

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 25, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in Special session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Friday, July 25, 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: Jason Peek, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Jane M. Whitacre, Mark Mudry, Kyle Jones, Brian Droscha, Scott Hansen, Nicole Christensen, Jim Mott, Frank Holmes, Keith Barber. Commissioners absent: Jacob Toomey. Commissioner Arndt arrived after roll call.

Commissioner Droscha requested the addition of Item #11 - Closed Session for Labor Relations Negotiations per MCL 15.268 Section 8 (c).

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

Public Comment: None

Controller Sobie spoke regarding the Eaton Fire Grant. There is a meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025 to discuss before moving forward.

The following County departments presented 2025/2026 budget requests:

Facilities Management: Director Powers

Technology Services: Director Daley

Controller's Office: Controller/Administrator Sobie, Communications Director Bailey, Finance Director Ballard, Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Dawson

Commissioner Barber moved to increase the reduction of funding to Community Mental Health General Services from 38.54% to 100%. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioner Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: Commissioner Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, and Jones. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber moved to increase the reduction of funding to Barry-Eaton District Health Department from 25% to 50%. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioner Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: Commissioner Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, and Jones. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haskell moved to restore Capital Area United Way – VITA AIC funding and increase the reduction of funding to 50% for Capital Area United Way-211. Seconded by Pearl-Wright. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioner Arndt, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, and Jones. Nays: Commissioner Peek, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, Mott. Motion failed.

Commissioner Barber moved to increase the reduction of funding to Capital Area United Way-211 Program to 100%. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioner Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: Commissioner Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, and Jones. Motion carried.

Commissioner Arndt moved to have the Eaton Conservation District funding be added to the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Fund. Discussion was held. It was clarified that this funding was specific to park services the Conservation District provides to all Eaton County Parks. Seconded by Commissioner Peek. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber moved to increase the reduction of funding to MSU Extension to 100% from 30%. Seconded by Commissioner Christensen. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioner Arndt, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber and Mott. Nays: Commissioner Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, and Jones. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget projection was presented by Controller/Administrator Sobie. Discussion held.

Commissioner Christensen moved to eliminate the two open positions in the Drain Office, the Accountant and Special Assessment Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Discussion held. Roll call vote. Ayes: Commissioner Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Mott, Holmes, Barber. Nays: Commissioner Arndt. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the County Clerk office restructuring request. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Motion carried unanimously.

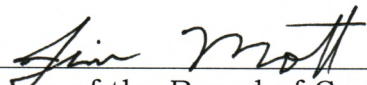
Public Comment: County resident Jim Billig spoke regarding drain assessments on his property.

Commissioner Droscha moved to enter closed session at 1:54 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8 (c) to discuss labor relations and negotiations. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Roll call vote. Commissioner Arndt, Peek, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, Jones, Droscha, Hansen, Christensen, Holmes, Barber, and Mott. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

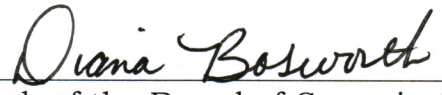
Regular session resumed at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Droscha moved to accept the strategy as discussed in closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Hansen. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mott adjourned the meeting to Special Meeting on Friday, August 8, 2025,
at 9:00 a.m.



Chairman of the Board of Commissioners



Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

