

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

OCTOBER 16, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Property Tax Apportionment Session according to MCL 211.37 of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, October 16, 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, and Gary Tompkins.

Absent/Excused: Comr. Matt Saxton.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, 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. French led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.130-2025

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Agenda of the October 16, 2025, Property Tax Apportionment Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

A. *Minutes of the October 2, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Annual Meeting*

Minutes of the October 2, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Annual Meeting.

Res.131-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Annual Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

There was none.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Calhoun County Treasurer Melinda Weaver shared that the newly formed Association of Calhoun County Treasurers held its second meeting on October 14 with approximately 30 members in attendance, representing numerous cities and townships within Calhoun County. Ms. Weaver added that the Calhoun County Treasurers Association is planning a 1-day conference on January 21, 2026, and are looking for speakers.

State Representative Steve Frisbie reported the state passed the 2026 budget with dedicated funding for local roadways, Sheriff's Department and public safety.

City of Battle Creek Manager of Community Development Helen Guzzo thanked the board for the proclamation to be presented related to lead prevention and abatement.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Proclamation — National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 2025

Comr. Tompkins read the following Proclamation - National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 2025 into the record:

NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 2025

WHEREAS, lead poisoning remains a health hazard for children in Calhoun County where in 2024, seventy-two children had elevated blood levels of lead. Unlike in Flint where the water was contaminated, the main sources of lead for Calhoun County children are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978 and 75% of Calhoun County's housing stock was built before 1979; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 6 years are at greatest risk of lead poisoning due to proximity to lead dust and hand-to-mouth behaviors. Children from all social and economic levels can be affected by lead poisoning, although children living at or below the poverty line who live in older housing are at greatest risk; and

WHEREAS, childhood lead poisoning is preventable by stopping children from coming into contact with lead and treating children who have been poisoned by lead. Lead hazards in a child's environment can be identified and removed safely. Parents, health care professionals, educators, and the public need education about lead poisoning and how to prevent it; and.

WHEREAS, since January 2016, the Battle Creek's Community Development Division and the Calhoun County Public Health Department have partnered together on the Calhoun County Lead Poisoning Prevention Task Force to increase the number of children being tested for lead poisoning, create greater public awareness about the risks of lead poisoning, and coordinate resources for remediating lead in homes and the environment; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, 203 housing units have been abated in Calhoun County in partnership with the City of Battle Creek and Community Action creating safer and healthier living environments for children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of October 19-25, 2025, as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, in Calhoun County, Michigan, and encourage all families to learn about lead poisoning prevention.

Dated: October 16, 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Emily Arntz, Lead Safe Programs Coordinator, was in attendance to receive the proclamation as well as staff from Community Action and the Health Department.

Res.132-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Proclamation - National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 2025, as presented."

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

B. 2025 Apportionment Report: Presentation and Approval

Deputy Equalization Director Tom Scott provided a summary of the Apportionment Report, signed by the Equalization Director Matthew Hansen, who was present at the meeting.

Mr. Scott stated that the Resolution approving the apportionment process serves as each taxing jurisdiction's authority to levy property taxes in the county. Scott noted that there is one new millage proposed on the November ballot, which, if passed, will amend the current report and will be revised for Board approval in November.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott added the report provides information for each township, city, authority, village, school district, intermediate school district, and community college reflecting their millage rate and taxable value in comparison to the prior year.

Res.133-2025

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the 2025 Apportionment Report and Resolution, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Absent/Excused - 1, Comr. Saxton.

Motion **CARRIED**.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

2. Financial Statements For Information Only: September 2025

B. Resolutions

1. Judicial Salaries Effective October 1, 2025

2. Calhoun County Community Mental Health Authority (Summit Pointe) Board Appointment

3. Senior Services Contract Amendment - Guardian Finance & Advocacy Services

4. Road Department Installment Purchase Agreement Amendment

Res.134-2025

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Consent Agenda of the October 16, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Property Tax Apportionment Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

There was none.

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 thanked Equalization Director Matt Hansen for being present for the apportionment report presentation and approval.

Kelli Scott reported that Standard & Poor's Global Ratings recently affirmed the County's 'AA' bond rating with an assigned stable outlook for the upcoming capital improvement bond issuance.

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that the 2026 budget hearings are scheduled for October 23.

Ms. Scott thanked Commissioners King and Morehart for grilling during the employee appreciation day cookout on October 15 in Marshall. Scott added that the Battle Creek cookout is scheduled for October 22.

B. New Business

1. Veterans Affairs Office Authorized Staffing Request

Kelli Scott noted that this is a current unfunded staffing position that is requested to be funded, with the goal of improving customer service within the County's Veterans Affairs Office. Scott added that this position is fully funded by the extra-voted Veterans millage, and will not have a budget impact on the General Fund.

Lucy Hough, Deputy Community Development Director, gave background and rationale for filling this support staff position, in order to assist the two full-time VA officers with their duties.

Res.135-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Veterans Affairs Office Authorized Staffing Request, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Absent/Excused - 1, Comr. Saxton.

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

There was none

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. French reported that there was an event the past week in Washington Heights honoring law enforcement services. French added that Voces in Battle Creek will hold a college fair on October 21, and that there was a ribbon cutting on October 9 for the GVSU location in Battle Creek.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for September 25, 2025, through October 8, 2025, in the amount of \$8,595,163.10*

Res.136-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. French to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for September 25, 2025, through October 8, 2025, in the amount of \$8,595,163.10, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Absent/Excused - 1, Comr. Saxton.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

There was none.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners