

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, September 18, 2025, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chair Derek 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, 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 King called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Strowbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.115-2025

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the agenda of the September 18, 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 September 4, 2025 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting

Minutes of the September 4, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.116-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident, Barry Wayne Adams shared the status on the appeal related to the MAJOR site.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There were none.

8. Special Order of Business

- A. *2025 Joanne Konkle Leadership Award Resolutions Honoring Luann Sommers and Marie Aimes*

Commissioners Tompkins and Oo read the following Resolutions on the record:

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Honoring Luann Sommers**

WHEREAS, Luann Sommers has devoted nearly her entire career to serving older adults in Calhoun County with compassion, respect, and tireless advocacy, making her a cornerstone in strengthening senior services in our community; and,

WHEREAS, since 2016, Luann has served as Executive Director at the Albion Forks Senior Center, where she continues to provide vital programs, outreach, and personal support to ensure that seniors have access to resources and feel valued, connected, and supported; and,

WHEREAS, altogether, Luann has served with CareWell Services of Southwest for 15 years, beginning as a Planning Manager, where she played a critical part in shaping and strengthening senior service systems across the region; and,

WHEREAS, Luann also worked with Community Action in the Foster Grandparent Program, where she created opportunities for older adults to mentor younger generations, fostering meaningful intergenerational connections that enriched the lives of both seniors and youth; and,

WHEREAS, Luann also served in other roles at Community Action supporting senior services through Calhoun County, consistently demonstrating her commitment to advocacy, access, and equity for older adults; and,

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Luann has been a passionate voice for seniors, working diligently to expand access to critical services such as transportation, nutrition, health care, and social engagement, thereby enhancing the quality of life for countless older adults; and,

WHEREAS, Luann embodies the values of service, leadership, and compassion that define the Joanne Konkle Professional Leadership Award, serving as a model of dedication and advocacy

for the senior population of Calhoun County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that Luann Sommers is hereby honored as the 2025 recipient of the Joanne Konkle Leadership Award and is recognized for her exceptional service and leadership in improving the lives of older adults in Calhoun County.

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Honoring Marie Ames

WHEREAS, Marie Ames has demonstrated outstanding volunteer leadership and commitment to supporting older adults in Calhoun County, making a profound impact on her community through the creation and growth of senior programs; and,

WHEREAS, following the passing of her father in 2017, Marie was inspired to seek ways to support her mother's social engagement, which led her to explore opportunities for seniors to connect and build relationships; and,

WHEREAS, when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted access to senior centers, Marie responded with vision and determination, meeting with the Lee Township Supervisor in 2021 to plan a township-based solution for older adults; and,

WHEREAS, through her thoughtful planning and leadership, Marie launched the first Calhoun County Senior Social in Lee Township in 2021, beginning with just eight participants and quickly growing into a weekly gathering that now averages 40 older adults in attendance; and,

WHEREAS, the Lee Township Senior Social has become a vital resource, particularly for older adults who are widowed, single, or over the age of 80, providing social connection, engagement, and community support; and,

WHEREAS, Marie has also volunteered for many years by visiting and supporting home-bound individuals through her church, and participating in community service projects as a member of the Olivet Lions Club; and,

WHEREAS, Marie embodies the spirit of volunteerism and the values of compassion, initiative, and service that the Joanne Konkle Award for Outstanding Volunteer seeks to honor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that Marie Ames is hereby honored as the 2025 recipient of the Joanne Konkle Award for Outstanding Volunteer and is recognized for her exceptional leadership, service, and lasting

contributions to older adults in Calhoun County.

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.117-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the agenda of the 2025 Joanne Konkle Leadership Award Resolutions Honoring Luann Sommers and Marie Aimes, as presented.”

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

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

- 1. Financial Statements For Information Only: August 2025*
- 2. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged*
- 3. PA2 Budget for FY25/26, for Informational Purposes*

B. Resolutions

- 1. Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) Appointment: Diane Peters*
- 2. CCRD Traffic Control Order - C Drive N & 13 Mile Rd.*
- 3. 2025-2026 Court Child Care Fund Annual Plan and Budget*

Res.118-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Consent Agenda of the September 18, 2025, Board of Commissioners Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Tompkins provided updates from the Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) meeting held September 5 and the Homer Lake Improvement Board meeting on September 9.

Comr. Saxton highlighted the recent Lyon Lake Improvement Board meeting and shared that he and Comr. Oo attended the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board meeting held on September 15.

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 reminded the Board that the Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) Board grant ceremony would be held at the FireKeepers Casino Hotel at 11am on Sep.19, with 11 2025 grant recipients, including local and regional recipients Albion College and Western Michigan University.

Kelli Scott reported that County department budget hearings have been scheduled in October. Ms. Scott highlighted the importance of the State and Federal budget processes and the potential shutdowns on Oct.1.

B. *New Business*

1. *Prosecutor's Office - NICE Justice Evidence Purchase Contract*

Kelli Scott noted that previously approved state-appropriated special funding for this purchase has not been received by the County, and that as such, the Prosecutor's Office will cover the cost for this year with savings from staffing vacancies.

County Prosecutor Dave Gilbert and Assistant Prosecutor Jim Jordan explained the benefits of the new evidence management software system, sharing the value the system will provide and significant time savings for staff. Jordan noted that the program will be able to edit, transcribe, translate, search, and add closed captioning to digital media evidence.

Res.119-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve Prosecutor's Office - NICE Justice Evidence Purchase Contract, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *Revisions to Board Policy #435 - IT Acceptable Use*

Ms. Scott stated that the policy updates are mainly due to the need to add cybersecurity training for all employees, including commissioners.

Kelli Scott thanked HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault for her 24 years of service to the County, noting her upcoming retirement, and reminding the Board that HR circulates all policy updates to department heads, elected officials, union leaders and the Courts to seek

input and support before bringing them to the Board of Commissioners for ultimate approval.

Res.120-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Oo to approve revisions to Board Policy #435 - IT Acceptable Use, 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 Barry Wayne Adams commented regarding a recent House of Representatives oversight committee meeting in Lansing related to the Ford Blue Oval Battery Plant, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC's) oversight of funding for such projects.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins congratulated Kim Hinkley on her role as the 2026 President of the Michigan Association of County Clerks.

Comr. Tompkins congratulated Kim Archambault on her retirement and thanked department heads in the Road Department, including Kristine Parsons and Kori Albrecht for attending the Homer Township board meeting on September 9.

Comr. Tompkins shared his employer Hatch Stamping welcomed Vice President JD Vance on September 17 to promote Michigan manufacturing.

Comr. Saxton thanked Kim Archambault for her years of service and thanked Kristine Parsons for meeting with local townships and building relationships with the road department.

Comr. Strowbridge shared he and Comr. Oo recently attended an energy conference related to the future of energy in Michigan, including solar panels and battery storage.

Comr. French reported that she attended a conference in East Lansing hosted by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for August 28, 2025, through September 10, 2025, in the amount of \$4,248,321.71*

Res.121-2025

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Calhoun County Claims

Payable for August 28, 2025, through September 10, 2025, in the amount of \$4,248,321.71, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Tompkins noted the Albion Festival of Forks event this weekend and the Homer Historical Society on September 27.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners