

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MAY 1, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00PM, Thursday, May 1, 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, Dan Strowbridge, Matt Saxton, and Gary Tompkins.

Absent/Excused: Comr. Dominic Oo.

Staff Present: 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 for a Moment of Silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Strowbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.058-2025

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the agenda of the May 1, 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 April 15, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting*

Minutes of the April 15, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting.

Res.059-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Battle Creek resident Autumn Smith noted doxing concerns related to Comr. King on social media.

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams expressed opposition to and safety concerns regarding lithium battery development.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Director Aaron Edlefson addressed the board, thanking them for the past 10 years in his role with Veterans Affairs and noting that he has been appointed as the City Manager for the City of Springfield.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Proclamation - National Police Week

Comr. Saxton read the following Proclamation - National Police Week on the record:

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK - MAY 2025

Whereas, In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others, and;

Whereas, There are more than 700,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the approximately 17,000 full-time uniformed police officers in Michigan, and;

Whereas, Members of law enforcement deserve the appreciation and respect of the people of Calhoun County, Michigan for the merit, dignity, bravery, and reliability they exhibit each and every day. We must also honor the sacrifices made by families of police officers, as each day they must face constant fear as their loved one works to protect us, and;

Whereas, In 2024 alone, 145 law enforcement officers were killed and many, many more assaulted in the line of duty across the country. That includes five from Michigan: Motor Carrier Officer Daniel Kerstetter from Michigan State Police, Corporal Mohamed Said from the Melvindale Police Department, Deputy William Butler, Jr. from the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Bradley Reckling from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, and Trooper Joel Popp from the Michigan State Police.

The names of these dedicated public servants who made the ultimate sacrifice are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., and;

Whereas, Michigan's Calhoun County fallen officers will never be forgotten, nor will their service to their respective communities. By choosing to commit themselves to law enforcement, these brave individuals answered the call for service and willingly put their lives in jeopardy. We commend them for recognizing service as a noble career, and protecting the public safety; and also all of those who are serving without incident to date, and;

Whereas, Calhoun County, Michigan and all Michigan citizens have turned to members of law enforcement for assistance and support in times of distress, whether they are coping with a personal crisis, bearing the strains of a pandemic, or struggling through civil disorder or a natural disaster. Our communities rely on these courageous individuals when it is difficult to stand on our own, and we are indebted to the unwavering public service of our local and state police. We are indeed fortunate and grateful for the contributions of law enforcement officers to the people of this state;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, declare May 11-17, 2025, as Police Week in Calhoun County of Michigan. We publicly salute the service of law enforcement officers in our community as well as those of our state and nation and honor police who place their lives on the line for the safety and security of their communities.

Dated: May 1, 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Comr. Saxton thanked Sheriff Hinkley who was present at the meeting for his service and honored those who display courage and offer security as officers.

Res.060-2025

"Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. French to approve the Proclamation - National Police Week, as presented."

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

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Financial Statements for Information Only: March 2025

B. Resolutions

1. Senior Millage Allocation Committee Reappointments

2. 2025 Native American Heritage Fund Administrative Services Agreement

3. *2025 FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board Administrative Services Agreement*

4. *Revised Board Policies: Military Leave, SS# Act, and Personnel Files*

Res.061-2025

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 1, 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 a recent meeting with Carewell Services and upcoming events to be held in Battle Creek. French added that the position for City Manager of Battle Creek remains open for applicants, and that the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce Office will be relocating in the near future.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. *Administrator/Controller's Report*

Assistant County Administrator - Community Services Doug Ferrall thanked Representative Frisbie for the recognition of National County Government Month in Lansing.

Mr. Ferrall noted the upcoming special election to be held on May 6, and highlighted numerous upcoming events, including a Recycling Event, the annual Senior Expo and the Ott Biological Preserve Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Ferrall shared the link to the State of Michigan County Health Rankings.

B. *New Business*

1. *Youth Center Staffing Proposal*

Doug Ferrall noted that Tori Benden, Director of the Youth Center, was attending a conference and unable to attend the Board of Commissioners meeting. Ferrall explained that the change in position within the Youth Center is proposed due to the need for an officer manager role given the expansion and reconfiguration of the Center.

Res.062-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Youth Center Staffing Proposal, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Oo.

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Law Enforcement Services Agreement, CCSO and Lee Township

Assistant County Administrator - Community Services Doug Ferrall noted that Sheriff Hinkley was present to provide information related to the proposed Agreement.

Sheriff Hinkley shared that the County has been in discussions with Lee Township for the past several years to provide public safety from the Sheriff's Office to Lee Township. He added that the agreement will provide a full-time deputy to the township.

Res.063-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. French to approve the Law Enforcement Services Agreement, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office and Lee Township, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Oo.

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Revised Board Policies - #235 Contracts and #405 Purchasing

Mr. Ferrall noted the revisions to the two board policies for the county are in response to changes in 2024 to the Federal guidelines regarding purchasing levels and federal awards. Ferrall added that the revisions are necessary to mirror and align with federal policies.

Res.064-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Revised Board Policies - #235 Contracts and #405 Purchasing, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Oo.

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Battle Creek resident Autumn Smith, in follow-up to the Proclamation for National Police Week, noted concerns about police corruption and retaliation.

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams shared concerns related to police power and the U.S. Constitution.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins acknowledged National Police Week and thanked Comr. Saxton for his dedication and service.

Comr. Tompkins thanked Aaron Edlefson for his service to Veterans Affairs and the County.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. *Claims Payable for April 2, 2025, through April 23, 2025, in the amount of \$4,329,899.84*
Res.065-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for April 2, 2025, 2025, through April 23, 2025, in the amount of \$4,329,899.84, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Oo.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. French announced numerous upcoming fundraisers in Battle Creek.

Comr. King wished Amber Coco a Happy Birthday.

Comr. Saxton noted an event Monday, May 5 on the Capital steps in Lansing for law enforcement.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners