

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MARCH 20, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, March 20, 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 Coco, and Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Chair Derek King called for a moment of silence to recognize Treasurer Brian Wensauer, who recently passed.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Strowbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.038-2025

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Oo to approve the agenda of the March 20, 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 March 6, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the March 6, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.039-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. French to approve the Minutes of the March 6,

2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented.”

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

6. Citizens' Time

Kai Gritter, Michigan State University Extension Health Educator/Program Coordinator - SNAP Outreach for Veterans, introduced herself to the board and shared a brochure related to the MSUE Strategic Direction Plan.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Sheriff Steve Hinkley shared an introductory book prepared for the upcoming law enforcement accreditation, which is expected to be completed in August. Sheriff Hinkley thanked the Communications Department for their support in creating the document.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Proclamation - American Red Cross Month 2025

Comr. Tompkins read the following Proclamation - America Red Cross Month 2025 into the record:

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2025
PROCLAMATION

This March, we celebrate American Red Cross Month by recognizing the compassionate acts of people in Southwest Michigan and by renewing our commitment to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in need. Since Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross more than 140 years ago, generation after generation has stepped up to deliver relief and care across our country and around the world, bringing out the best of humanity in times of crisis. Advancing this noble mission, the volunteers, blood donors and supporters who now give back through the American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan remain unwavering in their commitment to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of today's emergencies.

In Calhoun County just this past year, hundreds of Red Crossers in your community provided relief to nearly 150 people displaced by disasters; installed smoke alarms to make 58 residents safer from fires; supplied lifesaving CPR, First Aid, swim safety or other trainings to more than 1,550 residents; connected 27 local U.S. service members with assistance to be with their families during times of crisis; and held 155 blood drives that provided more than 4,600 units of critical blood to people in need.

This work to uplift our community is truly made possible by those who selflessly answer the call to help, whenever and wherever it's needed. We hereby recognize this month of March in honor of their remarkable service, and we ask everyone to join in their commitment to care for one another.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Derek King, Calhoun County Board Chair, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of Calhoun County and Michigan, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as Red Cross Month. I encourage all citizens of Calhoun County to reach out and support its humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the County of Calhoun in the State of Michigan.

Dated the 20th day of March 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.040-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Proclamation - American Red Cross Month 2025, as presented.”

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

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

B. Resolutions

1. Calhoun County Broadband Task Force Committee Appointments

2. Senior Millage Contract Amendment - Community Action, Transportation

3. CCRD 2024 Act 51 Certification

4. Policy Revisions for Earned Sick Time Act

5. GovPro Merchant Applications

6. Community Mental Health Authority (Summit Pointe) Board Reappointments

7. Support for Internet Service Providers' Federal Grant Applications for Internet Expansion

Res.041-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Consent Agenda of the March 20, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Tompkins reported on recent meetings of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee, the County's Broadband Task Force, the Homer Lake Board, and the Fair Board, noting their annual golf outing and the County fair this summer.

Comr. Saxton noted he and Comr. Oo attended a recent Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Substance Use Policy Oversight Board meeting.

Comr. Strowbridge mentioned that the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority will be providing updates to warning sirens.

Comr. French reported she and Comr. Morehart attended a Battle Creek Steering Committee meeting. Comr. French added she attended the Strategic Planning Committee, Battle Creek Impacting Violence and learned of the Battle Creek Public Schools bond proposal for the May election. French added that she also attended a recent meeting of the Carewell Services Advisory Board and toured the Summit Pointe First Step facility.

Comr. Saxton reported that he attended a recent meeting of the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority.

Comr. Moreahart shared updates from recent meetings of the Goguac Lake Board and the Community Action Board.

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 shared that the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board held their check distribution event on Tuesday, March 18, noting that this year's net win to the Board was approximately \$6.1million.

Ms. Scott reported the first City Managers and Mayors Meeting of 2025 was hosted by the County on March 13 and included an update on the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) as well as discussions on economic development. Scott added updates from the recent Calhoun County Broadband Task Force meeting and the March Board of Public Health meeting.

Administrator/Controller Scott reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Conference in Lansing.

B. New Business

1. Resolution to Authorize Delinquent Tax Anticipation Notes

Kelli Scott reported that this is an annual item for board approval that allows the Treasurer's Office to make local units of government whole for delinquent real property taxes to be collected at a later date.

Deputy Treasurer Melinda Weaver was present and offered updates and support for this item.

Res.042-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. French to approve the Resolution to Authorize Delinquent Tax Anticipation Notes, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. RFP#103-25 Sodium Chloride (Road Salt)

Ms. Scott noted that the Purchasing Department is recommending a one-year award to Detroit Salt for the purchase of road salt for 2025, reflecting a 12.5% increase.

Managing Director of the Road Department, Kristine Parsons was present to answer any questions.

Res.043-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve RFP#103-25 Sodium Chloride (Road Salt), as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. RFQ#106-25 Pothole Patching

Ms. Scott stated that this item was to recommend pre-qualified contractors for the Road Department's 2025 patching season. Scott added that the contract work is estimated to last three months with a total of 16 two-person crews, and that this work will supplement patching efforts of road department staff.

Res.044-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve RFQ#106-25 Pothole Patching, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. CCRD 2025 Local Bridge Program Resolutions

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that this item is to support applications that would provide funding for replacement and rehabilitation of three of the 88 County-owned structures, and that the federal funding would be awarded in 2028. Ms. Scott added that two bridges are recommended for replacement and one for rehabilitation following an evaluation process to consider the critical need for the proposed work.

Kelli Scott noted that Managing Director Kristing Parsons and Deputy Director Kori Albrecht were present to answer any questions.

Res.045-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. French to approve the Calhoun County Road Department 2025 Local Bridge Program Resolutions, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Sunfish Solar 2 Project Road Use Agreement with Hecate Energy

Ms. Scott stated that this very large commercial solar development is planned to be performed in two phases within Lee Township, and that the County requires Road Use Agreements for such developments due to the heavy construction equipment needed and in order to protect the road and bridge infrastructure.

Administrator/Controller Scott shared that Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose has been working closely with the legal counsel for Hecate, the developer, to come to this agreement. Scott added that a main benefit of this agreement is that it will provide funding to replace up front up to 10 culverts deemed to be failing, ahead of the construction activity.

Kate Ambrose was present to answer any questions.

Res.046-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Sunfish Solar 2 Project Road Use Agreement with Hecate Energy, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

There was none.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins wished Comr. Morehart and Prosecutor Gilbert congratulations on the births of their new grandchildren.

Comr. Tompkins expressed his condolences for the passing of Treasurer Wensauer and the recent passing of a close neighbor of his.

Comr. Saxton reported that the Republican's Road Funding Package passed in Lansing this week and will now move to the Senate.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for February 27, 2025, through March 12, 2025, in the amount of \$3,813,260.96*

Res.047-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for February 27, 2025, through March 12, 2025, in the amount of \$3,813,260.96, 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 numerous upcoming events within his district.

Comr. Saxton highlighted the opening of the new 1909 venue for Schuler's.

Comr. Saxton wished Board Chair Derek King a Happy 50th Birthday.

Comr. French wished Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose a Happy Birthday.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners