

PUBLIC WORKS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Keith Barber, Brian Droscha, Scott Hansen, Jane Whitacre, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Nicole Christensen, and Jacob Toomey

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Dawson, Claudine Williams, Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Brandy Miller, and Ethan Jacobs

The November 1, 2025, regular meeting of the Public Works and Human Services Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Barber.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Droscha moved to amend the agenda to add item 12.b. Resolution to Appoint Deputy Medical Examiner. Commissioner Hansen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Brian Ross, Chairperson of the Eaton County Planning Commission, spoke of the lack of communication between the County and Townships regarding the issue of planning and zoning. He stated smaller townships will have issues taking over these services.

Allison Williams, an office manager from a local construction company, complimented the Planning and Zoning department and the services they provide. She requested Eaton County retain the Planning and Zoning Department and continue providing this county service.

Joe Reeves, Finance Director for Tri County Office on Aging, was present to provide a semi-annual report.

Deputy Drain Commissioner, Marcus Service, presented the Drain Commissioner Semi-Annual Report. Mr. Service stated that there are two upcoming drain projects – the Higby Drain and the Brown Drain. Discussion held.

Brandy Miller, Planning and Zoning Administrator, presented the monthly Construction Codes/Planning and Zoning report. She stated that the Planning Commission voted against rescinding the Zoning Ordinance. Discussion held. Commissioner Barber moved for staff to prepare a budget amendment for the Ways and Means Committee to review that would fund Planning and Zoning until December 31, 2025. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried - one Nay.

Commissioner Barber moved that all Townships inform the County, in writing, by December 3rd, what their intent is for administering Planning and Zoning. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Motion carried unanimously.

Jared Bogdanov-Hanna, Director of Resource Recovery, presented the monthly department report. He spoke about a pilot program implementing recycling at our County Parks and noted the department is in the process of reviewing county events and planning for Spring Clean-Up and Recycle Palooza in 2026. It was also noted the department will have a budget amendment recommendation for the MMP Grant for Committee review in December or January.

Ethan Jacobs, Parks Director, presented the department's monthly report. He announced the Natural Capital Forestry has begun marking trees for harvest in Fox Park and the Fitzgerald Park Stairs are complete and open to the public. Mr. Jacobs said fall clean-up is currently going on throughout the parks. Parks usage data was provided. Commissioner Whitacre moved to recommend approval of a Resolution to Authorize an Application to the Department of Natural Resources for a Fisheries and Habitat Grant to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Claudine Williams, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, provided an update on 2026 committee appointments. Discussion was held. The Committee directed Ms. Williams to re-advertise the open committee positions and continue accepting citizen applicants through November 21.

Ms. Williams presented the Semi-Annual Landfill Monitoring Report. She stated there have been no changes since the last report in March 2025.

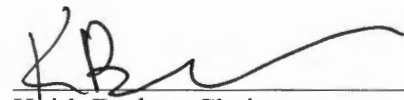
Miscellaneous. Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency - CVSF Grant Update. Ms. Williams explained that the newly announced requirements for the grant have changed in scope and no longer allow for funding of emergency services such as Meijer grocery cards, and financial assistance for VA co-pays and dental work. A new application must be submitted by November 7. Per the new requirements, Ms. Williams will be submitting a new application which will only include funding for staffing needs.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of a Resolution to Appoint a new Deputy County Medical Examiner to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Whitacre seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Jim Orr, Brookfield Township Trustee, spoke about the process for changing the Planning and Zoning department.

Chairperson Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Human Services Committee will be held on December 3, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.



Keith Barber, Chairperson