WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairperson Brian Droscha, Andy Shaver, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Mark Mudry, Frank Holmes, and Keith Barber.
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Commissioner Brandon Haskell.
ALSO PRESENT:	Commissioner Scott Hansen; Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Claudine Williams, Logan Bailey, Susan Kneiling, Doug Lloyd, Matt Newburg, Aaron Kayne, Melanie Achenbach, Brandy Miller, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, , and Chad Powers.

The May 15, 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:
7. Committee Action Items
   c. Public Works and Human Services - Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Administrative Fee Exception
   d. Public Works and Human Services - Crandell Park Main Entrance Engineering and Construction Bids

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

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to approve the April 10, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Prosecuting Attorney Doug Lloyd spoke about the need for a wage study (Item 15). Matt Newburg, Chief Public Defender, also spoke about the need for a wage study. Both attorneys requested that the Committee move the subject to the full Board for approval.

An MMRMA Grant Application for Jail Full Body Scanner Administrative Fee Exception was presented. Aaron Kayne, Corrections Captain, provided information on the scanner and the process. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend approval of the grant to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Melanie Achenbach, Deputy Court Administrator, presented a Request for Specialty Court Grant Applications Administrative Fee Exception. Ms. Achenbach indicated an administrative fee is not allowed for State funds, however it is allowable for Federal funds. Commissioner Holmes moved to recommend the approval of the exception to the Board of Commissioners, as requested. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried. Commissioner Shaver opposed.

Brandy Miller, Community Development and Services Director, presented a Resolution to Approve Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Administrative Fee Exception. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as discussed. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Powers, Facilities Director, presented information in reference to the Crandell Park Development. An RFP was sent out in March to five design firms, three responded with proposals. It was decided to hire Moore Trosper to manage the project. It was also decided that Eaton County would hire HRC (Hubbel, Roth & Clark, Inc.) to design and engineer a new entrance, a new beach and sledding hill, and gravel parking lots. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the acceptance of the HRC bid to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented the L4046 Base Report to the Committee for their review. The total increase was 4.9%. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the report to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vandermark also presented the L4028, L4029, and DDA Reports. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the report to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Controller Dawson provided a summary detailing Eaton County's lost revenue since 2019, including tax revenue lost due to Renaissance Zones. Motion carried unanimously.

Public and Governmental Affairs Director Logan Bailey provided updates regarding the release of the security funding, animal control appropriations, and bank intercounty drain funding. Mr. Bailey also provided information regarding the County's online traffic. Also discussed was the ADA website compliance, and Mr. Bailey stated that the federal government has extended the deadline for compliance to April of 2027.

Eric Daley, Director of Technology Services, provided the monthly report for his department. He spoke about the BEAD program, security updates, and internet accessibility in the Courthouse. Mr. Daley also discussed IT policies and updates. Director Daley spoke about the need for a wage study as Eaton County is behind in wages compared to surrounding areas.

Mr. Powers provided the monthly report for his department. He discussed the Capital Improvement Program and the modifications to various offices. Mr. Powers also presented information regarding the 551 Building.

Controller Dawson introduced the County's new Human Resources Administrator, Susan Kneiling. Mr. Dawson also presented the positions update. The County's unfilled position ratio for the current month is 7.97%, the 12-month average is 12%, and the six-month average is 9.55%. There were no positions requiring approval of the Committee for the month.

Controller Dawson presented the responses from Municipal Consulting Services LLC detailing their recommendations for restructuring Emergency Services and Central Dispatch positions. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend approval of the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Melissa Ballard presented the Health Insurance Report. The report is consistent compared to last month. Ms. Ballard also presented the Monthly Financial Report, which is consistent with expectations.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 10:33 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

There were no 2025/2026 Budget Amendments.

Controller Dawson provided information regarding a proposed Fund Balance Policy. Discussion held.

Commissioner Mudry presented a Resolution to Honor 100 years of Aviation at the Capital Region International Airport. Commissioner Mudry discussed the resolution and moved to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Dawson provided information on the Command Vehicle that was purchased with a State Enhancement grant in November 2023. Discussion held.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $608,021.98, immediate claims in the amount of $3,786,811.46, electronic claims in the amount of $7,524,222.49, and employee payroll in the amount of $2,002,926.17 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mudry. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Controller Dawson introduced the Capital Improvement Program Annual Report. A Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is a financial planning and management tool that lists proposed capital projects and capital purchases for a rolling six-year period. Mr. Daley spoke about the technology projections and expenses for the next six years. Mr. Powers provided information regarding the facilities and expenses. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend approval of the Report to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on June 12, 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