

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
May 30, 2025

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Friday, May 30, 2025, including the availability of virtual attendance by the public.

Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Mott gave the invocation.

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

Roll call. Commissioners present: Brandon Haskell, Jane M. Whitacre, Mark Mudry, Kyle Jones, Brian Droscha, Scott Hansen, Nicole Christensen, Jim Mott, Frank Holmes, Keith Barber. Commissioner Arndt arrived after roll call. Commissioners absent: Jason Peek, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Jacob Toomey.

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

Public Comment: Delta Township resident Mary Clark thanked the Board for their work. She stated Delta Township has supported Eaton County issues and stated we are all one community. She asked the Board consider this as discussions continue regarding the Delta Road Patrol contract.

Commissioner Mott began the discussion by asking members to put forth any budget reduction ideas they have. Commissioner Barber spoke in support of a 50% reduction in all outside agency funding. Commissioner Haskell suggested focusing on areas where simple straightforward cuts could be made to help determine deeper cuts needed. Commissioner Droscha supported taking mandated or self-funded departments off the table and cutting non-mandated departments first. Commissioner Christensen spoke regarding hearing from the Drain Commissioner's office. Commissioner Holmes spoke in support of a reduction of Commissioner per diems.

Commissioner Droscha moved a 75% reduction of funding to outside agencies. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber. Nays: Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Mott. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to rescind his motion for a 75% reduction of funding to outside agencies. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Holmes, Mott. Nays: Barber. Absent for this vote: Commissioner Christensen. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haskell moved a 30% reduction of 2025/2026 budget funding to Community Mental Health. Seconded by Commissioner Mudry. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Haskell, Mudry, Jones, Christensen, Holmes, Mott. Nays: Commissioners Arndt, Whitacre, Droscha, Hansen, Barber. Motion carried.

Commissioner Whitacre moved a 25% reduction of funding to Barry-Eaton District Health Department. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Mott. Nays: Barber. Motion carried.

Commissioner Whitacre moved a 75% reduction of funding to the Eaton County Health & Rehabilitation Services/Medical Care Facility. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Whitacre moved a 75% reduction of funding to Capital Area United Way – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) AIC and to maintain 211 funding at current amount. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Christensen, Holmes. Nays: Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Barber, Mott. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber moved a 90% reduction of funding to Soldiers & Sailors (Fund 293) due to existing fund balance. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haskell moved a 100% reduction of funding to the Department of Health & Human Services (Fund 290) due to existing fund balance. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Whitacre moved a 25% reduction of funding to the Drain at Large bringing the total amount of funding to \$600,000 of funding. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Roll call vote. Discussion held. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Arndt moved a 100% reduction in funding to Tri-County Metro Narcotics. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: Haskell, Christensen. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to retain the current request for funding for the Tri-County Office on Aging. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to retain the current request for funding for County Regional Planning. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to retain the current request for funding for Courthouse Square Historical Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber moved to retain the current request for funding for CapCog. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to maintain the current request for funding for Eaton Conservation District with the understanding that some services will be contracted through the Parks Department for cost savings. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Mott. Nays: Holmes, Barber. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to maintain the current funding for MSU Extension. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Commissioner Droscha moved to withdraw the motion.

Commissioner Droscha moved a 30% reduction of funding to MSU Extension. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Mott. Nays: Barber. Motion carried

Controller Sobie spoke regarding the need to create better Board policies for the long-term stability of the County. The Controller's Office is currently working

on policies for Purchasing, Fund Balance, Delinquent Tax, and Grant and Donations for presentation at the June Board meeting. Other policies will follow in the future. Discussion was held.

Chairperson Mott asked Controller/Administrator Sobie to give an overview of department open positions for the next portion of the agenda.

Ben Dawson, Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director, reviewed the list and how the budget is impacted.

Commissioner Haskell moved a 50% budget reduction of \$227,558 for a total of \$113,779.00, to the Drain Commissioner's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Mott. Nays: Barber. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haskell moved an 85% budget reduction of \$86,513 for a total of \$73,536, to the Equalization/Property Descriptions Office. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: Christensen. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber moved a 100% budget reduction of \$490,080 to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Barber. Nays: Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Mott. Motion failed.

Commissioner Arndt moved a 50% budget reduction of \$490,080 for a total of \$245,040 to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Mudry. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Mudry. Nays: Haskell, Whitacre, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Motion failed.

Commissioner Haskell moved to reconsider a vote for a 100% budget reduction of funding to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion to reconsider carried.

Reconsideration of motion to approve a 100% budget reduction of \$490,080 to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Mott moved a 100% budget reduction of \$1,995,534 to the Sheriff's Office and Road Patrol Division. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre,

Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: Christensen. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved a 100% budget reduction of \$836,327 to the Trial Court. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: Christensen. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haskell moved a budget reduction of \$108,874 to the Controller's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mott announced the Capital Improvement Program as the next budget discussion item. Controller/Administrator Sobie gave a brief overview of the potential deferral of this funding.

Commissioner Droscha moved a 100% budget reduction of \$1,000,000 to the Capital Improvements Program. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to renegotiate the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) lease renewal at fair market value. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Droscha moved to maintain the Medical Care Facility as it is currently operating as a County-operated facility. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioners Arndt, Haskell, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment: County resident Margo Aseltine thanked the Board and Controller/Administrator Sobie for their hard work during this budget crisis.

Chairman Mott adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.



Chairman of the Board of Commissioners



Clerk of the Board of Commissioners