

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

JANUARY 16, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Organizational Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, January 16, 2025, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chief Judge Michael Jaconette called the meeting to order and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll.

Present: Comrs. Derek King, Monique French, Al Morehart, Dominic Oo, Dan Strowbridge, Matt Saxton, and Gary Tompkins.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator-Internal Services Megan Banning, Assistant County Administrator-Community Services Doug Ferrall, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault, Communications Director Amber LeClear, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Susan Connolly, and Administrative Assistant Teri Zadigian.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Judge Jaconette called a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Judge Jaconette requested a motion to Amend the Agenda to move Special Order of Business Items 8A. and 8B. to occur immediately following Item 5A. Approval of the Minutes.

Res.001-2025

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the amended agenda of the January 16, 2025, Organizational Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of the December 19, 2024 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the December 19, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.002-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2024, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

6. Citizens' Time

Citizen's Time was held following Special Order of Business Items 8A. and 8B., election of Board of Commissioners Chairperson and Vice Chair:

Barry Wayne Adams of Marshall shared his interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

Rebecca Sebring of Fredonia Township expressed opposition regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements and concerns related to CATL and Ford development.

County resident Ester Leonard shared her support for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Carl Gallahue of Lee Township expressed concerns related to road conditions and the status of current work performed by the Road Department.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

State Representative Steve Frisbie provided updates on matters held in Lansing and addressed road funding, including the Act 51 Road Tax.

Interim Road Department Manager, Kristine Parsons noted the Road Department's communications with Lee Township and the Water Resources Commissioner related to culvert replacement.

Comr. King highlighted the continued work with solar companies, the Road Department, and related road use agreements.

8. **Special Order of Business**

A. Election of Board of Commissioners Chairperson for 2025-2026

Res.003-2025

Comr. Saxton nominated Comr. King for Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Comr. Morehart nominated Comr. King for Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Judge Jaconette called three times for other nominations and none were offered.

"Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to close the nominations for the 2025-26 Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners."

on a **VOICE VOTE**; Motion **CARRIED**.

The Deputy Clerk took a VERBAL VOTE to declare Comr. King the Chairperson to serve for the 2025-2026 duration."

On a **VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE**

Comr. Morehart - Comr. King

Comr. Oo - Comr. King

Comr. French - Comr. King

Comr. Strowbridge - Comr. King

Comr. King - Comr. King

Comr. Tompkins - Comr. King

Comr. Saxton - Comr. King

Chief Judge Jaconette handed the meeting gavel to Board Chairperson King to convene the rest of the meeting.

B. Election of Board of Commissioners Vice Chair for 2025

Res.004-2025

Comr. Strowbridge nominated Comr. Saxton for Vice Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Comr. French nominated Comr. Tompkins for Vice Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Judge Jaconette called three times for other nominations and none were offered.

"Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Morehart to close the nominations for the 2025 Vice Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners."

on a **VOICE VOTE**; Motion **CARRIED**.

The Deputy Clerk took a **VERBAL VOTE** to declare Comr. Saxton the Vice Chairperson to serve for the 2025 year."

On a **VERBAL ROLL CALL VOTE**

Comr. French - Comr. Tompkins

Comr. Strowbridge - Comr. Saxton

Comr. King - Comr. Saxton

Comr. Tompkins - Comr. Tompkins

Comr. Saxton - Comr. Saxton

Comr. Morehart - Comr. Saxton

Comr. Oo - Comr. Saxton

C. Public Hearing and Adoption of 2025 - 2029 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Res.005-2025

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Morehart to Open Public Hearing."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

Present– 7, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

Comr. King declared the Public Hearing Open.

Community Development Director Jen Bomba introduced Assistant County Administrator-Community Services Doug Ferrall.

Doug Ferrall explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission created the five-year Master Plan through public input, focusing on the mission of the department.

Mr. Ferrall noted updates of the prior plan, including an overview of structures and current inventory. It was noted there were over 600 responses to the public survey which included interest in the preservation of natural areas, maintenance of current parks and an interest in more attention to river cleanup.

Resident Barry Wayne Adams expressed concerns related to land use and natural habitat.

Ryan Leonard of Emmett Township addressed the City of Battle Creek's river projects related to removal of dams and linear path construction.

Marshall resident Tori Isaac shared concerns related to water quality and the development of BlueOval.

Comr. Tompkins questioned the use of Parks millage funds and the allocation toward future projects.

Res.006-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to Close Public Hearing."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

Present – 7, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

Comr. King declared the Public Hearing Closed.

Res.007-2025

Approval and Adoption of 2025-2029 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. French to approve the adoption of the 2025-2029 Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES – 7, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

B. Resolutions

1. 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

2. 2025 BCBSM Renewal Documents

3. Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Commission Reappointments

Res.008-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Consent Agenda of the January 16, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

On a **VOICE VOTE**, Motion **CARRIED**.

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Tompkins shared updates from the Homer Lake Level Board.

Comr. French noted the recent Summit Pointe meeting and Michigan County Road Commission Agency training.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. *Administrator/Controller's Report*

Kelli Scott shared she will be working with Board Chair King regarding County Boards and Committees with final appointments to be selected in February.

Administrator/Controller Scott informed of the pamphlet shared with the board which will be offered to the public noting it is a new Community Resource Guide.

B. *New Business*

1. *CCRD Federal Aid Contract 24-5468: B Dr. N Improvements*

Kelli Scott noted the contract is for federal aid through MDOT with 82% being federal grant funding.

Interim Road Department Director Parsons highlighted the use of the funds and the proposed improvements.

Res.009-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Calhoun County Road Department Federal Aid Contract 24-5468: B Dr. N Improvements, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES – 7, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *CCRD Federal Aid Contracts: Struwin Road & B Drive S. Tree Removals*

Ms. Scott shared the contracts are related to safety grants, specifically two projects with the County contributing 10% and the remainder of the funds through federal grants.

Kristine Parsons noted the safety program is in association with crash history obtained by the Michigan State Police and asset management plan.

Comr. Saxton asked how far back the crash data goes, and Parsons replied that they are allowed to use 5 years worth of data in the grant applications.

Comr. Tompkins questioned the cost related to tree removal, and Parsons replied that MDOT does competitive bidding and generally selects the low bidder for each project.

Res.010-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Calhoun County Road Department Federal Aid Contracts: Struwin Road & B Drive S. Tree Removals, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES – 7, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident Ms. Isaac addressed concerns related to clean water and county roads.

Rebecca Sebring of Fredonia Township played an audio clip related to text messaging and cyber attacks.

Resident Carl Gallahugh addressed road projects in Clarence and Lee Townships.

Barry Wayne Adams informed of health concerns related to solar plants addressed by the St. Clair Health Department.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins congratulated Comrs. King and Saxton on their nominations as Chair and Vice Chair.

Comr. Tompkins thanked voters for his election to serve the 7th District and thanked area first responders for their service.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for December 12, 2024 through January 8, 2025 in the amount of \$8,372,379.27*

Res.011-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for December 12, 2024, through January 8, 2025, in the amount of \$8,372,379.27, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES – 7, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Tompkins highlighted numerous events to be held in Albion and Homer.

Comr. French mentioned events to be held this weekend in Battle Creek to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners