WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 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; Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Claudine Williams, Logan Bailey, Amanda Pollard, Amy Etzel, Jeremy Mulvany, Matt Newburg, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Rachel Cuschieri-Murray, and Jeff Christensen.

The March 13, 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 Ben Dawson requested to add item 8. Public Defender Office Update, item 9a. Public Works and Human Services Committee, Marijuana Operation and Oversight Grant Policy Admin Fee Exception Request, item 9b. Resolution Approving Local Roads and Streets Improvement Millage, and item 9c. Mobile Trailer Recycling Program Employment Contract, 9d. Resolution to approve DNR Trust Fund Application. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Shaver moved to approve the February 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None

A resolution to Approve Agreement for Physician Services at the Eaton County Youth Facility was presented along with an associated agreement. Probate Court Judge Amanda Pollard, Trial Court Administrator Amy Etzel, and Youth Facility Director Jeremy Mulvany were present to discuss the proposed agreement. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Pollard and Ms. Etzel presented a request to restructure several positions within the Trial Courts. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the requested changes be sent to the third-party consultant to have the changes evaluated for potential changes in compensation. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Public Defender Matt Newburg discussed changes to the Public Defender's Office, requesting the creation of a Fellowship program, to be called the John Deming Fellowship, the execution of a contract for Managed Assigned Counsel Coordinator Services, execution of proposed contractual agreements for Assigned Contract Attorneys, as well as the implementation of a new software program, Clio. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the requested changes to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller Dawson presented a request for an administrative fee exception for the Marijuana Operation and Oversight Grant for consideration by the Committee. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the exception to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution Authorizing Local Roads and Streets Preservation and Improvement Millage Proposal and Certifying Ballot Language was presented. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Barber seconded. Discussion held. Nays: Commissioners Pearl-Wright and Mudry. Motion passed.

An agreement for independent contractor services for the Resource Recovery Mobile Trailer Recycling Program was presented. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to Authorize Application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Fund Program for an Acquisition Grant was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Barber seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 10:40 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented a resolution to approve Appraisal Services Contract with Accurate Assessing LLC. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to For a Partial Termination of a Farmland Development Rights Agreement with a Pre-Existing Structure, was presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Barber seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Technology Services Director Eric Daley provided the monthly report for his department. Mr. Daley discussed a meeting with Verizon to ensure that adequate coverage is being provided within the County. Mr. Daley also discussed the execution of the Axon Body Camera updates, vulnerability scanning changes, and development of the 2026/2027 budget.

Public and Governmental Affairs Director Logan Bailey provided the monthly report for his department. Mr. Bailey indicated that digital platform traffic remains steady month-over-month. Mr. Bailey discussed the continuing development of an Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Use and Acquisition Policy. He anticipated this policy will be ready for review by the committee for the April 2026 Ways and Means Committee meeting. Mr. Bailey also discussed funding requests submitted for federal and state appropriations opportunities.

Mr. Bailey also discussed the changes required of the County to maintain compliance with newly implemented Federal Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and summary guidance from the Department of Justice.

Controller Dawson presented the Positions Update and discussed the currently open positions. The County has a 9.51% vacancy rate for March 2026. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the recommended open positions. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller Dawson presented an Engagement Letter for Labor Counsel with Schultz and Young P.C. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend acceptance of the engagement letter to the Board of

Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director, Melissa Ballard, provided an update on the County's annual audit for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025. Based on current information, the County will likely receive two audit findings. Discussion held.

The monthly Health Insurance Report for January 2026 was presented. The report does not include the quarterly settlement information which will reduce the overall expenses for the October through December time-period. Expenses for fixed costs are higher than prior year, which is expected based on the increased costs from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

The Monthly Financial Report for February 2026 was presented. Discussion held.

The Capital Improvement Report was presented and discussed.

Controller Dawson presented a request for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Eaton Conservation District and the County for the use of office space. Rachel Cuschieri-Murray, Executive Director of the Eaton Conservation District, was present to answer questions regarding the request. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the approval of the Memorandum to the Board of Commissioners, as discussed. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A Lease Agreement between Eaton County and the United States Department of Agriculture was presented. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the lease agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to Approve 2025/2026 Budget Amendments was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Approve 2025/2026 Budget Amendments to the Board of Commissioners, as amended to include changes to the Public Defender's Office and the implementation of Body Worn Cameras for the Construction Code inspectors. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

An updated credit card policy was presented. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the updated credit card policy to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous. None.

Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $305,769.11, immediate claims in the amount of $3,448,549.34, electronic claims in the amount of $6,301,416.69, and employee payroll in the amount of $1,990,875.19 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mudry. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

The Employment Agreement for Controller/Administrator Ben Dawson was presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend the Employment Agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Preliminary personnel projections for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 were presented. Discussion held.

Limited public comment. Jeff Christensen shared that two bills have been presented for vote in the Michigan House: House Bill 5692 and 5693 regarding changes to the Drain Code.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held April 10, 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