WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairperson Brian Droscha, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, and Keith Barber.
ALSO PRESENT:	Commissioners Jim Mott, Nicole Christensen, and Scott Hansen; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Logan Bailey, Melissa Ballard, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Chad Powers, Rob Hillard, John Laupp, and Jim Billig.

The October 10, 2025 meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Droscha.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Controller/Administrator Conie Sobie requested to add items 9.g. Reclassification Review and Authorization for the County Clerk's Office, 9.h. Tentative Agreement with Command Officer's Union Wage Reopener, and 15.a. Sheriff Notary Fee Schedule Amendment. Ms. Sobie also requested the removal of item 12.a. Resolution to Approve FY25/26 Budget Amendments. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber moved to approve the September 12, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Tim Vandermark, Equalization Director, provided information regarding the proposed Charlotte DDA Expansion. Rob Hillard, Manager for the City of Charlotte, and John Laupp, Board Chair of the DDA, spoke about the DDA and the request for expansion. Discussion held. Commissioner Haskell moved to send the discussion to the full board without recommendation. Commissioner Pearl-Wright Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Technology Services Director Eric Daley provided a departmental update. Mr. Daley discussed the Request for Proposals for the County's Remonumentation Representative. He also discussed the Cybersecurity Grant, which is due October 20, 2025. Mr. Daley provided information about working with the Parks Department regarding the computer program that deals with online rentals. He also indicated he will be presenting a roll-over request for funds in the coming months.

Communication Director Logan Bailey provided a departmental update, discussing the County's social media, indicating a slight decrease in activity. Mr. Bailey indicated that he is using Constant Contact to create the newsletter, which has helped minimize his time creating and maintaining the newsletter, as well as assisting in keeping the County website ADA compliant. He also provided information regarding the passage of the State budget.

Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update. Mr. Dawson discussed the currently open positions and indicated that there is a shortage of qualified attorneys and law enforcement personnel, not just in Eaton County, but state-wide. There is one recommended position to fill. Commissioner Haskell moved to fill the recommended position. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson presented the County's dental insurance renewal. The County is currently in year three of a three-year rate-lock guarantee, which means the County has not experienced the increased administrative costs for dental insurance. The current renewal includes an option to renew the rate-lock for an additional three-year term, which administration is recommending. Mr. Dawson requested that all insurance renewals be approved as a slate rather than individually.

Mr. Dawson presented the County's vision insurance renewal. Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the dental and vision renewals, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson presented three detailed options for cost-sharing structures for the County's health insurance coverage. County administration is recommending the use of expected rates this year, as well as a P.A. 152 override to adopt the following cost-sharing: an employee increase of 5.0% over the 2025 employee rates and an employer increase of 6.9%. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the P.A. 152 override to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided information regarding the adoption of a BioSimilar Rx Savings Program Strategy for calendar year 2026. Administration is requesting a resolution authorizing the Controller/Administrator to change to a BioSimilar Rx Strategy for 2026. This authorization will include taking the necessary steps to communicate and implement the change effective January 1, 2026. Commissioner Barber moved to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2026 General Non-Union Employee 2026 Holiday Schedule was presented. Commissioner Barber moved to accept the schedule. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Grant for Fire Training Facility in Eaton County, Michigan. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the MOU to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided information regarding the classification analysis for the new position of Chief Deputy County Clerk and Register of Deeds in the Eaton County Clerk's Office. This restructure does not require a budget amendment and will strengthen the County's election processes while reducing the need for subcontractors. Commissioner Haskell moved to accept the position reclassifications effective October 1, 2025. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided a tentative agreement with the Eaton County Command Officers Association. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 10:55 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The monthly financial report for fiscal year 2024/25 was presented. Figures presented include estimated revenues and expenditures through September 30, 2025. Finance Director Melissa Ballard indicated that revenues and expenses continue as budgeted and expected.

Facilities Director Chad Powers provided a departmental update. Mr. Powers indicated his department is working with the Controller's Office regarding office space leases in County-owned buildings. Electronic

Vehicle charging usage was discussed, and Mr. Powers indicated he would have more information next month. Mr. Powers presented an updated priority list for capital improvements regarding the use of bond proceeds. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the updated priority list. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided an update on policy implementation. He discussed drain code reforms, indicating the County has been involved in discussions at multiple levels of government and that discussions are ongoing.

Ms. Sobie provided an update regarding committee appointments. She indicated there would be more information at the November Ways and Means meeting.

Miscellaneous – a resolution to amend the Sheriff Notary Fee Schedule was presented by Ms. Sobie. The notary fee will rise from $2.50 to $5.00. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the amendment. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $2,272,648.39, immediate claims in the amount of $2,435,018.68, electronic claims in the amount of $14,965,194.80, and employee payroll in the amount of $1,999,120.44 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mudry. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited public comment. Jim Billings spoke about the drain assessments in Eaton County and the negative effects for homeowners who have received large bills.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

Brian Droscha, Chairperson