WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Andy Shaver, Scott Hansen, and Nicole Christensen; Dairus Reynnet, Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Logan Bailey, Melissa Ballard, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Tom Reich, Jeff Cook, Rob Block, Chad Powers, Nathan Nighbert, Barbara Rogers, and Mike Baker.

The December 12, 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 item 7. County Treasurer – Foreclosure Update. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber moved to approve the November 14, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Commissioner Droscha wished Commissioner Christensen happy birthday.

The following attendees presented information regarding their desire to be appointed to the Land Bank Committee: Barbara Rogers, Mik Baker, Dairus Reynnet on behalf of Kern Slucter, and Tim Eggleston. A vote was taken, with Andrea Cascarilla and Mike Baker receiving the winning votes.

Dairus Reynnett, Eaton County Treasurer, presented information regarding a Foreclosure Update. He cited three cases that may have wide-reaching effects. Rafael vs. Oakland, a 2020 case, Wayside Church Class Action Lawsuit, and Pung vs. Isabella at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented the 2025 Equalization Study. Discussion held.

Technology Services Director Eric Daley provided a departmental update. Mr. Daley discussed the status of the Remonumentation Program update. Also discussed was the plan to update the County's printers and software.

Sheriff Reich spoke about the Axon Body Camera Contract. Nathan Nighbert, Deputy Director of Technology Services, provided additional data regarding the contract. Information was provided regarding the equipment, cost, and the training covered under the contract. Commissioner Haskell moved to send the contract to the full board for approval. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried, with one (1) opposed (Barber).

Public and Governmental Affairs Director Logan Bailey provided a departmental update. Mr. Bailey discussed the County's website and phishing attacks that have impacted County residents. Also discussed was the State Fiscal Agency Report on cuts to previously approved appropriations from the State.

Commissioner Haskell recommended drafting a Resolution from the Board of Commissioners regarding the appropriations.

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

Mr. Dawson presented a position request from Technology Services for a Network Administrator. This position would be funded 100% by the Delta administration fee. Mr. Daley spoke about the need for this position. Commissioner Pearl-Wright made a motion to send the request to the full board. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson stated that the on-call status information will be presented in January.

The Annual Reclassification Process was presented. The request is to put a hold on the individual reclassification requests, but continue to allow the special classification requests for another year. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to approve the process. Commissioner Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dawson also stated that the County is overdue for a salary study. The last study was completed in 2014.

Mr. Dawson presented a request to increase the short-term disability rate that the employer provides. Commissioner Haskell moved to increase the rate. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Finance Director Melissa Ballard presented the financial reports. She stated that she will not be presenting a financial report next month, instead waiting until a quarterly report can be prepared. Ms. Ballard also provided information regarding healthcare expenses. Discussion held.

Facilities Director Chad Powers presented a monthly report. He provided an update on public improvement projects. Mr. Powers also reported on the jail fire alarm system upgrade that will be completed as of December 12.Mr. Powers also provided a breakdown for the USDA lease. MSU Extension has also relocated as of December 12, although they will continue to use that space occasionally. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to accept the lease agreement with the USDA. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Powers provided information regarding the purchase of a new pick-up for the Physical Plant department. Discussion held. Commissioner Barber moved to go forward with the quote from Shaheen Chevrolet. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided an update regarding the Police Services Contract. Discussion held.

Ms. Ballard presented the budget amendments. The State of Michigan informed the County that the WRAP Program was eliminated from the state budget. The result of this is a decrease in revenue. Discussion held. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the amendments. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Logan Bailey, Director of Public and Governmental Affairs, presented a new Privacy Policy. Commissioner Haskell moved to send the policy to the full board for approval. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous. Commissioner Barber stated that he has had calls from his constituents regarding MERS. Mr. Dawson provided information. Commissioner Haskell spoke about the $5 million removal from the Bank Drain. Discussion held.

Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $821,180.66, immediate claims in the amount of $4,870,711.09, electronic claims in the amount of $13,468,644.36, and employee payroll in the amount of $1,863,399.65 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mudry. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha presented the evaluation and a new one-year contract for Controller/Administrator Connie Sobie. He gave high praise to the Controller's Office. Ben Dawson provided information regarding the new contract for the Administrator/Controller. Jim Mott, Chairman of the Board, spoke about the contract and commended Ms. Sobie for her performance. Commissioner Droscha moved to accept the proposal and send it to the full board. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited public comment. None.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held in January 2026 on a date and time to be determined at the Board of Commissioners Organizational Meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on January 5, 2026, in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.

Brian Droscha, Chairperson