

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2025

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Wednesday, June 18, 2025, including the availability of virtual attendance by the public.

Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Droscha gave the invocation.

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

Roll call. Commissioners present: Chris Arndt, Jason Peek, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Jane M. Whitacre, Mark Mudry, Kyle Jones, Brian Droscha, Jacob Toomey, Scott Hansen, Nicole Christensen, Jim Mott, Frank Holmes, Keith Barber. Commissioners absent: None.

Commissioner Toomey moved an addition to the agenda under New Business - Resolution to Recognize Diversity for Pride Month. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Chairman Mott stated the Board policy requires resolutions to first be approved through committee. Discussion held. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Toomey. Nays: Commissioners Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Motion failed.

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Holmes requested a correction to the May 21, 2025 minutes.

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the May 21, 2025 regular minutes as amended and May 30, 2025 special minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications: Genessee County Resolution recognizing June 19, 2025 as Juneteenth Day in Genessee County. Letter in support of funding Eaton County Veteran Services. (On file)

Public Comments: Eaton County Residents Jodee Pruden and Maryanne Hayes spoke in opposition to the new fee schedule for building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical permits, including festival permits fees for Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Corporation. Drew Marks, Sunfield Township resident spoke in opposition to the costs of Planning & Zoning services being added to the local jurisdictions.

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of #25-6-70 Resolution to Approve and Authorize the Submission of the MMP Work Program to the State of Michigan. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Barber moved to postpone the Resolution to Approve Fitzgerald Park Lease Renewal with the City of Grand Ledge due to change of wording. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of the Public Works and Human Services Committee Appointment.

Mid-State Health Network Substance Use Disorder Policy Oversight Council – 3 year term.

Kimberly Thalison 8/31/2028

Jim Mott (alternate) 8/31/2028

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

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolutions as a slate:

#25-6-71 Resolution to Authorize Application for Byrne Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant. (On file)

#25-6-72 Resolution to Authorize the Acceptance and Adoption of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). (On file)

#25-6-73 Resolution to Appoint District Court Attorney Magistrate. (On file)

#25-6-74 Resolution for Approval for Grant Application for a grant under the Community Corrections Act 1988, P.A. 511. (On file)

#25-6-75 Resolution to Authorize Application for Crime Victim Rights Services Grant. (On file)

#25-6-76 Resolution to Authorize Application for STOP Violence Grant. (On file)

Commissioner Hansen seconded the above 6 resolutions. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #25-6-77 Resolution to Approve Updated Construction Codes Fee Schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #25-6-78 Resolution to Amend Resolution #96-6-77 Resolution Authorizing the Controller to Pay Certain Claims Against the County. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #25-6-79 Resolution to Adopt Fund Balance Target for Fiscal Year 2025/26. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the draft Delinquent Tax Fund Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of a Grants and Donations Policy change. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of claims as audited by the Ways & Means Committee for \$23,300,146.72 and to accept the report of previously authorized payments. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report: Controller Sobie stated that a full Board budget meeting will be held on June 27th.

Department Head Comments: Eaton County Prosecutor Lloyd spoke regarding preparations for the upcoming budget presentation. He spoke regarding felony case review processes of his office. District Court Judge Felsing introduced the new District Court Magistrate, Joseph M. O'Connor.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Haskell stated REO Town in Lansing will hold a Juneteenth celebration. Commissioner Peek recognized the Juneteenth and Pride Month holidays. Commissioner Pearl-Wright stated Grand Ledge will hold its annual Yankee Doodle days celebration June 21st, and on June 26th a ribbon cutting will be held at Fitzgerald Park ballpark. Commissioner Arndt spoke regarding potential Sheriff's Office contracts with municipalities. Commissioner Toomey stated the Dimondale annual car show was held. He also stated disappointment that a Pride Month resolution was not added to the agenda. Commissioner Christensen stated Charlotte held its annual Charlotte Celebrates June 12-14. Chairman Mott spoke regarding the June 27th budget meeting.

There was no Unfinished Business or Old Business.

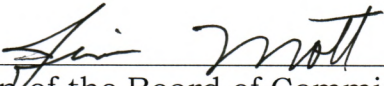
New Business: Sara Lurie, Chief Executive Officer at Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties spoke in opposition to proposed MDHHS Competitive Procurement Process for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans.

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of #25-6-80 Resolution Opposing Competitive Procurement Process for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Discussion held. Nays: Commissioner Droscha. Motion carried. (On file)

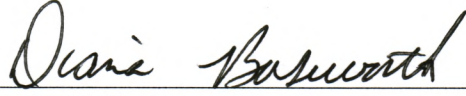
Deputy Administrator Ben Dawsen presented proposed FOIA #172-4501 appeal response. Commissioner Whitaker moved to adopt the denial of the appeal as listed in the board packet. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Steve Hayes, President of Vermontville Maple Syrup Corporation spoke in opposition to festival inspection fees. Maryanne Hayes and Jodee Pruden spoke in opposition to the new Construction Code fee schedule. Andy Shaver, Chester Township resident, spoke regarding the lack of representation in Commissioner District 1. County resident Jim Billig spoke regarding drain assessments on his property.

Chairman Mott adjourned the meeting to Special Meeting on Friday, June 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.



Chairman of the Board of Commissioners



Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF THE
EATON COUNTY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN WORK PROGRAM
TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

Introduced by the Public Works and Human Services Committee

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

WHEREAS, amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, went into effect on March 29, 2023, which requires all counties to prepare a Materials Management Plan (MMP) under the direction of the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and

WHEREAS, the amendments require existing county Solid Waste Management Plans be replaced with a new MMP focusing on sustainable materials management approaches, such as recycling and composting, instead of primarily landfilling waste; and

WHEREAS, the amendments to Part 115 require a work program which includes descriptions of tasks to be performed as needed to prepare the MMP pursuant to MCL 299.4704 and MCL 299.4705; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2025 the Eaton County Materials Management Planning Committee reviewed and approved the Eaton County Materials Management Plan Work Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approves and authorizes the submission of the Eaton County Materials Management Plan Work Program to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

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

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR BYRNE RESIDENTIAL
SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT) GRANT**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice, through the Michigan State Police, Grants and Community Services Division has Byrne Memorial Grant funds available; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office is desirous of submitting a grant application; and

WHEREAS, the grant will provide funding for jail-based residential substance abuse treatment program; and

WHEREAS, the grant application will seek up to \$200,000 and requires a 25% match for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Sheriff's Office to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, acceptance of the grant, if approved will be contingent upon the identification and appropriation of the required matching funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires an additional County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant-funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity and amount of General Fund commitment; and

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

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

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE AND ADOPTION OF THE
MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (MHMP) UPDATE**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen.

WHEREAS, Eaton County and the townships, cities, and villages with the county have gathered information and prepared an update to the 2023 Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 201; and

WHEREAS, Title 44 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 201.6(c)(5) requires each local government participating in the preparation of a Plan Update to accept and adopt such plan; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County has reviewed the MHMP update, has found the document to be acceptable, and as a local unit of government, has afforded its citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input regarding the Plan Update and the actions included in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, Eaton County will consider the MHMP update during the implementation and updating of local planning mechanisms, and will incorporate the hazard assessment data, hazard vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions in these mechanisms, where applicable.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Eaton County, as a participating jurisdiction, adopts the MHMP Update. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT
DISTRICT COURT ATTORNEY MAGISTRATE**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen.

WHEREAS, The 56A District Court has recommended the appointment of Attorney **Joseph M. O'Connor** as a contractual Attorney Magistrate for the District Court; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to MCL 600.8501, the Board of Commissioners must approve the appointment of such Magistrate positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approves the appointment of **Joseph M. O'Connor** as the District Court Attorney Magistrate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that this appointment is a contractual appointment with no benefits. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION OF
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has funds available for Prosecutor-based Victim Rights Programming for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorney is mandated to provide services to victims of crimes pursuant to Article I § 24 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and the Michigan Crime Victims' Rights Act of 1985; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has operated a crime victim rights program under the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 1985 for more than twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, the grant program currently funds a Victim Coordinator, a Victim Advocate, and a portion of the Prosecuting Attorney's Executive Assistant; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney is requesting authorization to apply for continuation funding for fiscal year 2025/26 through the program in an amount not to exceed \$156,885.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed \$156,885 for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires an additional County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant-funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity and amount of General Fund commitment; and

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

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

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION OF
STOP VIOLENCE GRANT**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, has federal funds available for Prosecutor-based STOP Violence Grant Programming for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has elected to reduce the budget of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, resulting in the elimination of multiple positions, including at least one Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office desires to apply for available funds in order to continue providing an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney dedicated to the prevention and prosecution of domestic violence for the citizens of Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the STOP Violence grant requires a grantee match 25%, in-kind or cash, of the total cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney is requesting authorization to apply for a STOP Violence grant with a total project cost not to exceed \$400,000, of which the 25% in-kind or cash match would not exceed \$100,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to submit a STOP Violence grant application in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, including match funding, for the period of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, acceptance of the grant, if approved, will be contingent upon the identification and appropriation of the required matching funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires an additional County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant-funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity and amount of General Fund commitment; and

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

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

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE
CONSTRUCTION CODES FEE SCHEDULE**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

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

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners has directed the Construction Code & Planning and Zoning Department to collect fees to cover costs associated with the operation of the department; and,

WHEREAS, the Department is recommending that fees for Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Permits be amended; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Human Services Committee and the Ways and Means Committee have reviewed the amended Fee Schedule and recommend its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the amended Construction Codes fee schedule as recommended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the amendment to the Construction Codes fee schedule will take effect on July 1, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the revised schedule supersedes any schedule previously adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 96-6-77
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR TO PAY
CERTAIN CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNTY**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners established authorization for the Controller/Administrator to pay certain claims against the County by resolution of the Board of Commissioners (resolution 96-6-77); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to amend the resolution; and

WHEREAS, certain costs occur regularly within the course of business for Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that prompt payments be made for certain expenditures authorized by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, no payment shall be made that would cause a line-item budget deficit without the appropriate budget adjustment being executed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Controller/Administrator may authorize payment without additional action by this Board of Commissioners, under the following circumstances, for items which have been previously approved by this Board and contained within the County budget:

1. Payments as required for all provisions of collective bargaining agreements and other compensation plans approved by the Board of Commissioners.
2. Employee payroll.
3. Reimbursement of travel-related expenses or advances, to the extent provided in department budgets, as approved by the Board of Commissioners.
4. Payment of employee-related expenses or employee withholdings, including, but not limited to, health insurance, life insurance, dental insurance, workers' compensation, unemployment, Social Security, Medicare, Federal, State, and Local withholding, and liability insurance which have been previously approved by the Board of Commissioners or are mandated by law.
5. All Trust and Agency funds in which the County is acting as a fiduciary agent.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FUND BALANCE TARGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/26**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

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

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioner's has evaluated and determined as part of the budget deliberations there is a need to adopt a minimum fund balance policy for the current fiscal year 2025/26; and

WHEREAS, the fund balance of the County's General Fund has been accumulated to provide stability and flexibility to respond to unexpected adversity and/or opportunities that maximize benefits to taxpayers or minimize the costs of providing services. The County's basic goal is to limit expenditures to anticipated revenue to maintain a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, appropriate use of fund balance may occur due to an unanticipated shortfall in revenues or unexpected increase in expenditures that would otherwise significantly impact the County's ability to provide ongoing services to its taxpayers while the emergent event is addressed. The best practice is to limit the use of fund balance to one-time expenditures to avoid creating a structural deficit; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Board is to achieve and maintain an unassigned fund balance in the General Fund of, at minimum, 10% of expenditures in the current operating fund budget. This amount, less the amount of fund balance obligated in the current fiscal year budget, can be allocated for use in the upcoming budgetary process; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this calculation, the percentage of the unassigned fund balance shall be the dollar amount reported at the year-end audited financial statements and divided by the current year's General Fund budgeted expenditures to calculate the percentage of unassigned fund balance to hold in reserve; and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has reviewed this plan and recommends approval to the Board of Commissioners for the current fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the adoption of a minimum fund balance of 10% in the current fiscal year. The Board also supports continued efforts to develop a comprehensive fund balance policy that will remain in place across budget cycles. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2025

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR
PREPAID INPATIENT HEALTH PLANS**

Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre.

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan currently operates a publicly managed and community-based system for the delivery of specialty behavioral health services through 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), which are responsible for managing Medicaid mental health, developmental disability, and substance use disorder services; and

WHEREAS, the current PIHP system has consistently demonstrated value, local accountability, and community engagement, while successfully managing costs and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently announced plans to initiate a competitive procurement process for the management of PIHP functions, which will open the door to private, non-profit health plans or managed care organizations (MCOs) assuming control over behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, such privatization could disrupt longstanding relationships between local mental health authorities, providers, and the communities they serve, and jeopardize the person-centered, recovery-oriented approach that has been cultivated under the public system; and

WHEREAS, many stakeholders, including individuals receiving services, advocates, local officials, and providers have expressed significant concerns about the potential impact of a competitive procurement process on care quality, access, local control, and transparency; and

WHEREAS, counties across Michigan have historically played a vital role in the governance, funding, and oversight of the public behavioral health system, and any change to that structure without meaningful county input undermines the principle of local governance; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a publicly accountable and locally governed behavioral health system is essential to ensuring that individuals with mental health and substance use needs receive timely, appropriate, and high-quality care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners formally opposes the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) plan to implement a competitive procurement process for Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners urges Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Michigan Legislature to halt any plans for privatization and instead work collaboratively with counties, PIHPs, Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs), service users, and other stakeholders to strengthen and improve the public behavioral health system, by only allowing public organizations with experience in managing Michigan's public mental health system to be part of any bid process should one occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel, members of the Michigan Legislature representing Eaton County, and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

Roll call. Ayes: Arndt, Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Toomey, Hansen, Christensen, Mott, Holmes, Barber. Nays: Droscha. Motion carried.