4 of the pay scale at $17.84 per hour. Motion Carried.

9. New Phones with Intrado for Dispatch -
   Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer, explained the need for the interface to be implemented in order to have the project continue forward.

2026-M-190

Motion by Thomas Bardwell, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the recommendation from Eean Lee, Chief Information Officer, the quote from Intrado for Tuscola County Central Dispatch to interface the 911 call center with the MiTel system. The funds to come from the Dispatch equipment repair and maintenance line item 218-334-932-000 in the amount of $3,862.05. All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

-Commissioners asked what the current response time to residents is that are in need of assistance. Interim Director Carrie Tabar stated there are many factors that can contribute to this such as call volume and first responders that are on duty to provide exact time frames. Matter to be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

10. Prosecutor's Request to Hire Rachel Moody -
    Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request.

2026-M-191

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve per the recommendation from Erica Walle, Prosecuting Attorney, to hire Rachel Moody to fill the open Secretary II position, starting on or around August 17, 2026 at Step 1 on the pay scale at $18.67 per hour, contingent on a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

11. Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Officer Delegate -
    Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request.

2026-M-192

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios that Connie Keinath, Chief Accountant, be appointed as the Officer Delegate and Samuel Putnam, Accountant, be appointed as the Alternate Officer Delegate to attend the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Annual Conference October 8, 2026 through October 9, 2026 with all signatures authorized as necessary. Motion Carried.

12. Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Employee Delegate -
    Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request.

2026-M-193

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios that Michael Miller, Controller/Administrator, be appointed as the Employee Delegate and Debbie Engelhardt, Records Clerk, be appointed as the Alternate Employee Delegate to attend the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Annual Conference October 8, 2026 through October 9, 2026 with all signatures authorized as necessary. Motion Carried.

13. Election Update -
Jodi Fetting, County Clerk, reviewed the overall turnout for the August 4, 2026 Primary election. Also, discussed was the breakdown of turnout between Absentee Voting, Early Voting and Election Day Voting. The turnout for Tuscola County was 32.4% which was in line with the average for the State of Michigan.

Clerk Fetting also explained that Malisa Pyles, Watertown Township Clerk, offered an opportunity for kids to vote in this election for their favorite cartoon character. She posted multiple videos on the Watertown Township Library Facebook page explaining how voting works as well as a campaign video for each cartoon character. Bluey was the winner for the favorite character.

Old Business

-Financial Responsibility of Tuscola County for the Tuscola County Road Commission (matter added) - During the report by the County Auditor, the county responsibility of the Road Commission was mentioned. The Board would like to seek a legal opinion to clarify and outline the level of responsibility as well as if there can be language added to the Board Rules to state this and require regular updates by the Road Commission.

-Flock Cameras (matter added) - The Board discussed that the courts are reviewing Flock Cameras and the Board would like to be made aware when any opinions are issued.

-Multi-County Recycling Update (matter added) - Controller/Administrator Miller provided an update to the progress of the project and potential implementation. There will be a public hearing on September 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Beagio's in Kingston. Clerk Fetting offered an opportunity to present the information to the Local Clerks at their meeting today so the Controller/Administrator Miller can update the local jurisdictions and the role they play in the project.

Correspondence/Resolutions

None

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison -
Their meeting was today.

Great Start Collaborative -
Meets next week.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC) -
There is a meeting later this month to discuss services that are offered.

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission -
There will be an America 250 Celebration at Vanderbilt Park on August 27, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The new kiosk will be unveiled at that time as well.

The Commission will be reviewing communication received from a person that recently camped at Vanderbilt Park to determine if any action needs to be taken.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA -
The new DDA Director is doing a good job. There is approximately $300,000.00 in funding that is available for various downtown projects.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District -
No Commissioners are planning to attend the MAC Conference.

MAC Workers Comp Board -
Scheduled to meet on September 1, 2026.

MAC Finance Committee -
The Committee's platform was approved.

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
Indianfields Township - There is a proposed walking trail that will extend through privately owned property which has raised concerns by township residents. A meeting will be scheduled in a larger venue.

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

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 -
The Millington Urgent Care project is underway although EGLE is the current holdup.

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

-Commissioner Barrios attended the Indianfields Township meeting as a representative of the Parks and Recreation Commission and as a member of the Cass River Greenways. The EDC did apply for a grant to complete a feasibility study regarding the walking trail.

-Commissioner Vaughan discussed the high costs of permits issued by SAFEbuilt. He would like the current contract and fee schedule reviewed. Matter to be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

At 9:41 a.m., there were a total of 35 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

None

Adjournment

2026-M-194

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO