WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairperson Brian Droscha, Andy Shaver, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, and Keith Barber.
ALSO PRESENT:	Commissioners Jim Mott, Scott Hansen, and Nicole Christensen; Dairus Reynnet, Connie Sobie, Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Claudine Williams, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Tom Reich, Jeff Cook, Rob Block, Chad Powers, Nathan Nighbert, Barbara Rogers, and Mike Baker.

The January 16, 2026, 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 10 Construction Code Fee Waiver Request and move item 21 County Bills/Procurement before item 20 Miscellaneous. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber moved to approve the December 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Commissioner Barber presented information regarding EATRAN and the benefits to the County. EATRAN is requesting a millage be added to the ballot for the general election being held in November 2026. The millage would be for 0.25 mills for five (5) years. Commissioner Holmes moved to recommend the resolution to submit to a vote of the electorate an EATRAN millage authorization question to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A Delinquent Tax Borrowing Resolution was presented by Controller Sobie. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Reich spoke about the retirement of Captain Ross Tyrell. Aaron Kayne was promoted to Captain and Sarah Hollenbeck was promoted to Lieutenant of Corrections. Sheriff Reich presented a plan to meet the jail funding gap due to the loss of the WRAP program that was funded by the State of Michigan.

A Resolution to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Police Services – Windsor Charter Township was presented. Discussion held. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the agreement, to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Claudine Williams, Intergovernmental Affairs and Development Director, presented a request from the Parks Department requesting to waive the grant administrative fee for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Habitat Grant. Discussion held. Commissioner Shaver moved to charge a reasonable fee determined by the Controller's Office. Commissioner Shaver amended his motion to specify 3% as an administrative fee for this grant. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried. One nay from Commissioner Barber.

Tim Vandermark, Equalization Director, presented a Resolution Authorizing Agreements with Remonumentation Surveyors for Research and Surveying Required Under the Eaton County Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan for the 2026 Grant Year. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Eric Daley, Technology Director, presented a departmental report. He also provided information on current projects, including GIS activities.

Ben Dawson, Deputy Controller/Administrator, presented a Resolution to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire Station Alerting Project – Delta Charter Township. This is phase one of the project. Phase two will be under discussion in the future. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Commissioner Shaver moved to change the administrative fee from 10% to 15%. Seconded by Barber. Discussion held. Roll Call Vote: Shaver – Yes, Haskell – No, Pearl-Wright – No, Mudry – No, Holmes – No, Barber – Yes, Droscha – Yes. Motion did not carry. Vote on original motion to recommend the agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented, carried.

Ms. Williams presented the departmental report for Public & Governmental Affairs. She stated that the funding for the Security Appropriation has passed the House and the Senate and is just waiting for the president to sign.

Mr. Dawson presented the positions update and discussed the currently open positions. He stated that the report will be updated to reflect the part-time Veterans Services Coordinator position. This position was approved by the Veterans Services Grant. There were no vacant positions for the committee's review and approval.

MERS contacted Eaton County stating that they were discontinuing a provision that two of our unions use for Health Care Savings Program. The County have received a Letter of Agreement signed by the Central Dispatch Non-Supervisory Unit union. This agreement will standardize the HCSP across the County. Commissioner Haskell moved to accept the agreement, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson provided an update on the On-Call Policy. He stated that he will have the policy completed in February, with the hope of backdating the policy to January 1, 2026. Discussion held.

Mr. Dawson presented information regarding the Non-Union Personnel Policy Changes. This policy still must be given to Directors for their input. A policy will be provided in February.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 10:21 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Finance Director Melissa Ballard presented the financial reports for November 2025. The County is moving forward as projected.

Controller Sobie presented the budget amendments. One amendment is for the purchase of vehicles originally budgeted as a lease. She also provided information regarding the new Mobile Command Unit. This unit requires indoor storage, and Chad Powers provided financial information on modifications to the overhead door on the storage unit to accommodate additional height. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend approval of the amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Facilities Director Chad Powers presented the monthly public improvement report and provided an update on public improvement projects, including the status of the jail fire alarm system upgrade. Mr. Powers also indicated that the Federal Security Improvement Funding has been officially approved and the County will be receiving approximately $500,000.00.

Mr. Powers indicated that the Eaton County Conservation District contacted him and requested to pursue a lease utilizing the space that MSU Extension has recently vacated. Commissioner Barber moved to authorize the discussions. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $604,010.90, immediate claims in the amount of $5,759,762.86, electronic claims in the amount of $16,083,720.99, and employee payroll in the amount of $2,484,879.71 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous. Chairman Mott read a letter from Controller Sobie indicating that she will be retiring effective February 20, 2026.

Limited public comment. None.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held February 13, 2026, 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