WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 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, Melanie Achenbach, Diana Bosworth, Tim Vandermark, Nathan Nighbert, Amy Etzel, Reid Felsing, and Chad Powers.

The April 10, 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 items:
8. Committee Action Items
   a. PWHS - Change of Conditions Fee Waiver Request
   b. PWHS - Resolution to Amend Funding Agreement for Opioid Settlement Funds with 56th Adult Drug Court
   c. PWHS - Bank Intercounty Drain Grant Opportunity
   d. PS - Jail Agreement for Medical/Psychiatric Services
   e. PS - Jail and CMH Agreement Renewal for Jail Diversion
   f. PS - Resolution to Submit to a Vote of the Electorate for Renewal and Restoration of the Juvenile Millage
   g. PS - Resolution to Submit to a Vote of the Electorate for Renewal and Restoration of the Millage for the Comprehensive Emergency Telephone Services (9-1-1 Services)
   h. PS - Restructure Proposal for Central Dispatch and Emergency Management
14. Finance Director
   d. 2024/2025 Year End Report
   e. 2024/25 PA 202 Report and Request for Waiver
And to Remove 20. c. Capital Improvement Program - Annual Report.

Commissioner Shaver moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Limited Public Comment. None.

Nathan Baldermann, Audit Principal with the County's audit firm Rehmann Robson, was present to discuss the results of the audit of the County Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2025. Mr. Baldermann explained the County's audit opinion on the financial statements' presentation in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and provided a review of the financial statements and upcoming Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. Mr. Baldermann, Controller Dawson, and Finance Director Melissa Ballard answered questions from Committee members.

Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the Resolution to Accept the September 30, 2025, Eaton County Audit to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A recommendation from the Public Works and Human Services Committee was presented for a Change of Conditions Fee Waiver Request for the County related to Crandell Park. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the approval of the request to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works and Human Services Committee presented a Resolution to Amend Funding Agreement for Opioid Settlement Funds with 56th Adult Drug Court. The resolution would amend the agreement terms from 12 months to 2 years to fully expend the allocated funds. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the approval of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Works and Human Services Committee presented a Resolution to Authorize Application for Bank Intercounty State Grant Funding. Commissioner Haskell requested that Spicer Group present an update to the Committee next month. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend authorization of the application to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Safety Committee presented a Resolution to Approve Physician Agreement for Psychiatry Services at the Eaton County Jail. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the acceptance of the agreement to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Safety Committee presented a Resolution to Approve the Renewal of the Jail Diversion Contract Between Eaton County and the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Safety Committee presented a Resolution to Submit to a Vote of the Electorate for Renewal and Restoration of the Juvenile Millage. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Safety Committee presented a Resolution to Submit to a Vote of the Electorate for Renewal and Restoration of the Millage for the Comprehensive Emergency Telephone Services (9-1-1 Services). Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Safety Committee presented a request for an organizational restructuring of the Emergency Management Department and the Central Dispatch Department. Commissioner Shaver moved to send the restructuring plan to a consultant. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Diana Bosworth, Eaton County Clerk, presented a Resolution to Amend the Register of Deeds User Fee Schedule. Clerk Bosworth requested that the fee be waived for veterans, seniors, and those experiencing financial hardships. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as amended. Commissioner Barber seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented the 2026 Equalization Report (L4024) to the Committee for their review. The total increase in equalized value from 2025 to 2026 was 6.8%.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the 2026 Equalization Report to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller Dawson presented a Request for Creating an Apprenticeship Program for Appraisers. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the request to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A Resolution to Approve an Application for a Farmland and Open Space Developmental Rights Agreement (Public Act 116 Of 1974, As Amended) for Troy D. Winslow was presented. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the approval of the application to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Nathan Nighbert, Deputy Director of Technology Services, presented the department's monthly report. Mr. Nighbert provided an update on current and completed projects. Discussion held.

Logan Bailey Public & Governmental Affairs Director provided the monthly report for his department. Mr. Bailey indicated that digital platform traffic rose over the past month due to media releases from the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecutor's Office. Other digital traffic has remained steady. Mr. Bailey discussed how Eaton County is preparing for new ADA Digital Accessibility Requirements (Effective April 24, 2026). Mr. Bailey presented a quote from CivicPlus for DocAccess, a document accessibility platform that scans, converts, and monitors PDF documents on websites to support ADA and Section 508 compliance efforts for users with disabilities. Discussion held. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the purchase of the program, along with the necessary budget amendment, to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion Carried unanimously.

Mr. Bailey also provided information regarding technology updates for the Board of Commissioners Room.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 10:45 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Controller/Administrator Dawson presented the positions update and discussed the currently open positions. The County is experiencing a 8.48% vacancy rate for March 2026. Commissioner Barber moved to approve the recommended open positions. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller Dawson provided information regarding the restructuring request for the Trial Courts. Trial Court Administrator Amy Etzel and District Court Judge Reid Felsing spoke regarding the restructure request. Discussion held. Controller Dawson indicated more information and approval of the request would be included with the budget amendments later in the meeting.

The monthly Health Insurance Report for February 2026 was presented. Expenses for fixed costs are higher than the prior year, which is expected based on the increased renewal costs from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

The February 2026 Child Care Fund Report was presented. Based on current estimates, the projected fund balance for September 30, 2026 will be approximately $1.2 million.

The March 2026 Monthly Financial Report was presented. The reports include detailed information regarding the County's current allocated millage funds, in addition to the County's General Fund. Discussion held.

Ms. Ballard provided an update on the County's annual audit for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025. Ms. Ballard provided additional context to the information provided by the County's Auditors. The County received two audit findings: one pertaining to the Material Audit Adjustments, and one pertaining to the Procurement, Suspension, and Debarment for the Health Department's Injury Prevention and Control Research and State Community Based Programs Grant. Discussion held.

Commissioner Shaver moved to separate the Health Department's audit and the County's audit. Commissioner Barber seconded. Discussion held. Ms. Ballard requested the County go out for an RFP based on the scope of the audit changing by removing the Health Department from the County's audit. Commissioner Shaver amended his motion to include the RFP request. Motion carried unanimously.

A Resolution to Approve Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act Application for Waiver was presented. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the approval of the application for waiver to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Powers, Facilities Director, presented the Capital Improvement Report. Mr. Powers provided information regarding the status of the improvement projects. Discussion held.

A Resolution to Approve 2025/2026 Budget Amendments was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

An updated Eaton County Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Acquisition and Use Policy was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the policy to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

An updated Fiscal Policy – Grants, Contracts, and Donations was presented. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend approval of the policy amendment to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous. Controller Dawson provided information on the Town Hall Meeting held on March 30, 2026 that was held for leadership members of the local townships, villages, and cities. The meeting received positive feedback.

Commissioner Barber moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $527,381.07, immediate claims in the amount of $1,792,149.02, electronic claims in the amount of $6,072,480.30, and employee payroll in the amount of $1,888,946.48 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Haskell. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 12:17 p.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

The 2026/2027 preliminary revenue and expenditure projections were presented. Discussion held.

Controller Dawson discussed Outside Agency Requests. Controller Dawson requested that Administration be authorized to send letters to outside agencies, indicating that no new funding requests are being sought, however, allowing such agencies an opportunity to indicate how continued funding reductions may adversely impact their operations. Controller Dawson assured committee members that any letters received would be presented for their consideration. Commissioner Barber moved to accept the change. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A Resolution to Adopt Fund Balance Targets for Fiscal Year 2026/27 was presented. This resolution sets a minimum threshold of 10%, with an additional 5% to be held for budgetary considerations. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the approval of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Ms. Etzel expressed her appreciation to the Board for supporting the position changes at the Courts.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on May 15, 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