

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 2024

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Wednesday, November 20, 2024, including the availability of virtual attendance by the public.

Vice Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Droscha gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by all.

Roll call. Commissioners present: Tim Barnes, Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Trevor Youngquist, Mark Mudry, Joseph Brehler, Brian Droscha, Jacob Toomey, Scott Hansen, Brian Lautzenheiser, Frank Holmes, and Barbara Rogers.

Commissioners absent: Jim Mott.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved the approval of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved the approval of October 16, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications: Letter recognizing Emergency Manager Ryan Wilkerson. (On file)

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of #24-11-110 Resolution of Appreciation Dennis Gerber Sheriff's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Public Comment: Ingham County Commissioner Robert Pena thanked board members for their participation with the Capital Area Community Services Committee.

Commissioner Barnes moved the Approval of #24-11-111 Resolution to Approve Alternative Emergency Operations Center Memorandum of Understanding with Delta Township. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of #24-11-112 Resolution to Recognize Family Court Awareness Month. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved the approval of #24-11-113 Resolution to Authorize Application for Housing Readiness Incentive Grant Program. Seconded by Commissioner Brehler. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved the Public Works & Planning Committee appointments.

Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved the approval of 2024 Apportionment Report. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-11-114 2024 Holiday Schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-11-115 Resolution to Adopt the Annual Exemption Option as Set Forth in 2011 PA 152. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of #24-11-116 Resolution to Authorize Application for Bank Intercounty State Grant Funding. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the Ways and Means Committee appointments.

Seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried unanimously. (On file).

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of claims as audited by the Ways & Means Committee for \$31,954,823.30 and to accept the report of previously authorized payments.

Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Carried unanimously.

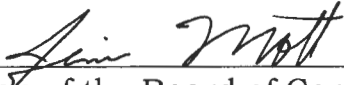
There was no Administrator's Report.

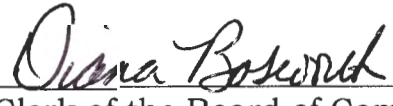
Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Pearl-Wright stated it was Homeless Awareness Month. Commissioner Haskell recognized Emergency Services and Dispatch for their hard work. Commissioner Barnes stated that there is now a gas station in Mulliken, open 24/7.

There was no Unfinished Business, Old Business or New Business.

Public Comment: None.

Vice Chairperson Rogers adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.


Chairman of the Board of Commissioners


Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
DENNIS GERBER
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha.

WHEREAS, Dennis Gerber will be retiring from Eaton County on November 18, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dennis worked in the Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Deputy from November 15, 1999, and is retiring with 25 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Dennis has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Dennis's years of public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service Dennis provided to Eaton County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 20th day of the month of November in the year 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Rogers
Vice Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners

Diana Bosworth
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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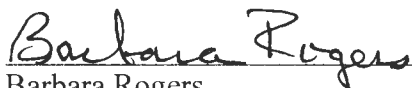
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Barbara Rogers

Vice Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners



Diana Bosworth

Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DELTA TOWNSHIP**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell.

WHEREAS, Eaton County and Delta Township recognize the necessity of maintaining an Alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure continuity of operations during emergencies where either jurisdiction's primary EOC is unavailable, inoperable, or inaccessible; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this MOU is to establish a formal agreement between Eaton County and Delta Township for the shared use of alternate EOCs, thereby ensuring coordinated response efforts and effective incident management; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County's Alternate EOC will be located at 811 N. Canal Rd., Lansing, Michigan, and Delta Township's Alternate EOC will be located at 911 Courthouse Dr., Charlotte, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, this MOU outlines responsibilities, capabilities, activation, and deactivation procedures for each jurisdiction's Alternate EOC to ensure effective and consistent response operations, and supports annual exercises to maintain preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the MOU shall become effective upon execution by both parties and shall remain in effect for five (5) years, with the option for termination upon sixty (60) days' written notice or by mutual agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Delta Township for the establishment of an Alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and authorizes the Eaton County Board Chairperson to execute the MOU on behalf of Eaton County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or their designee be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the County. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 2024

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH IN EATON COUNTY

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright.

WHEREAS, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to raise awareness about the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interests of children. FCAM also aims to improve recognition among court professionals, legislators, and the public that family court decisions have profound and lasting impacts on the lives of children and families, making it essential that these decisions are informed by the latest research and best practices in child safety; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 58,000 children in the U.S. are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents each year, resulting in hundreds of child murders during visitation with a dangerous parent. In Michigan, 39 children have been killed by a parent since 2008 during divorce or custody disputes; and

WHEREAS, in August 2024, 6-year-old Rowan Morey of Caledonia, Michigan, was not returned to his mother after his father's parenting time. A search led police to discover that Rowan had been shot and killed by his father, who then took his own life. Rowan's mother had previously reported the father's abusive behavior to both family court and Child Protective Services; and

WHEREAS, in August 2022, 16-month-old Chaos Demilo McCarthy was murdered by his father in Genesee County. A Genesee County judge had awarded the father temporary custody just weeks before the boy's death, despite the father's prior felony conviction; and

WHEREAS, in September 2021, 3-year-old Dylan Thebo was fatally shot by his father in a murder-suicide during court-ordered visitation in Kent County. Dylan's mother had made repeated efforts to report her ex-husband's abuse and threats to six different entities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Tsimhoni children's abuse claims were dismissed by the Oakland County Family Court, and the children were sent to juvenile hall for resisting visitation with their father. Controversial reunification therapy was ordered, which mandates reconciliation with alleged abusers. This therapy, which is not evidence-based, has been shown to be detrimental and despite findings of judicial misconduct in the case, reunification therapy is still frequently ordered by family courts; and

WHEREAS, Kent County, Michigan, following six domestic violence-related homicides within three months in 2021, recognized the need for a specialized Domestic Violence Court. This court, staffed by individuals knowledgeable about the intricacies of domestic violence, aims to support victims and families, hold offenders accountable, and prevent further homicides; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to promote judicial education and awareness about the necessity of using scientifically validated, evidence-based treatment programs that are proven to be safe and effective. This education should include training on domestic violence, child abuse (emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual), childhood trauma, coercive control, and post-separation abuse for judges and all professionals involved in family court cases; and

WHEREAS, FCAM is dedicated to educating judges and family court professionals on the importance of incorporating evidence-based, peer-reviewed research into their decision-making. This includes the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study (Vincent Felitti, Kaiser Permanente-CDC), Child Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations (Daniel Saunders, University of Michigan), and Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations (Joan S. Meier, GW Law School). This research reveals a prevalent gender bias against mothers who report abuse in family courts, despite false allegations being rare, and emphasizes the need for impartial decision-making to protect children's well-being; and

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month aims to encourage collaboration among legislators, advocates, professionals, and the community to improve family court practices, ensuring they are guided by evidence-based research and prioritize the safety and best interests of children.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of November as Family Court Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners encourages all citizens to recognize that many people do not have housing and need support from citizens and private/public nonprofit service entities. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR HOUSING READINESS
INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM**

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Brehler.

WHEREAS, grant funding from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is now available to counties for the Housing Readiness Incentive Grant Program (HRI Program); and

WHEREAS, the HRI Program provides funding to support actions such as creating and/or updating land use policies, master plan updates, zoning text amendments, and similar actions to encourage increasing housing supply and affordability; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code and Planning & Zoning Department is requesting to apply for \$50,000 which requires no match funding; and

WHEREAS, the grant term if awarded is twenty-four (24) months from the grant award date.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Construction Code and Planning & Zoning Department to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator be authorized to accept the grant award and approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by MSHDA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or their designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL EMPLOYEES

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>County Observed Date</u>
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 20, 2025
President's Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Juneteenth	Thursday, June 19, 2025
Independence Day	Friday, July 4, 2025
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2025
Veteran's Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27, 2025
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28, 2025
Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 2025
New Year's Eve	Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL EXEMPTION OPTION AS SET FORTH IN
2011 PUBLIC ACT 152,
THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser.

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

- 1) Section 3 - “Hard Caps” Option - limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
- 2) Section 4 - “80%/20%” Option - limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
- 3) Section 8 - “Exemption” Option - a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, Eaton County historically followed the “Hard Caps” Option for the medical benefit years of 2013 through 2023 based on the rates provided by the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the “Hard Caps” authorized by the Department of Treasury on March 19, 2024, increased by 0.2% for the 2025 medical benefit year; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners has determined that the increases in the Hard Caps for 2025 compared to the increases in the County’s 2025 illustrative rates, would be detrimental to the employee population; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners has determined it is in its best interest to adopt the annual Exemption option as its choice of compliance under the Act; and

WHEREAS, in exempting itself from the options within Sections 3 and 4 of the Act, the Board of Commissioners, approves employee contributions at the rates currently in effect for 2024 with a 5.0% increase, as attached to this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Eaton County Board of Commissioners elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the annual Exemption option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, required employee contribution rates for medical benefit year 2025 will be the same as the contributions required for the 2024 medical benefit year with a 5.0% increase, as attached to this resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 2024

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR BANK
INTERCOUNTY STATE GRANT FUNDING**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Mulder moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey.

WHEREAS, the growing demand for critical drain infrastructure is increasing Eaton County's annual operating costs; and

WHEREAS, expenses associated with the Bank Intercounty project representing a burden on not just the County, but on residents, the Road Commission, and Delta Township; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has appropriated funds to support the Bank Intercounty drain district project in Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, these grant funds are available for the period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 with no required cash match; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County will use these grant funds to reduce this burden by applying this grant funding to the project in order to reduce the amount of money required to be bonded for.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Controller's Office, in cooperation with the Bank Intercounty Drain District, to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) as appropriated in Senate Bill 747 of 2024 CR-a (Public Act 121 of 2024); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator be authorized to accept the grant award and approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue upon receipt of funds from the State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents. Motion carried unanimously.