MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, October 15, 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 15, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Vaughan

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Barrios

Roll Call - Clerk Fetting Rynearson

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present In-Person: Clerk Jodi Fetting Rynearson, Tracy Violet, Mike Miller, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Carrie Tabar, Beth Hoppe, Mitch Davies, Tom McLane, Jordan Friesen, Shelly Lutz

Also Present Virtual: Tracy Violet, Debbie Babich, Angie House, Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Scienna Nieschulz, Shelly Lutz, Maggie Root, Echo Torrez, Brandon Bertram, Matthew Sexton, Connie Keinath, Bonnie Fackler, Amanda Ertman, Samuel Putnam, Steve Root, Tanya Pisha, Eean Lee, Cody Horton, Kandi Teddy, Karlee Romain, Katie Robinson, Toni James, Sherry Billot, Linda Strasz, Judy Cockerill, Barry Lapp, Dan Lisowski, Stacey Wilcox, Tim Green, Ashley Gaudett, Tricia Sharp, Shannon Nelson, Estee Bitzer, Krystaria Skakle, Mary Drier

At 8:02 a.m., there were a total of 17 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-230

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-231

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the October 1, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

None

New Business

1. Request to Hire Dakota Jaynes -
   Carrie Tabar, Interim Dispatch Director, presented the request.

2026-M-232

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the recommendation from Carrie Tabar, Interim Dispatch Director, to hire Dakota Jaynes to fill a vacant full-time Dispatcher position at Dispatch starting at Step 1 rate of $19.91 per hour. His start date is on or around October 19, 2026, pending a satisfactory background check, physical and drug screen. Motion Carried.

2. Request to Hire Nicolas Georgiou for Corrections -
   Ryan Robinson, Sheriff, presented the request.

2026-M-233

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve per the recommendation from Ryan Robinson, Sheriff, to hire Nicolas Georgiou to fill a vacant full-time Corrections Deputy position at the jail. His background check, physical and drug screen have been completed. His start date is on or around October 20, 2026 at Step 1 rate of $21.96 per hour. Motion Carried.

3. Request to Hire Brad Spencer -
   Beth Hoppe, Recycling Director, presented the request.

2026-M-234

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve per the recommendation from Beth Hoppe, Recycling Director, to hire Brad Spencer for an open part-time Material Handler position at Recycling. His background check, physical and drug screen have been completed. His start date is on October 19, 2026 at Step 1 rate of $17.34 per hour. Motion Carried.

4. 2027 Health Insurance Renewal Presentation -
   Jordan Friesen, Gibson, reviewed the steps that are being taken to determine the carrier that will represent the County. It is expected to have approximately a $248,000.00 increase to the county. The deductible amounts will increase in the no-cost offered employee plans from $3,000/$6,000 to $4,500/$9,000. Controller/Administrator Miller will work with County Legal Counsel to review the plans proposed to then present the options to the unions.

Old Business

None

Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Resolution 2026-1291 to Recognize November 11, 2026 as Veterans Day in Genesee County
2. Resolution 2026-1290 to Recognize the Month of October 2026 as Hindu Heritage Month in Genesee County
3. Resolution 2026-1289 to Recognize the Month of September 15-October 15, 2026 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Genesee County

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board -
Meets at the end of the month.

Caro DDA/TIFA -
The Michigan 1st Impression assessment for the Downtown Development Authority is being worked on.

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District

MAC Workers Comp Board -
Meets next week. The dividend disbursement is still pending.

MAC Finance Committee -
Meets next week.

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) -
Met yesterday.

Local Units of Government Activity Report

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison -
A policy regarding rumble strips is being worked on.

Great Start Collaborative -
Meets next week.

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC) -
Meets next week.

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
-Participated in the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival Parade.
-Attended the Birch Valley Public Hearing.
-Participated in the Pink or Treat in Cass City.
-Reported that the Elmwood Township Fire Department has reached 100 emergency calls.

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 -
A contractor roundtable will be hosted in the backroom of the Brentwood on Wednesday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Lutz

Board of Health -
Meets tomorrow.

Community Corrections Advisory Board -
Meets Wednesday.

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

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 Bardwell provided an update on the Amish Bridge project. A trestle bridge is being considered although EGLE has slowed the project. Commissioner Bardwell will be meeting the Amish Community in Clare to discuss various items including the bridge project. Commissioner Vaughan suggested going to the Bay City EGLE office to discuss with them in person.

At 8:57 a.m., there were a total of 34 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Extended Public Comment

-Clerk Fetting Rynearson:

*addressed the potential increase in healthcare deductible that will impact county employees and it could directly impact their household budget.

*reported that 28% of Absentee Voters have returned their ballot in Tuscola County. Early In-person Voting begins on Saturday, October 24th.

*expressed her appreciation of Watertown Township Clerk Malisa Pyles as she is recording videos to explain voting. She is also sponsoring an opportunity for kids to vote absentee.

*reported there is a meet the candidate opportunity Thursday evening at the Tuscola Technology Center from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to allow voters an opportunity to meet with local candidates on the November ballot.

Adjournment

2026-M-235

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting Rynearson
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO