WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 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, Jane Whitacre, Scott Hansen, Chris Arndt, and Nicole Christensen; Ben Dawson, Melissa Ballard, Claudine Williams, Susan Kneiling, Doug Lloyd, Marcus Service, Matt Newburg, Brandy Miller, Tim Vandermark, Eric Daley, Chad Powers, and Rick Jones.

The June 12, 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 the following changes to the agenda: departmental reports were moved to the beginning of the committee meeting, with action items moved to later in the agenda. Adding items 7. Closed Session under MCL 15.268(1)(h), as well as committee action items, which had been referred to Ways and Means after the publication of the agenda. Removing items 13c. BEDHD Technology Services Agreement and item 12. 2025/26 budget amendments. Commissioner Shaver moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to approve the May 15, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Commissioner Haskell moved to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h) to discuss material exempt from disclosure (written attorney client legal opinion, exempt from disclosure by state law under MCL 15.243(1)). Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Roll call vote: Shaver – yes, Haskell – yes, Pearl-Wright – yes, Mudry – yes, Holmes – yes, Barber – yes, Droscha – yes. Motion carried.

The Committee resumed the open meeting at 9:46 a.m.

A resolution to Authorize Application for Byrne Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant from the Public Safety Committee was presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to Authorize Application for Crime Victim Rights Services Grant from the Public Safety Committee was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to Authorize Application for STOP Violence Grant from the Public Safety Committee was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the application to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A request to approve a Contract Extension for the Waverly School Resource Officer from the Public Safety Committee was presented. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the extension to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Safety Committee requested a legal opinion regarding the sale of a capital purchase procured with State Appropriation Monies. Commissioner Barber moved to accept the advice of counsel and not sell the Mobile Command Vehicle. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to approve a Cloud-Based software contract with BS&A from the Public Works and Human Services Committee was presented. Brandy Miller, Community Development Director, was present for questions. Finance Director, Melissa Ballard, indicated that the request would require a budget amendment, which would be included at the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Haskell moved to recommend the approval of the contract to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A resolution to approve the 2026 (Cycle 4) Eaton County Parks Community Grant Program Applications from the Public Works and Human Services Committee was presented. Commissioner Barber moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Shaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A request to restructure the Drain Office personnel from the Public Works and Human Services Committee was presented. Deputy Drain Commissioner Marcus Service was present to discuss the request, which would add an office administrator and redistributed job duties that are currently assigned to an independent contractor. Mr. Service provided information regarding department savings if the request is granted. Commissioner Shaver moved to refer the request to a consultant for review. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Dairus Reynnet presented a report detailing the 1st & 2nd quarter FY 2025/26 cash agency holdings and interest income. Treasurer Reynnet also provided detailed accomplishments for the same time frame. Discussion held.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 11:05 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Matt Newburg, Chief Public Defender, presented information detailing the progress of his first six months in the Public Defender's Office. Discussion held.

Equalization Director Tim Vandermark presented the annual report detailing the TIFA/DDA capture report regarding the downtown development authorities and the impact on the County's revenues. Discussion held.

Facilities Director Chad Powers provided the report for the department. Mr. Powers gave an update regarding the replacement of all seven elevators in the County complex.

Eric Daley, Technology Services Director, provided the report for his department. Mr. Daley spoke about training for employees regarding phishing emails. Also reported on was the success of the first stage of migration to a new phone carrier. Mr. Daley also provided information regarding IT policies and the access of information from BS&A. Discussion held.

Susan Knieling, Human Resources Administrator, introduced herself and spoke about the necessity of an HR Administrator. Ms. Knieling provided an update on positions and stated that in the past month the

County has filled 14 positions. As of June, the average vacancy rate is 6.43%. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the recommended open positions. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Public and Governmental Affairs Director Logan Bailey provided a departmental update and indicated that he has been working on ADA website compliance and accessibility changes. Mr. Bailey also provided information regarding the County's online traffic, and the status of various appropriations that the County has applied for. Discussion held.

Ms. Ballard presented the Health Insurance Report. The County has received the 2nd quarter settlement which has been included in the reports. Ms. Ballard indicated that the County's health insurance expenses are higher than last year, so Administration will continue to monitor spending. Also presented was information regarding the Child Care Fund, which Ms. Ballard indicated the fund is operating as projected. Ms. Ballard also presented the Monthly Financial Report, which is consistent with expectations.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Controller Dawson presented a Resolution to Appoint County Remonumentation Grant Administrator. The resolution would appoint Melissa Ballard as the grant administrator. Commissioner Shaver moved to recommend the approval of the resolution to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Controller Dawson also presented a request to approve the Employee Remote Work Contract Renewal. Commissioner Pearl-Wright moved to recommend approval of the contract to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Haskell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Daley presented a request to restructure the Technology Services department. Director Daley provided information stating that the department has outgrown the present structure. The request is to add a Help Desk Manager, a reclassification of two other positions, and retitling another position. Commissioner Haskell moved to send the request to a consultant for review. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Droscha called for a brief recess at 11:48 a.m.

Chairperson Droscha reconvened the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Controller Dawson provided information regarding policy updates and reminded committee members that there will be a Ways and Means Committee meeting for the Budget held on Friday, June 26, 2026.

Miscellaneous. Controller Dawson stated that there is a survey on our website regarding Eaton County's Parks.

Commissioner Mudry moved to recommend approval of the payment of claims against the County in the amount of $345,183.37, immediate claims in the amount of $13,309,061.11, electronic claims in the amount of $11,601,009.71, and employee payroll in the amount of $1,941,325.93 to the Board of Commissioners as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pearl-Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ballard presented the Multi-Year General Fund Budget Projections. Controller Dawson also provided details regarding the Budget and considerations for future budgets. Discussion held.

Limited Public Comment: Rick Jones, Oneida Township Supervisor, thanked Commissioners and Staff for attending local community meetings for discussions on County operations and ballot initiatives.

Chairperson Droscha adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

A special budget meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on Friday, June 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held on July 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