

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00p.m., Thursday, February 6, 2025, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chair King 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, and Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair King called a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. French led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.012-2025

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the agenda of the February 6, 2025, Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of the January 16, 2025 Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting*

Minutes of the January 16, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting.

Res.013-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Organizational Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams expressed concern related to constitutional rights and freedom of speech.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Proclamation - Black History Month February 2025

Comr. Tompkins read the following Proclamation in the record:

PROCLAMATION
Black History Month
February 2025

WHEREAS, February is recognized as Black History Month, a time to honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of Black Americans, who have shaped our nation through their resilience, achievements, and enduring spirit; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History began in 1926, when scholar Carter G. Woodson introduced “Negro History Week” to bring attention to the significant role of Black Americans in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s, this week-long recognition expanded into Black History Month, intentionally aligning with the February birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln to highlight their impact on the fight for freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244, officially designating February as “National Black (Afro-American) History Month” and encouraging all Americans to honor this vital aspect of our nation’s heritage; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month celebrates the contributions of Black Americans throughout all periods of U.S. history, from those enslaved in the early 17th century to the leaders, innovators, and community builders of today; and

WHEREAS, countries around the world have joined the United States in commemorating the

influence of Black people on global history, culture, and progress; and

WHEREAS, observing Black History Month provides a vital opportunity to deepen our understanding of history, reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality and justice, and celebrate the achievements of those who paved the way for a more inclusive society; and

WHEREAS, we must honor the men and women whose sacrifices and unwavering dedication to civil rights, freedom, and equality continue to inspire generations and enrich American culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim February 2025 as Black History Month. We urge all residents of Calhoun County to celebrate and draw inspiration from this rich legacy as we strive together toward equality, liberty, and opportunity for all.

Dated this 6th day of February 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.014-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the Proclamation - Black History Month February 2025, as presented.”

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

B. Proclamation - American Heart Month 2025

Comr. Saxton read the following Proclamation on the record:

AMERICAN HEART MONTH PROCLAMATION 2025

Recognizing the rise of cardiovascular disease as the world’s leading cause of death and disability, and supporting the recognition of February 2025 as “American Heart Month”.

WHEREAS, more than 350,000 people experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year and about 70 percent happen at home ; and only about 1 in 10 survive ; and more than 23,000 children under the age of 18 experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year in the United States and almost 40 percent of these are sports related; and

WHEREAS, CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a person’s chance of survival ; and only about 46 percent of people who experience cardiac arrest receive CPR from people nearby while waiting for emergency responders to arrive; and

WHEREAS, there are effective solutions to this problem – awareness and education to have

cardiac emergency response plans in place, CPR education and automated external defibrillator (AED) training and accessibility, and

WHEREAS, knowing how to properly perform CPR has encouraged more people to act when faced with a cardiac emergency and to save more lives from cardiac arrest outside of a hospital, we must increase the number of people who respond to cardiac arrest by calling 911, delivering high-quality CPR and using an AED as soon as it is available; and

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association has set a goal of doubling the survival from cardiac arrest by 2030 by turning bystanders into lifesavers, so that everyone, everywhere is prepared and empowered to become a vital link in the chain of survival and provide CPR in response to a cardiac emergency; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of American Heart Month, we urge every household to join the Nation of Lifesavers™ and learn CPR.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart disease and stroke, and the effort to double the survival rate from cardiac arrest, do hereby proclaim February 2025 to be

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

In the County of Calhoun and urge all residents to show their support for the fight against heart disease by commemorating this month as AMERICAN HEART MONTH. By increasing awareness, speaking out about heart disease, and learning CPR, we can save thousands of lives each year.

Dated the 6th day of February 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.015-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Proclamation - American Heart Month February 2025, as presented.”

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

C. Presentation by Ryan Reincke, Executive Director - Calhoun Conservation District

Ryan Reincke, Executive Director of the Calhoun Conservation District, shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting projects including a Hunter's Access Program in coordination with the State, Jenney Woods, and the use of appropriations from the County. Mr. Reincke highlighted the upcoming Conservation Needs Assessment distributed by mailings, Facebook, and local colleges.

9. Consent Agenda

A. *Petitions, Communications, Reports*

B. *Resolutions*

1. *CCRD Agreements with Townships - 2025 Local Road Projects*

2. *Loganwood Acres North Road & Drainage Plan Approval*

Res.016-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Consent Agenda of the February 6, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. French reported on her attendance at a recent Vision to Action Summit, her podcast recording with Richard Piet on behalf of the County, and the monthly Summit Pointe board meeting. French noted the City of Battle Creek's current Community Needs Assessment and upcoming events in Battle Creek in February.

Comr. King reported that there was a recent meeting of the County's Materials Management Planning Committee, noting that there are new mandates from the State requiring new ordinances related to recycling and composting.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. ***Administrator/Controller's Report***

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott provided updates from the recent Summit Pointe Board meeting and the County Planning Commission meeting, noting that there is a new effort ongoing to update the County Master Plan.

B. ***New Business***

1. *FY25 Health Department Budget Adjustments*

Administrator/Controller Scott noted this was a mid-year budget adjustment that essentially incorporates new Health Department grant funding on both the revenue and expense side, with no impact to the County's General Fund.

Res.017-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. French to approve fiscal year 2025 Health Department Budget Amendments, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *Lease Renewal: W.E. Upjohn Institute Office Space 2025-2035*

Kelli Scott informed this is a ten-year lease renewal for office space in the Albion Human Services building, that allows Southwest Michigan First to offer workforce development services to residents.

Res.018-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. French to approve the Lease Renewal: W.E. Upjohn Institute Office Space 2025-2035, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *CCRD Authorized Staffing Request*

Ms. Scott stated that this request addresses the need for a supervisor on the night shift during winter operations, and the need for additional supervision on the day shift during the summer.

Human Resources/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault shared that the additional supervisor's salary and benefits will be partially offset through funding within the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Trunkline Maintenance contract. Ms. Archambault stated that the use of a crew leader for oversight was not effective and that a supervisor has more authority and the ability to manage operations.

Interim Road Department Managing Director Kristine Parsons added that because of the seniority-based job bidding process, many newer employees work on the night shift and would benefit from additional supervision and assistance.

Comr. Tompkins expressed concerns related to funding being used for additional staff versus actual road improvements, and stated that he would not be supporting this request.

Comr. Strowbridge asked how frequent the night shift is staffed. Parsons replied that it's 5 to 6 months out of the year.

Res.019-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Road Department Authorized Staffing Request, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES – 6, Comrs. King, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, and Saxton.

NO - 1, Comr. Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. CCRD 2025 Radio Equipment Replacement

Ms. Scott stated that this equipment replacement and upgrade will aid in communications between various first responders, including law enforcement, EMS, fire and County Dispatch.

Ms. Scott informed the quote provided by Motorola is a state-priced installment purchase agreement

Kori Albrecht highlighted the replacement is invaluable to provided clearer communication within the Road Department.

Comr. Tompkins questioned the cost for dispatch versus the road department.

Comr. Strowbridge questioned whether the purchase was made following a competitive bid. County staff responded that there were different solutions explored, and ultimately the Motorola pricing was based on state cooperative terms as well as the Dispatch Authority's recent purchase, and thus complied with the County's Purchasing Policy.

Res.020-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Calhoun County Road Department 2025 Radio Equipment Replacement, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

5. CCRD MDOT Federal Aid Contract 24-5550: 28 Mile Rd. Phase III Road Improvements

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott shared that the \$1.8 million dollar project will be funded 75% by federal contributions and 25% from the state.

Interim Road Department Managing Director Kristine Parsons described that this was the third and final phase for road improvements to this corridor.

Res.021-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Calhoun County Road Department MDOT Federal Aid Contract 24-5550: 28 Mile Road Phase III Road Improvements, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Barry Wayne Adams expressed concerns related to the constitution and American principles.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins shared recent centenarian celebrations.

Comr. French acknowledged the work of the Transit Authority of Calhoun County board.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for January 9, 2025 through January 29, 2025 in the amount of \$8,540,719.24*

Res.022-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for January 9, 2025, through January 29, 2025, in the amount of \$8,540,719.24, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Tompkins announced upcoming fundraisers in Homer Township and events within the County in celebration of Black History Month.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners