

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

OCTOBER 2, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Annual Meeting according to MCL 46.1 of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, October 2, 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, Al Morehart, Dominic Oo, Dan Strowbridge, Matt Saxton, and Gary Tompkins.

Excused: Comr. Monique French.

Staff Present: Assistant County Administrator-Internal Services Megan Banning, Assistant County Administrator-Community Services Doug Ferrall, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, Communications Director Amber Coco, and Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Comr. Derek King called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Tompkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.122-2025

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Oo to approve the agenda of the October 2, 2025, Annual Meeting according to MCL46.1 of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of the September 18, 2025 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the September 18, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.123-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Minutes of the September

18, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Ellen Lassiter Collier, CEO of S.A.F.E. Place, Marshall introduced herself to the board and described the services provided by S.A.F.E. Place in Marshall, Battle Creek and countywide.

Helen Guzzo with the City of Battle Creek, Community Development - Home Repair Program, mentioned various events with Community Action, including an event to be held on October 17 to address homelessness.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Project Connect/Veterans Standdown Proclamation

Comr. King read the following Proclamation: Project Connect/Veterans Standdown into the record:

PROJECT CONNECT/VETERANS STANDDOWN
HEALTH AND INFORMATION FAIR
Friday, October 17, 2025, 9am to 1pm
Full Blast Recreation Center
35 W. Hamblin, Battle Creek, MI

WHEREAS, some people in Calhoun County continue to struggle to afford housing and to receive the services they need to stay in stable housing. In January 2025, the annual point in time count documented 212 persons who were literally homeless with 175 people staying in shelters with an additional 37 unsheltered. This was down from the 252 people recorded as without housing in January 2024. According to the Homeless Management Information System, from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, Calhoun County documented 1,243 people experiencing homelessness at some time during the year; and

WHEREAS, members of the Calhoun County Continuum of Care have partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to organize an annual information and health fair each fall to provide material goods, food, free health screenings and immunization, and other assistance to people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless; and

WHEREAS, the annual Project Connect\Veterans Stand Down event will be at the Full Blast Recreation Center in downtown Battle Creek on Friday, October 17, 2025, from 9am to 1pm; and

WHEREAS, over 60 vendors including the Calhoun County Health Department, and approximately 300 people who are unhoused or at-risk of being becoming unhoused, are expected to attend the event; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby invite people in need to attend the 2025 Project Connect/Veteran's Stand Down on October 17, 2025, to obtain material help and information on available services.

Date: October 2, 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.124-2025

"Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Project Connect/Veterans Standdown Proclamation, as presented."

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

B. Biennial Election of Members of the Calhoun County Board of Canvassers

Chair Derek King explained that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners is required to fill vacancies on the Board of canvassers by electing a Democratic and Republican member from the names submitted by each of the party's county committees to the County's Election Clerk. He stated that Michigan election law specified that a ballot be used by the Board of Commissioners in filling the seats, and that the Democratic Party submitted the names of Brendel Hatley, Christine Kosmowski, and Lisa Ryan. The Republican Party submitted the names of Kathy Scarlata and Ralph Moore.

The Board of Commissioners held a biennial election by ballot and the results were tabulated by Comr. Tompkins and Comr. Oo, as appointed by Chair King. Brendel Hatley was elected as the Democrat to the Board of Canvassers. Kathy Scarlata was elected as the Republican to the Board of Canvassers. The official ballot is retained in the October 2, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting file.

Res.125-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. King that Brendel Hatley (Democratic Party) has been duly elected by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners and is hereby appointed to the Calhoun County Board of Canvassers for a term of four (4) years beginning November 1, 2025, and ending October 31, 2029, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES - 5, Comrs. Oo, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, and Tompkins.

NO – 1, Comr. Saxton

EXCUSED - 1, Comr. French
Motion **CARRIED**.

Res.126-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Saxton that Kathy Scarlata (Republican Party) has been duly elected by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners and is hereby appointed to the Calhoun County Board of Canvassers for a term of four (4) years beginning November 1, 2025, and ending October 31, 2029, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES - 6, Comrs. Oo, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

EXCUSED - 1, Comr. French

Motion **CARRIED**.

Res.127-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Morehart that Christine Kosmowski (Democratic Party) has been duly elected by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners and is hereby appointed to the Calhoun County Board of Canvassers for a term of four (4) years beginning November 1, 2025, and ending October 31, 2029, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

YES - 1, Comr. Saxton

NO - 5, Comrs. Oo, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, and Tompkins.

EXCUSED - 1, Comr. French

Motion **FAILED**.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other Local Governments' Resolutions to be Acknowledged

B. Resolutions

1. CCRD Traffic Control Order - 11 Mile Rd & N Dr N (Gorsline Rd)

Res.128-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Consent Agenda of the October 2, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. Strowbridge shared that Mike Armitage, Calhoun County Dispatch Authority Executive Director, has been recognized as 2025 Director of the Year by the Michigan Chapter of the APCO.

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 noted the need for commissioners to contact their state legislators to show support for local revenue sharing and road funding.

Mr. Ferrall highlighted the recent ribbon cutting at the Youth Center and invited commissioners to tour the updated facility.

Dough Ferrall shared October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, noting programs and resources offered in Calhoun County.

Assistant County Administrator provided updates related to the Planning Commission, the County Comprehensive Plan Leadership Committee, and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

B. *New Business*

There was none.

13. Citizens' Time

There was none.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins shared information regarding the Eckford Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, October 4.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. *Claims Payable for September 11, 2025, through September 24, 2025, in the amount of \$8,210,821.27*

Res.129-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for September 11, 2025, through September 24, 2025, in the amount of \$8,210,821.27, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

There was none.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners