

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2026

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Wednesday, February 18, 2026, including the availability of virtual attendance by the public.

Chairman Mott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Mott gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by all.

Roll call. Commissioners present: Andy Shaver, Chris Arndt, Jason Peek, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Jane M. Whitacre, Mark Mudry, Kyle Jones, Brian Droscha, Jacob Toomey, Scott Hansen, Nicole Christensen, Jim Mott, Frank Holmes, Keith Barber. Commissioners absent: None.

Commissioner Barber requested the addition to Public Works and Human Services Committee Item #3 – Resolution to Temporarily Amend the Construction Codes Festival Permit Fee. Commissioner Holmes requested the addition to Old Business Item #13b – Windsor Township Police Services Agreement. Commissioner Christensen requested item #11 – Commissioner Comment be moved to Item #15b.

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the organizational minutes of January 5, 2026, regular minutes of January 21, 2026, and special minutes of January 29, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Shaver. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of the closed session minutes of January 29, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Whitacre. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Communications: Iron County Resolution Supporting Repealing MCL 46.415(2). Washtenaw County Resolution Opposing Ballot Proposals That Would Impose Documentary Proof of Citizenship Requirements Creating Barriers to Voting in Michigan. Washtenaw County and Kalkaska County Resolutions Supporting Michigan House Bills 5152 and 5153. St. Joseph County Resolution Opposing Legislation for Construction of Data Centers/Battery Storage Facilities. (On file)

Public comment was offered by County resident Crystal Perry.

Chairman Mott moved the approval of Committee on Committees appointments as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Droscha. Nays: Arndt. Motion carries.

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of #26-2-16 Resolution Amending the Salary and Benefits of Road Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-

Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of #26-2-17 Resolution Approving Memorandum of Understanding between Eaton County and the Village of Mulliken. Seconded by Commissioner Shaver. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of #26-2-18 Resolution to Temporarily Amend the Construction Code Festival Permit Fee. Seconded by Commissioner Shaver. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of #26-2-19 Resolution to Approve Application for Title IV-E Child & Parent Representation Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Christensen. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Holmes moved to approve a Public Safety Committee Appointment.

Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) Appointment
Matt Newburg – Defense Attorney.

Seconded by Commissioner Peek. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #26-2-20 Resolution to Approve On-Call Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #26-2-21 Resolution to Approve Amendment to Payout of Earned Sick Leave Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #26-2-22 Resolution to Approve FY 2025/26 Budget Amendments. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of #26-2-23 Resolution to Approve FY 2025/26 Budget Amendments. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of claims as audited by the Ways & Means Committee for \$9,967,087.98 and to accept the report of previously authorized payments. Seconded by Commissioner Shaver. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Administrator's Report: Controller Sobie presented her final report as Controller/Administrator.

Elected Official Comment: Circuit Court Judge Morton thanked Controller Sobie on behalf of the Courts.

There was no Unfinished Business.

Old Business: Chairman Mott moved the appointment of Ben Dawson as Eaton County Controller/Administrator, along with the request for legal counsel to negotiate the contract and be presented to Ways and Means Committee meeting next month. Seconded by Commissioner Arndt. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Holmes approved the Windsor Township Police Services Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

New Business: Commissioner Whitacre moved the approval of Christine Walker for Jury Board Appointment. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Ben Dawson presented Controller's Office Restructure and Personnel Strategies.

Commissioner Haskell moved to send the proposed plan to Ways & Means Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously. (On file)

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of #26-2-24 Resolution of Appreciation of Connie Sobie - Controller's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioners Mott, Pearl-Wright, Haskell, Arndt, Toomey, Holmes, Droscha, Mudry, Whitacre, Shaver, Hansen offered comments.

Public Comment was offered by County residents Chad Powers, Kelley Flynn, Jason Gillman, Chris Anderson, Kim Morris, Barbara Rogers and Bob Sobie.

Chairman Mott adjourned the meeting to Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



Chairman of the Board of Commissioners



Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SALARY AND BENEFITS
OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright.

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is responsible for establishing the salary and benefits of County Road Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the salary for road commissioners has been discussed by the Public Works and Human Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, the last amendment was approved on December 16, 2009, by Resolution #09-12-140.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Road Commissioners are eligible to receive a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) meeting per diem for approved meetings attended and reimbursement of mileage to the meetings at the applicable IRS mileage reimbursement rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salary for road commissioners shall remain at forty-five hundred dollars (\$4,500) per year with no other compensation received without approval of the Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any allowable health care benefits are determined as approved by the Board of Commissioners in Resolution #09-12-140. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EATON COUNTY RESOURCE
RECOVERY DEPARTMENT AND VILLAGE OF MULLIKEN**

Introduced by the Public Works and Planning Committee

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Shaver.

WHEREAS, the Village of Mulliken has requested a material management partnership with the Eaton County Resource Recovery Department; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Mulliken will reimburse Eaton County the rate of (cost/pound) for recycled materials collected at the Mulliken Recycling Center and delivered by the Village of Mulliken to Eaton County's Sunfield Recycling Center, and relinquish any claim to the materials upon their eventual resale to market; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Resource Recovery Department and the Public Works and Human Services Committee have reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and are recommending its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Eaton approves entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of Mulliken, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or their designee be authorized to sign any necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

**RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY AMEND THE
CONSTRUCTION CODES FESTIVAL PERMIT FEE**

Introduced by the Public Works and Human Services Committee

Commissioner Barber moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Shaver.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners has directed the Construction Code & Planning and Zoning Department to collect fees to cover costs associated with the operation of the department; and

WHEREAS, a temporary fee amendment, specifically for Festival Permits, has been requested; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Human Services Committee has reviewed and is recommending the Festival Permit fee be set at \$84.00 until September 30, 2026 and then revert to the approved amended Construction Codes Fee Schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves this temporary Festival Permit fee amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the amendment to the Construction Codes fee schedule shall expire on September 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR TITLE IV-E CHILD & PARENT
LEGAL REPRESENTATION GRANT**

Introduced by the Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Holmes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Christensen.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Human Services has Title IV-E funding available through the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the Trial Court Juvenile Division is seeking to apply for Title IV-E funding in order to offset the expenses of the County for parent and child legal representation in child abuse and neglect hearings; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee recommends the approval of the grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Trial Court Juvenile Division to submit a grant application in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the period of October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners or his designee be authorized to sign any necessary contracts or documents. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EATON COUNTY ON-CALL POLICY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the growing demands on managing governmental systems, making it necessary for staff to be available 365 days a year, 7 days a week, and 24 hours per day; and

WHEREAS, an On-Call Policy has been developed for non-union, exempt employees, which is meant to address these growing demands for specific departmental offices that are required to be available to perform work 24/7; and

WHEREAS, this policy has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Ways and Means Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the Eaton County Exempt Employee On-Call Policy, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

RESOLUTION TO AMEND PERSONNEL POLICY

Introduced by the Ways & Means Committee

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the County's struggle to retain employees long-term; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend the Personnel Policy to provide for incremental increases in the payout of accrued sick leave based on years of full-time service; and

WHEREAS, the current Eaton County Personnel Policy provides that employees who retire and are immediately eligible for retirement benefits, or who have completed twenty-five (25) years of full-time service, shall receive a payout of fifty percent (50%) of unused accrued sick leave upon retirement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the Eaton County Personnel Policy for eligible employees to receive an additional ten percent (10%) payout of unused accrued sick leave for each full year of service beyond twenty-five (25) years, up to a maximum of one hundred percent (100%) upon completion of thirty (30) years of full-time service, subject to applicable hour limitations in the Personnel Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator be authorized to negotiate Letters of Agreement with the County's Collective Bargaining Units to include this provision in the current contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or their designee is authorized to sign the Letters of Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2025/2026 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County 2025/2026 Appropriations Act of September 17, 2025, states that any amendment to increase a salary and/or a Capital Outlay line-item in excess of \$5,000.00 or any amendment to increase the total budget of any fund or department in excess of \$5,000.00 shall be amended by the Board of Commissioners, except that any amendment to decrease the General Fund Contingency shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, such amendments are needed in order to comply with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act of 1978, P.A. 621.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments be approved and added to the 2025/2026 Eaton County Budget:

GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENTS

CONTROLLER – 101.172

Increase	Salaries	\$	17,500
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	1,750
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	19,250

BUILDING & GROUNDS – 101.265

Increase	Salaries	\$	2,900
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	290
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	3,190

TRIAL COURTS – 101.281

Increase	Salaries	\$	1,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	100
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	1,100

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – 101.296

Increase	Salaries	\$	4,200
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	420
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	4,620

SHERIFF – 101.301

Increase	Salaries	\$	8,400
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	840
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	9,240

To amend total budget for updates to the County's Personnel Policy for Sick Leave Payouts. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**FEBRUARY 18, 2026****RESOLUTION TO APPROVE 2025/2026 BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Commissioner Droscha moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell.

WHEREAS, the Eaton County 2025/2026 Appropriations Act of September 17, 2025, states that any amendment to increase a salary and/or a Capital Outlay line-item in excess of \$5,000.00 or any amendment to increase the total budget of any fund or department in excess of \$5,000.00 shall be amended by the Board of Commissioners, except that any amendment to decrease the General Fund Contingency shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, such amendments are needed in order to comply with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act of 1978, P.A. 621.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments be approved and added to the 2025/2026 Eaton County Budget:

GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENTS**CONTROLLER – 101.172**

Increase	Salaries	\$	26,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	2,600
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	28,600

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES – 101.228

Increase	Salaries	\$	26,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	2,600
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	28,600

BUILDING & GROUNDS – 101.265

Increase	Salaries	\$	13,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	1,300
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	14,300

TRIAL COURTS – 101.281

Increase	Salaries	\$	13,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	1,300
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	14,300

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – 101.296

Increase	Salaries	\$	13,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	1,300
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	14,300

To amend total budget for the implementation of the On-Call Policy.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGET AMENDMENTS

CENTRAL DISPATCH - 261

Increase	Salaries	\$	13,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	1,300
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	14,300

CHILD CARE FUND – YOUTH FACILITY - 292

Increase	Salaries	\$	13,000
Increase	Fringe Benefits	\$	1,300
Increase	Fund Balance Carryover (Use)	\$	14,300

To amend total budget for the implementation of the On-Call Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
CONNIE SOBIE
CONTROLLERS OFFICE
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

Commissioner Haskell moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Toomey.

WHEREAS, Connie Sobie will be retiring from Eaton County on February 20, 2026, after nearly 38 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Connie worked in the Controller's Office in multiple roles, including starting as the Accounts Payable Clerk in 1988, was promoted to Deputy Administrator in 2006, and is retiring as the Controller/Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Connie has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Connie's years of public service and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service Connie provided to Eaton County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 18th day of the month of February in the year 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Mott
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Diana Bosworth
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
CONNIE SOBIE
CONTROLLERS OFFICE
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

WHEREAS, Connie Sobie will be retiring from Eaton County on February 20, 2026, after nearly 38 years of service; and

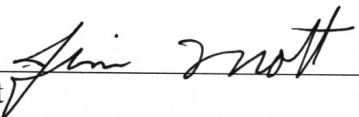
WHEREAS, Connie worked in the Controller's Office in multiple roles, including starting as the Accounts Payable Clerk in 1988, was promoted to Deputy Administrator in 2006, and is retiring as the Controller/Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Connie has provided dedicated and honorable service to the residents and employees of Eaton County; and

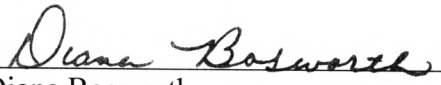
WHEREAS, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners seeks to recognize and express appreciation for Connie's years of public service and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere gratitude for the years of exceptional service Connie provided to Eaton County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and support be duly recorded and attached to the permanent records of the County on this 18th day of the month of February in the year 2026.



Jim Mott
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners



Diana Bosworth
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners