

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Brian Droscha, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, and Keith Barber.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Brandon Haskell.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Andy Shaver, Scott Hansen, and Nicole Christensen; Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Logan Bailey, Melissa Ballard, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Kelley Flynn, Chad Powers, Nathan Nighbert, and Scott Smith.

The November 14, 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 remove item 11.b. Monthly Financial Report. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber moved to approve the October 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Holmes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Scott Smith, a citizen from Sunfield Township, spoke regarding the proposed changes to the County's Planning and Zoning Department.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented and reviewed the 2025 Apportionment Report (L-4046). Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the approval of the 2025 Apportionment Report to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright Seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vandermark presented and reviewed a resolution to renew the appointment of a designated assessor and approve an interlocal agreement with local assessing districts. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend the resolution and interlocal agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vandermark and Claudine Williams, Intergovernmental Affairs and Development Director, presented and discussed a resolution to appoint a County Remonumentation Representative and related contract. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the resolution and contract to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A report on the County's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for calendar years 2024 and 2025 was presented. Discussion held.

Technology Services Director Eric Daley provided a departmental update. Mr. Daley discussed the status of several on-going projects. Additionally, Mr. Daley discussed the need to utilize funds that were not

fully expended in fiscal year 2024/25 for upcoming projects, indicating he would be presenting an amendment request for funds in the coming months.

Communication Director Logan Bailey provided a departmental update. He discussed the County's website and ADA accessibility changes, as well as website and social platform data analytics, and reviewed the new Constant Contact platform usage for both internal and external communications. Mr. Bailey also updated the committee on the status of legislative initiatives and presented policy updates he will bring to the next committee meeting in December.

Deputy Administrator/Human Resources Director Ben Dawson presented the positions update. Mr. Dawson discussed the currently open positions. There are two recommended positions to fill. Commissioner Barber moved to fill the recommended positions. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson presented a title and job description change for the Communications Director. Mr. Dawson discussed the current job scope of the Communication Director and the need to update the job description and title to better reflect the scope of work that the position currently encompasses, including grant work, legislative work, and building governmental relationships. Mr. Dawson presented the updated job description and new title, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the title and job description changes for the Communications Director, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) - Amortization Extension – Director Dawson presented the estimated reductions in the County required contributions based on the County's one-time contributions and the five-year amortization extension option. Commissioner Holmes moved to recommend approval of the extension to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Barber seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Encompass Renewal – Director Dawson presented the aggregate data about County employee use of the EAP services and then presented renewal options. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to approve the renewal of the Encompass Employee Assistance Program, as presented. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Delta Fire Interlocal Agreement. - Director Dawson and Central Dispatch Director Kelley Flynn spoke on the draft Agreement and provided background. There is still significant work to be done and the item was a discussion only. No action taken.

The health insurance report for fiscal year 2024/25 was presented. Finance Director Melissa Ballaard discussed the figures presented, which include healthcare costs through September 30, 2025, but do not include the final fiscal year-end adjustments or final quarterly settlement amounts. Ms. Ballard indicated the substantial changes the County has made over the last year regarding the funding mechanism for Retirees' Health Care and the elimination of GLP1 medications have reduced the County's overall health insurance costs by more than \$1.0 million dollars compared to the prior year. These changes have helped stabilize both the Retirees' Health Care Fund and the Health Insurance Fund.

Facilities Director Chad Powers provided a departmental update. Mr. Powers and Nathan Nighbert, Deputy Technology Services Director, discussed electronic vehicle charging usage. Mr. Powers indicated his department is working with the Controller's Office regarding office space leases in County-owned buildings, and lease renewal agreements would be brought before the Committee in December.

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

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

Budget Amendment for Planning and Zoning. – Controller/Administrator Sobie, Director Dawson, and Director Williams presented estimated expenses and revenue projections for Planning and Zoning, focusing on the potential impact to the County's G/F. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend the approval of the a budget amendment for funding June 30, 2026, to the Board of Commissioners, as discussed. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

An update on policy development and implementation was provided. Ms. Sobie indicated that the County's Privacy Policy and Vehicle Policy are being reviewed, and administration is hopeful to have these policies ready for the Committee's review in December.

Ms. Sobie provided an update regarding committee appointments. Applicants will be invited to speak at the December Ways and Means Committee Meeting prior to the finalization of the appointments.

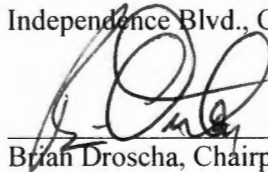
Miscellaneous. None.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of \$699,186.59, immediate claims in the amount of \$4,977,613.06, electronic claims in the amount of \$25,194,329.20, and employee payroll in the amount of \$1,820,037.64 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Barber. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited public comment. Scott Smith spoke regarding the changes to Planning and Zoning.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, December 12, 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