MINUTES
Board of Commissioners Meeting

8:00 AM - Thursday, October 29, 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 29, 2026, to order at 8:00 AM local time.

Prayer - Commissioner Barrios

Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Bardwell

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, Jamie Nisidis, Sheriff Ryan Robinson, Interim Prosecutor Lori Selvidge, Andy Daniels, Michael Clinesmith, Mark Putnam, Tom McLane, Carrie Tabar, Gary Fini, Karly Creguer, Shelly Lutz, Mark Ransford, Tim Heinden, Terry Camp, Tanya Pisha, Shirley Schaefer

Also Present Virtual: Cody Horton, Debbie Babich, Mary Drier, Angie House, Ashley Gaudett, Beth Hoppe, Bonnie Fackler, Brandon Bertram Treasurer Ashley Bennett, Cindy McKinney-Volz, Karlee Romain, Judy Cockerill, Kristi Phipps, Eean Lee, Genelle Smith, Josh Herman, Juli Walters, Karla Mallett, Melanie Radabaugh, Tricia Sharp, Toni James, Kristy Sutherland, Larry Zapfe, Lori Offenbecher, Matthew Sexton, Judge Nancy Thane, Shelby Miller, Sherry Billot, Tanya Pisha, Angie Daniels, Amanda Ertman, Amy Gregor, Estee Bitzer, Katie Robinson, Krystaria Skakle, Linda Strasz, Samuel Putnam, Steve Root, Robert Baxter, Robert Walters, Jamie Pierce, Cindy Hughes, Shannon Nelson, Kandi Teddy, Gregg Campbell

At 8:09 a.m., there were a total of 40 participants attending the meeting virtually.

Adoption of Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda -

2026-M-236

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

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -

2026-M-237

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to adopt the meeting minutes from the October 15, 2026 Regular meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period for Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

2026-M-238

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Consent Agenda Minutes and Consent Agenda Items from the October 26, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval for a New Classification for Competent Professional Authority (CPA) -
Move to approve the new classification job description for Competent Professional Authority (CPA) as requested by Amanda Erman, Health Officer for the Health Department.

2. Approval to Increase Tuscola County's Public Health Fee Schedule -
Move to approve per the recommendation from Amanda Ertman, Health Officer, the increase in the Tuscola County Public Health Fee Schedule.

3. Health Department Annual Report FY 24-25 -
Move to approve and place on file the Health Department Annual Report FY 24-25 as presented.

4. Budget Adjustments -
Move to approve the General Fund Budget and Special Fund Budget Adjustments per the recommendation from Connie Keinath, Chief Accountant, with all budget amendments authorized.

5. Rural Development Fund Grant Application for Ish-don-quit (Crossing Cloud) Memorial Park -
Move to approve the Letter of Intent for the Rural Development Fund Grant for the Ish-don-quit (Crossing Cloud) Memorial Park Phase 1 in the amount of $200,000.00.

New Business

1. Request to Use the Peoples Building for New Years Eve -
   Mark Ransford presented the request for use of the Peoples Building.

2026-M-239

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the request form Mark Ransford to use the Peoples Building for a New Years Eve event on December 31, 2026, with insurance certificates to be provided prior to the event. Also, the event is to be staffed by a County-approved private security firm or a licensed law-enforcement officer. Motion Carried.

Old Business

1. Michigan State University Extension (MSUe) Draft MOA FY 2027 -
   Karly Creguer, District 10 Director, reviewed the request that was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

2026-M-240

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Thomas Bardwell to approve per the recommendation from Karly Creguer, District 10 Director, the Michigan State University Extension (MSUe) Agreement for Extension Services for 2027 in the amount of $265,460.00 as presented and authorize all signatures. Also, to authorize any necessary budget amendments. Motion Carried.

New Business - continued

2. Closed Session to be Held Under Section 8(1)(c) for Strategy and Negotiation Sessions Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

2026-M-241

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch that the Board meet in closed session under Section 8(1)(c) of the Open Meetings Act for strategy connected with negotiation of collective bargaining agreements, with Jamie Nisidis, Mike Miller, Shelly Lutz, Connie Keinath, Jodi Fetting Rynearson, and Tracy Violet permitted to attend at 8:17 a.m. Motion Carried.

Closed Session at 8:17 a.m.
Reconvene from Closed Session at 9:07 a.m.
At 9:07 a.m., there were a total of 39 participants attending the meeting virtually.

3. Public Hearing on Village of Reese Annexation - Tim Heinden, Reese Village Manager
   Recess to Public Hearing at 9:08 a.m.
   Reconvened from Public Hearing at 9:16 a.m.
   At 9:16 a.m., there were a total of 44 participants attending the meeting virtually.

4. Village of Reese Annexation Resolution -
   Tim Heinden, Reese Village Manager, will provide a proposed resolution for the Board's consideration. Matter to be placed on the November 12, 2026 Board meeting agenda.

Old Business - continued

1. Community Corrections Advisory Board Service Agreement FY27 -

2026-M-242

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve per the recommendation from Dave Stevens, Community Corrections Coordinator, to approve the service agreement for the Thinking Matters Program (C01) for 2027 in the amount of $11,000.00 and authorize all signatures. This is a State grant funded program and no County funds are required. Motion Carried.

2. Request to Purchase Regroup Mass Notification -

2026-M-243

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve per the request from Carrie Tabar, Interim Dispatch Director and Jordan Wade, Emergency Services Director, to purchase Regroup Mass Notification service in the amount of $5,000.00 for a 1-year subscription. Also, all necessary budget adjustments and signatures are approved. Motion Carried.

3. Varipro Renewal -

2026-M-244

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the Varipro Rate Addendum Disclosure of Commissions and Fees with Tuscola County for the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027 and authorize all necessary signatures. Also, all necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

4. Stipend for Dispatch Employees -

2026-M-245

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the recommendation from Mike Miller, Controller/Administrator, that the current Dispatchers with at least one year of consecutive experience who have been working long hours during this staffing shortage receive an additional $2.00 per hour to their base wage for actual hours worked, effective date of October 1, 2026 with an end date of December 31, 2026. Also, all necessary budget amendments are authorized. Motion Carried.

5. 2027 Fiscal Year Budget First Review -
   The Board discussed the first draft of the budget and the cuts that were proposed on Monday. Controller/Administrator Miller has had the opportunity to meet with some Department Heads but not all of them although he is trying to get those scheduled.

2026-M-246

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Nancy Barrios to approve the 2027 first draft budget to include the following potential reductions:

- Reduce the GIS fund balance by $180,000.00
- Reduce the EDC transfer by $40,000.00
- Reduce the Health Department transfer by $215,000.00
- Transfer $250,000.00 from the Jail Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund.

Also, to send the first draft out to the departments for review and comment. Motion Withdrawn.

During discussion the Board decided to have further discussions on the budget before approving the motion. Commissioner Koch and Commissioner Barrios withdrew the motion.

6. Approval for the Revised Budget Calendar in the 2027 Fiscal Year Budget First Review Packet -

2026-M-247

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to approve the revised budget calendar on page 31 of the 2027 Fiscal Year Budget First Review. Motion Carried.

7. Entrance Gates for Recycling -

2026-M-248

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve per the recommendation from Tom McLane, Buildings and Grounds Director, to purchase new gates for Recycling from Zuma Contracting, LLC in the amount of $10,660.32 as presented and authorize all signatures. Also, all necessary budget adjustments are authorized. Motion Carried.

8. Request to Hire Nicolas Georgiou for Corrections -

2026-M-249

Motion by Bill Lutz, seconded by Matt Koch to correct the previous motion of 2026-M-233 for the record as to approve 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. <u>His start date is October 19, 2026 at Step 1 rate of $22.85 per hour.</u>
Motion Carried.

Correspondence/Resolutions

None

Commissioner Liaison Committee Reports

Barrios

County Road Commission Liaison -
Has attended the last two meetings.

Great Start Collaborative

Human Services Collaborative Council (HSCC)

MAC Agricultural/Tourism Committee

Parks and Recreation Commission

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative -
A flyer was provided detailing issues the group covers.

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
At the Akron Village meeting, there was a good conversation regarding water.
Medical Care Facility held a trunk or treat that was a great event. She commended Cody and Maggie for their work on the event.
Village of Cass City is working on their Master Plan.
The Victim Services Coordinator at the Sheriff's Office has been eliminated due to a cut in grant funding.

Bardwell

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Caro DDA/TIFA -
No Report

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

MAC 7th District -
No Report

MAC Workers Comp Board -
Attended the meeting in which an update to 1st Quarter and 3rd Quarter submissions were reviewed. Commissioner Bardwell stated that having a County Safety Committee established would be an added benefit.

MAC Finance Committee -
Meets tomorrow

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) -

Meets next week

Local Units of Government Activity Report -
Attended a regional Amish Community meeting where medical needs, mental health and road safety topics were discussed. A follow-up meeting regarding the Amish Bridge Project will be scheduled.

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 -
-There were approximately 50 Contractors in attendance at the round table meeting that was held. There was a good discussion regarding Building Codes.

Lutz

Board of Health

Community Corrections Advisory Board -
The Sheriff's Office received praise for processes that have been implemented.

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 -
Expressed appreciation for Watertown Township Clerk Malisa Pyles for putting together the voter educational videos.

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

At 9:53 a.m., there were a total of 47 participants attending the meeting virtually.

1. Letter of Support for the CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation Funds (matter added) -

2026-M-250

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to approve the letter of support for round 5 funding to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The funding is for homeowner rehabilitation through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). All necessary signatures are authorized. Motion Carried.

Extended Public Comment

-Clerk Jodi Fetting Rynearson distributed a handout from Matthew Spencer.

-Clerk Jodi Fetting Rynearson provided an update to the Early Voting turnout and Mail-In Ballot return rate.

-Erica Walle addressed the Board regarding two Prosecutor's Office employees that were let go from the office on Monday.

-Mark Reene addressed the Board regarding Robin Neff and Amy Gregor to recognize their years of service to Tuscola County.

-Commissioner Bardwell spoke to the matter of the Prosecutor's Office staff.

-Commissioner Vaughan and Commissioner Lutz thanked Robin Neff and Amy Gregor for their years of service.

Adjournment

2026-M-251

Motion by Matt Koch, seconded by Bill Lutz to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Motion Carried.

Jodi Fetting Rynearson
Tuscola County Clerk, MCCO