

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

JUNE 5, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, June 5, 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.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. French led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.072-2025

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Oo to approve the agenda of the June 5, 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 May 15, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the May 15, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.073-2025

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

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

6. Citizens' Time

Lane Landis expressed concerns related to road conditions across the county.

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams commented regarding a recent hearing in Lansing related to the Ford Blue Oval site.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Kristine Parsons, Road Department Managing Director, asked for support of the consent agenda item related to local road projects.

8. Special Order of Business

- A. Presentation: Kai Gritter, MS - Interim District Director MSU Extension SNAP Outreach for Veterans Program Coordinator*

Kai Gritter, Interim District Director MSU Extension SNAP Outreach for Veterans Program Coordinator, highlighted the 2024 annual report, and then MSUE staff present at the meeting made comments about their programming within Calhoun County.

- B. Proclamation: National Juneteenth Day 2025*

Comr. French read the following Proclamation: National Juneteenth Day 2025 on the record:

NATIONAL JUNETEENTH DAY - JUNE 2025

Whereas, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is celebrated each year on June 19 in the United States to commemorate the end of slavery; and

Whereas, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on New Year's Day in 1863, which ordered the freeing of all slaves in states that were rebelling against Union Forces; and

Whereas, the Emancipation Proclamation had little effect in Texas, where there were few Union troops to enforce the order; and

Whereas, the message of freedom finally reached African Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865, where Union General Gordon Granger, backed by nearly 2,000 troops, arrived in the city of Galveston, and made the announcement; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2021, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Act, which established Juneteenth as an official federal holiday; and

Whereas, the Calhoun County recognizes Juneteenth as the oldest known celebration

commemorating the end of slavery.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025, as National Juneteenth Day, in Calhoun County of Michigan, and encourage all citizens to join in observance.

Date: June 5, 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.074-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Proclamation: National Juneteenth Day 2025, as presented.”

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

C. Proclamation: Recognition for Calhoun County Central Dispatch and firefighters for Bedford and Pennfield Township

Comr. Strowbridge read the Proclamation: Recognition for Calhoun County Central Dispatch and firefighters for Bedford and Pennfield Township on the record:

In recognition to Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch, Bedford Township and Pennfield Township Firefighters

WHEREAS, On May 15, 2015, at approximately 11:00 pm, northwest Calhoun County was hit with a devastating storm. Two tornadoes were ultimately confirmed to have struck the area, and another area was hit with severe straight-line winds as a result of tornadoes, and;

WHEREAS, In the first 4 hours of this storm, Calhoun County Consolidated dispatch received 818 calls of service, 24 times more than normal for this time. Over the first 12 hours, dispatch received 1148 calls of service, 8 times more than the normal volume, and;

WHEREAS, While many areas including parts of the City of Battle Creek and City of Springfield received significant damage, the two hardest hit areas in Calhoun County were Bedford and Pennfield Townships, and;

WHEREAS, In the course of the first 12 hours after the storm, the fire departments of Bedford and Pennfield Township responded to more calls of downed wires, downed trees and other related storm damage than they normal do in a month, and;

WHEREAS, On the day after the storm more than 90 percent of the citizens of Bedford township were without power. Some for days afterwards.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that, The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby

proclaim recognition to the dispatchers and fire fighters of Bedford and Pennfield Township for their service to the people and to the communities they serve.

Date: June 5, 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.075-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Proclamation: Recognition for Calhoun County Dispatch and firefighters for Bedford and Pennfield Township, 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 Veterans Affairs Committee Reappointments: Charles Baker and Ronald Cady

2. Calhoun County Board of Public Health: Bylaws Amendment

3. CCRD Engineering Reimbursement

4. Senior Services Memorandum of Understanding: South Michigan Food Bank

5. CCRD Additional 2025 Local Road Projects

Res.076-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Consent Agenda of the June 5, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Strowbridge reported on the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority's upcoming event regarding new communications towers.

Comr. Saxton reported on recent committee meetings, including the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH)'s Substance Use Policy Oversight Committee, the County's Parks

and Recreation Commission and the County's Legislative Liaisons Committee, also attended by Commissioners Oo and Strowbridge.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. *Administrator/Controller's Report*

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott wished fathers a Happy Father's Day on June 15.

Kelli Scott highlighted the meeting of the Calhoun County Board of Public Health held on May 19.

B. *New Business*

1. *Master Building Controls - Professional Services Agreement*

Kelli Scott noted that this new agreement would address the need to update the current controls to an open source system, adding that the new system will reduce costs for replacements and allow for more efficient repairs to the current system. Scott stated that the new controls will provide real-time data for system warnings and safety and that this service agreement was budgeted for within the County's 2025 approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.

Res.077-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Master Building Controls - Professional Services Agreement, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *CCRD Authorized Staffing Request*

Ms. Scott explained the need for an Operations Coordinator for the Road Department, and noted that the County has reduced administrative costs since 2017. Scott added that the cost of the new position would be covered by vacancies in the Department, specifically within the Engineering division.

Kristine Parsons was present to answer any questions.

Res.078-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Calhoun County Road

Department Authorized Staffing Request, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Sheriff's Office Authorized Staffing Request

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that this request was for a reclassification, creating an improved work flow and office coverage for staff.

Shannon Rose, Accountant within the Sheriff's Department was present to answer questions.

Res.079-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. French to approve the Sheriff's Office Authorized Staffing Request, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. Information Technology Authorized Staffing Request

Ms. Scott stated that this new position will support numerous departments, including Law Enforcement, Communications, and the Public Defender's office.

Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose noted the increased need for FOIA support related to video review and redaction, digital evidence for Public Defenders office and Communications Department.

Res.080-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Information Technology Authorized Staffing Request, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

5. Revisions to Policy #351 Educational Reimbursement Program

Kelli Scott highlighted the changes within the Educational Reimbursement Policy, notably the increase in the annual limit per employee, from \$500 to \$3,000. Scott added that the policy updates were reviewed and supported by the Courts, Countywide elected officials and department heads, and union leadership, along with the Employee Innovation Team, which drafted the revisions.

Res.081-2025

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Revisions to Policy #351 Educational Reimbursement Program, 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 commented related to the recent hearing in Lansing and the development of the Blue Oval site.

County resident Lane Landis expressed concerns related to berm work on roadways throughout the County.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Strowbridge noted his support of the new positions only upon receiving additional information after the agenda was sent out, and thanked Kelli Scott for the clarification and justification for the roles.

Comr. Strowbridge reported on the Open House held in Pennfield Township by Key Capture related to battery energy storage.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. *Claims Payable for May 9, 2025, through May 28, 2025, in the amount of \$20,008,560.05*

Res.082-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for May 9, 2025, through May 28, 2025, in the amount of \$20,008,560.05, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comrs. Tompkins and French announced several Juneteenth Day events coming up in Albion and Battle Creek.

Comr. Saxton noted the recent retirement of Dr. Lunger, Superintendent of the Calhoun County Intermediate School District and an open house to honor his service.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners