



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, September 17, 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, September 17, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Lutz

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Koch

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting Ryneerson

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting Ryneerson, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Jordan Wade, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Alecia Little, Mitch Davies, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Lindsay Piche, Larry Zapfe, Dan Lisowski, Shelly Lutz

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Mary Drier, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Angie Daniels, Bonnie Fackler, Brandon Bertram, Cody Horton, Connie Keinath, Amy Prill, Ashley Gaudett, Echo Torrez, Estee Bitzer, Judy Cockerill, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Debbie Babich, Barry Lapp, Register Marianne Brandt, Karlee Romain, Katie Robinson, Kristi Phipps, Laura Boyke-Hawes, Matthew Sexton, Samuel Putnam, Scienna Nieschulz, Sheila Guilds, Shelby Miller, Steve Root, Tanya Pisha, Tyler Ray, Drain Commissioner Dara Hood, Cindy Hughes, Kyle Nordstrom, Sherry Billot, Shannon Nelson, Tom McLane

At 8:08 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-205

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2026-M-206

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the August 27, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2026-M-207

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the September 14, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 2026 Annual Delegation of School Plan Review and Inspections -
Move to approve and place on file the Annual Delegation of School Plan Reviews and Inspection Authority forms presented by Jared Bush, Transportation Director/Facilities Manager for Tuscola Intermediate School District as presented. Also, approve all signatures as necessary.
2. 2027 Local Emergency Management Work Agreement -
Move per the recommendation of Jordan Wade, Emergency Management Coordinator, to approve the 2027 Local Emergency Management Work Agreement and to authorize all necessary signatures.
3. Courthouse Lawn Request -
Move to approve the request from Dave Kolacz to use the Courthouse Lawn from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 10, 2026 for the Rosary Rally.
4. 2026 Tuscola County L-4029 Final Levy -
Move to place the 2026 Tuscola County L-4029 Final Levy on file per the recommendation from Angie Daniels, Equalization Director. Also, authorize all signatures as necessary.

New Business

1. Suicide Prevention Month -
Lindsay Piche, Program Director McLaren Caro Region, presented the request to approve the resolution.

2026-M-208

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve Resolution 2026-12 Suicide Prevention Proclamation.

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

Motion Carried.

2. Mosquito Abatement Request to Purchase 5 Pioneer Electric Backpack Foggers - Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, presented the budgeted request for equipment for the Mosquito Abatement Department.

2026-M-209

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve per the recommendation from Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to purchase 5 Pioneer electric backpack foggers from Amazon for a total cost of \$13,450.50 to come from line-item 240-100-970-070 Spreaders/Sprayers/Foggers. The purchase was anticipated and planned for in the current 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget. Motion Carried.

3. Mosquito Abatement Request to Purchase a New Mosquito Truck Fogger - Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, presented the request to purchase equipment for the Mosquito Abatement Department.

2026-M-210

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve per the recommendation from Larry Zapfe, Mosquito Abatement Director, to purchase a new Mosquito truck fogger from Clarke Mosquito Control Products at a cost of \$18,974.00 from line-item 240-100-970-030 ULV Sprayers. This purchase was anticipated and planned for in the 2026 Mosquito Abatement Budget. Motion Carried.

4. Jail Cable TV Discussion - Dan Lisowski, Jail Administrator, explained that the current contract is expiring and is requesting to renew the contract with Spectrum. The county does pay for this service and then the jail inmate pays a small fee weekly to gain access to the service.

2026-M-211

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the recommendation from Dan Lisowski, Jail Administrator, to approve the Spectrum jail cable TV service order in the amount of \$308.00 monthly fee for 60 months for a total of \$18,480.00 and authorize all budget amendments and signatures as necessary. Motion Carried.

5. Request to Appoint Wyatt Miller to the Vacant Full-Time Animal Control Officer (ACO) - Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, explained the request to promote a current staff member.

2026-M-212

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve per the recommendation from Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, that Wyatt Miller be promoted from his current part-time Kennel Attendant position to the vacant full-time Animal Control Officer (ACO) at Step 1 of the pay scale with a starting wage of \$21.03, with a start date of September 12, 2026. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Village of Gagetown Drain Project Update and Request -
Dara Hood, Drain Commissioner, reviewed the request that was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

2026-M-213

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the request from Dara Hood, Drain Commissioner, to extend the Village of Gagetown Drain Project funding from 15 years to 20 years in order to lower the annual cost to the residents from previous motion 2026-M-202. The total cost of this project is \$430,000.00. Motion Carried.

2. Budget Amendments needed for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Grant -
Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, reviewed the request received regarding the budget amendments.

2026-M-214

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the request received from Circuit Court for the amendments to the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Grant.

- a. Reduce the available balance in Payroll 224-138-704-000 by (\$500.00).
Increase the available balance in Testing 224-138-801400 by \$500.00.
- b. Reduce the available balance in Disability 224-138-704-030 by (\$175.00).
Increase the available balance in Testing 224-138-801-400 by \$175.00.
- c. Reduce the available balance in Work Comp 224-138-710-000 by (\$350.00).
Increase the available balance in Testing 224-138-801-400 by \$350.00.
- d. Reduce the available balance in Retirement 224-138-718-000 by (\$940.00).
Increase the available balance in Testing 224-138-801-400 by \$940.00.
- e. Reduce the available balance in Health Insurance 224-138-711-000 by (\$1,600.00).
Increase the available balance in Treatment 224-138-801-500 by \$1,600.00.
- f. Reduce the available balance in FICA 224-138-715-000 by (\$1,000.00).
Increase the available balance in Treatment 224-138-801-500 by \$1,000.00.
Motion Carried.

3. Dispatch Director Position -

Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, reviewed Dispatch Director salary ranges from Shiawassee, Hillsdale, Ionia, Gratiot, and St. Joseph counties. Mr. Miller reviewed adjustments that were made to Tuscola County's wage scale to align with these comparable counties.

2026-M-215

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to advertise for the Dispatch Director position with a salary of \$72,263.15 with the current wage step scale to remain in place, and review the Deputy Dispatch Director position's salary once a new Director is appointed. Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. 2027 Road Commission Meeting Schedule
2. Birch Valley - Public Meeting Notice -
Board discussed if there would be a financial impact to the County. Commissioner Lutz stated a battery park is being looked at for Tuscola Township.
3. 2026 State of the Bay Conference
4. The Data on Data Centers
5. East Michigan & Thumb Regional Prosperity Summit

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

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 -

Meets tomorrow. There is a House of Hope in Sandusky that assists with homelessness.

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 moving forward with a tentative date to open in December 2026.

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison

Great Start Collaborative -
Meets next week.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee -
Three pages of targeted goals was developed.

Parks and Recreation Commission -
The sign has been unveiled at Vanderbilt Park. A grant for a site-plan was awarded.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -
Meets today.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
-Ransford - Wasik is beginning a residential housing project in Cass City Village.
-Columbia Township Library is going through some restructuring.
-Elmwood Township has adjusted their meeting schedule.
-MAC leadership changes were reviewed. At the conference, road funding was discussed.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA -

The Committee is discussing new Christmas decorations for the Caro downtown area. Commissioner Bardwell suggested having Devon Pomeroy-Ruppert attend a Committee of the Whole meeting to provide an update.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment -

The walkway grant has been suspended at this time. Thumbbody has moved out of Human Development Commission.

MAC 7th District

MAC Workers Comp Board

MAC Finance Committee

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

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

Dispatch Authority Board

Genesee Shiawassee Thumb Works -

The meeting was last Friday. Success stories of participants were shared and were impactful.

Jail Planning Committee

MI Renewable Energy Coalition (MREC)

Recycling Advisory

Local Units of Government

Other Business as Necessary

--CIO Eean Lee received an award at the MIGMIS conference for the People's Building project. The award was for Project of the Year.

-The Board discussed the impacts of AI.

-The Board would like the discussion of wage comparison between the Prosecutor and the MIDC attorneys.

At 9:27 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Clerk Fetting Rynearson explained the time, dedication and hard work the County Clerk's Office has put in over the past few weeks to turn around from the August election to the November election as the deadlines are very tight. She expressed her appreciation for the support of her staff to make this possible.

Adjournment

2026-M-216

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting Rynearson
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO

DRAFT