

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

DECEMBER 4, 2025

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, December 4, 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, Dominic Oo, Dan Strowbridge, Matt Saxton, and Gary Tompkins.

Excused: Comr. Al Morehart.

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator-Internal Services Megan Banning, Assistant County Administrator-Community Services Doug Ferrall, Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose, Interim HR/Labor Relations Director Catherine Lessnau, 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. Strowbridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.155-2025

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the agenda of the December 4, 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 November 20, 2025 Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the November 20, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.156-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Minutes of the November 20,

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

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

6. Citizens' Time

Marshall resident Barry Wayne Adams shared concerns related to the development of data centers, solar farms, and lithium battery facilities throughout the state of Michigan.

Battle Creek resident, Alex addressed concerns related to the County Sheriff's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agreement(s).

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Road Department Director Kristine Parsons commented on the two Road Department grant items on the Consent Agenda, providing details about the use of crash history for submitting safety grant applications, resulting in funding for the removal of trees to clear roadway canopies.

Comr. Tompkins thanked Kristine Parsons and the Road Department for their work to clear and maintain the roadways after the recent snow storm.

Assistant County Administrator Doug Ferrall commented regarding the Intent to create a countywide Brownfield Revdevelopment Authority, which was on the Consent Agenda, setting the timeline for a public hearing on January 15, 2026.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Presentation of Calhoun County Conservation District Annual Report — Ryan Reincke, Executive Director

Ryan Reincke, Executive Director of the Calhoun County Conservation District, shared the organization's annual report for 2024. He noted successes related to the conservation needs assessment, along with an update of the Battle Creek River Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Reincke also highlighted the Hunter's Access Program, planning with MSU, and the Holt-Rice Creek property enhancements.

*B. Proclamation — 2025 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign
December 12, 2025 — January 1, 2026 "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"*

Comr. Saxton read the following Proclamation into the record:

2025 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign
December 12, 2025 – January 1, 2026
"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"

WHEREAS, the latest national data shows that one person dies every 42 minutes in drunk-driving crashes, and hundreds of thousands more are injured every year in the United States;

all of which are completely preventable; and

WHEREAS, the Christmas and New Year's holiday periods from mid-December through January 1st are traditionally one of the deadliest times of the year for alcohol-impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, drivers must remember that driving impaired by any substance, drugs or alcohol, is illegal and potentially deadly for themselves, passengers and other road users; and

WHEREAS, based on December 2023 crash figures, male drivers were four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash involving alcohol than female drivers, and drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percent (25%) of alcohol-impaired fatalities that month; and

WHEREAS, organizations across the nation are joining together to promote Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization to remove impaired drivers from the roadways under the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" national public awareness campaign during the December 12, 2025 – January 1, 2026, time period; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Calhoun County Commissioners, do hereby recognize the 2025 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization effort from December 12, 2025 – January 1, 2026, under the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. We call upon everyone to promote awareness of the impaired driving problem, to promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and all drugs, and to promote the awareness campaign this holiday season and throughout the year.

Dated: December 4, 2025

Signed: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Commissioner

Res.157-2025

"Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Proclamation, as presented."

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

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. Scheduling of the 2026 Board of Commissioners Organizational Session

2. Calhoun County Board of Public Health Reappointments

3. *CCRD Contract -B Dr. N. Safety Grant Tree Removal*
4. *CCRD Contract - 6 Mile Road Safety Grant Tree Removals*
5. *Intent to Create a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA)*

Res.158-2025

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Consent Agenda of the December 4, 2025, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

There were 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 noted that there is one remaining board meeting for 2025 scheduled for December 18, and that some expected items for new business at that meeting include collective bargaining agreements with the Prosecuting Attorneys' Association, the Sheriff's Supervisory employee union, and the Road Department's UAW union, along with some other year-end contract renewals and the final 2025 budget amendments.

Kelli Scott added that the Organizational Meeting for 2026 will be held on January 15.

B. *New Business*

1. *2026 Agreement for MSU Extension Services*

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that the proposed agreement for 2026 includes a 2.5% increase in payment from the County for 4H and administrative staff support, and that in addition to the payment, the County will continue to provide office space in the County Building and internet services for the MSU Extension office.

Res.159-2025

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the 2026 Agreement for MSU Extension Services, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Morehart.

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Appropriations*

Ms. Scott thanked Assistant County Administrator Megan Banning for her leadership in coordinating efforts to present balanced budgets for 2026.

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that County Administration did make some adjustments to the proposed 2026 and 7-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets since the preliminary budget recommendation in November. Scott stated that the budget adoption includes the departmental user fee schedule and authorized staffing allocations, and that there is a budget transmittal memorandum included with a detailed narrative of the budget assumptions used.

Kelli Scott added that the County's millage rates will remain unchanged from 2024, following Headlee Amendment rollbacks in 2023 and 2024, which permanently reduced allowable levy rates without future voter approval to restore the reductions.

Commissioners Tompkins and Saxton thanked Ms. Scott and Megan Banning for the timeliness of the budget so that the commissioners had time to read and ask questions, if any.

Res.160-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Appropriations, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Morehart.

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. *County Pledge of Full Faith & Credit RE: Goguac Lake Level Special Assessment Notes*

Kelli Scott noted Water Resources Commissioner Tommy Miller was present to answer questions. Scott added that pledging the County's full faith and credit for the up front financing of the design and engineering for the proposed lake level improvements will allow for the lowest financing rates from banks.

Mr. Miller informed the Board of the need to establish the lake level with proposed pumps and addressing wells.

Res.161-2025

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the County Pledge of Full Faith & Credit regarding Goguac Lake Level Special Assessment Notes, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Morehart.

Motion **CARRIED**.

4. POAM Collective Bargaining Agreement 2026-2028

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that this proposed collective bargaining agreement is for three years, and achieves the main economic goals of more strictly defining overtime to match federal labor standards, and increasing the marketability of pay related to other counties of similar sizes. Scott added that previously negotiated recruitment and retention payments paid for with federal COVID response funds since 2020 were not renewed, and that one-time lump sum ratification payments will be made to employees as a condition of this new agreement.

Scott thanked Interim HR and Labor Relations Director Catherine Lessnau for her success as the lead negotiator on behalf of the County and noted that County Administration, along with Sheriff Hinkley, Undersheriff Hurtt, and Chief Deputy Farmer served as the management bargaining team.

Res.162-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. French to approve the POAM Collective Bargaining Agreement 2026-2028, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Morehart.

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Battle Creek resident Alex commented regarding the Sheriff's overtime mentioned in the agenda item to approve the POAM agreement, and reiterated concerns about ICE detention.

Barry Wayne Adams mentioned his YouTube channel.

Tommy Miller thanked County administration for their assistance in helping him succeed in his his new position with the county.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. French thanked Kristine Parsons for her quick reply related to a road question.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for November 13, 2025, through November 24, 2025, in the amount of \$4,967,621.63*

Res.163-2025

“Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for November 13, 2025, through November 24, 2025, in the amount of \$4,967,621.63, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Excused - 1, Comr. Morehart.

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Tompkins recognized Sheriff Hinkley for being honored with the Defender Award for Outstanding Commitment to Upholding the Rule of Law and Protecting Citizens.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners



2025 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization Campaign
December 12, 2025 – January 1, 2026
“Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”

- WHEREAS,** the latest national data shows that one person dies every 42 minutes in drunk-driving crashes, and hundreds of thousands more are injured every year in the United States; all of which are completely preventable; and
- WHEREAS,** the Christmas and New Year’s holiday periods from mid-December through January 1st are traditionally one of the deadliest times of the year for alcohol-impaired driving; and
- WHEREAS,** drivers must remember that driving impaired by any substance, drugs or alcohol, is illegal and potentially deadly for themselves, passengers and other road users; and
- WHEREAS,** based on December 2023 crash figures, male drivers were four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash involving alcohol than female drivers, and drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percent (25%) of alcohol-impaired fatalities that month; and
- WHEREAS,** organizations across the nation are joining together to promote Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization to remove impaired drivers from the roadways under the “*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*” national public awareness campaign during the December 12, 2025 – January 1, 2026, time period; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Calhoun County Commissioners, do hereby recognize the 2025 Holiday Season National Enforcement Mobilization effort from December 12, 2025 – January 1, 2026, under the “*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*” campaign. We call upon everyone to promote awareness of the impaired driving problem, to promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and all drugs, and to promote the awareness campaign this holiday season and throughout the year.

December 4, 2025

Derek King, Chair
Calhoun County Commissioner