



MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, October 1, 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, October 1, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Koch

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Vaughan

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting Ryneearson

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

Commissioners Absent: Thomas Bardwell

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting Ryneearson, Tracy Violet, Mike Miller, Tom McLane, Mitch Davies, Connie Keinath, John Boggs, Reanna Wilkerson, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Joanna Samuelson, Geoffrey Stuart

Also Present Virtual: Mary Drier, Carrie Tabar, Eean Lee, Debbie Babich, Angie House, Echo Torrez, Janie Hemerline, Shelly Lutz, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Bonnie Fackler, Brandon Bertram, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Amy Prill, Beth Hoppe, Cody Horton, Estee Bitzer, Kandi Teddy, Linda Strasz, Judge Nancy L. Thane, Samuel Putnam, Shannon Nelson, Steve Root, Matthew Sexton, Tanya Pisha, Katie Robinson, Toni James, Register Marianne Brandt, Barry Lapp, Shelby Miller, Judy Cockerill, Teresa Bonesteel, Karly Creguer, Karlee Romain, Cindy Hughes

At 8:08 a.m., there were a total of 27 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-217

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-218

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the September 17, 2026 regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

None

New Business

1. Tuscola County 4-H Program Update -
Reanna Wilkerson, 4-H Program Coordinator, provided an update on the Tuscola County 4-H program and growth within the Club. She expressed her appreciation for the support of the Board of Commissioners and the community.
2. Intergovernmental Agreement with Indianfields Township to Collect Property Taxes -
Ashley Bennett, Treasurer, presented the Intergovernmental Agreement for approval for a multi-year plan.

2026-M-219

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Indianfields Township and the Tuscola County Treasurer to collect taxes for the 2026, 2027, and 2028 Winter tax seasons. All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

3. 2027 Attorney Contract for Representation for Alleged Developmentally Disabled Individuals in Probate Court -
Cindy McKinney-Volz, Deputy Court Administrator, presented the request to renewal the contract with no changes to the contract from the previous year.

2026-M-220

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the 2027 Contract for Representation for Alleged Developmentally Disabled Individuals in Tuscola County Probate Court with Duane E. Burgess, Attorney at Law, per the request from Judge Amy Grace Gierhart in the total amount of \$6,500.00 to be paid through accounts payable beginning on February 1, 2027 with monthly installments for the 12-month contract period, effective January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

4. 2027 Veteran Services Fund Grant -
John Boggs, Director of Tuscola County Veterans Affairs, presented the request to authorize approval of the grant agreement.

2026-M-221

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the FY27 County Veteran Services Fund Grant Agreement for \$64,334.30 as presented and authorize all signatures. Motion Carried.

5. 2027 Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel (MIDC) Grant Contract and Compliance Plan/Cost Analysis -

Geoffrey Stuart, Indigent Defense Administrator, presented the request to approve the grant from the State of Michigan for the MIDC program. The State financial portion has been reduced from the prior year just over \$200,000.00 and the County financial portion has been reduced by just over \$2,000.00. Future implementation of adding the Juvenile Justice program to the MIDC Department was discussed.

2026-M-222

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz per the request from Geoffrey Stuart, Indigent Defense Administrator, to approve the 2027 Michigan Indigent Defense Counsel (MIDC) Grant Contract and Compliance Plan/Cost/Analysis in the amount of \$1,916,791.42 with State Grant Contribution in the amount of \$1,663,083.13 and Local Share Contribution of \$253,708.29, effective October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. All necessary budget amendments and signatures are approved. Motion Carried.

6. Budget Adjustment for Fund 236 Victim Services -

Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request for the budget adjustment to the Victim Services grant fund within the Prosecutor's Office. This is the third year that there has been a budget shortfall. The Controller/Administrator's Office will work to correct this moving forward into the next budget cycle.

2026-M-223

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the requested budget adjustment as presented. This adjustment reduces the Prosecutor fund 229 by \$19,505.84, and transfers those funds to the Victim Services Grant fund 236 to cover a budget short fall. Motion Carried.

7. Request to Hire Michael Garces to Fill the Part-Time Vacant Kennel Attendant Position -

Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request on behalf of Director Ray.

2026-M-224

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the request from Tyler Ray, Animal Control Director, to hire Michael Garces to fill the vacant part-time Kennel Attendant position starting at \$17.34 per hour Step 1 rate of pay, with a start date of October 2, 2026, pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

8. Request to Hire Keith Whittaker to Fill the Vacant Full-Time Maintenance Position -

Tom McLane, Director of Building and Grounds, presented the request to fill a vacant position.

2026-M-225

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve per the request from Tom McLane, Director of Building and Grounds, to hire Keith Whittaker to fill the vacant full-time Maintenance II position starting at \$18.74 per hour Step 1 rate of pay, with a start date of October 12, 2026, pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

9. Road Commission Transfer Vouchers for Primary Road Millage and Local Bridge Millage -

Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request received from Mike Tuckey, Road Commission Director of Finance.

2026-M-226

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios per the request from Mike Tuckey, Road Commission Director of Finance, to approve and transfer the Primary Road Millage Voucher Number - Road 2026-1 in the amount of \$1,917,620.80 from the 214 Voted Primary Road Fund to the 201 Road Commission Fund. Motion Carried.

2026-M-227

Motion by Nancy Barrios, seconded by Matt Koch per the request from Mike Tuckey, Road Commission Director of Finance, to approve the Local Bridge Millage Voucher Number - Bridge 2026-1 in the amount of \$1,308,361.21 from the 296 Voted Local Bridge Millage to the 201 Road Commission Fund. Motion Carried.

10. Letter of Agreement for Lead Dispatcher Pilot Program -

Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, presented the request to implement the program that was discussed during union negotiations. Upon approval, the position will be posted internally prior to being posted externally.

2026-M-228

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the Letter of Agreement regarding Lead Dispatcher Pilot Program with Dispatch and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) starting October 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 and January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027. Motion Carried.

Old Business

None

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Resolution 2026-09-103 Recognizing September 11 through September 17, 2026 as Patriot Week

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 -
A policy for Rumble Strips is being developed for the Road Commission Board to review and approve.

Great Start Collaborative
Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)
MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee
Parks and Recreation Commission
Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -
The State of the Bay conference will be on October 7, 2026.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
-Expressed appreciation to the volunteers of the Pumpkin Festival for the decorations in town.

-The Caro Transit Authority has transferred their location and they have a new phone number - 989-200-6080.

-Sheriff Robinson received a donation of birdhouses for his Department.

-Huron County is working through solar conditions and requirements.

-Today is opening day of deer season and wished all of the hunter's good luck.

Bardwell

Absent

Behavioral Health Systems Board
Caro DDA/TIFA
Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment
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 -

-Attended a tour of the emergency center project in Millington.

-The public hearing by Birch Valley is October 8, 2026 in Vassar.

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

Other Business as Necessary

None

At 8:54 a.m., there were a total of 32 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Director McLane expressed his appreciation of his team member, Steve Root, for completing a project in the jail which ended up allowed a cost-savings to the budget.

-Joanna Samuelson asked for an update on Flock cameras. Commissioner Vaughan stated the project is on hold currently.

Adjournment

2026-M-229

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 a.m.
Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting Ryneerson
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO