

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

JANUARY 15, 2026

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Organizational Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, January 15, 2026, 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: 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 King called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. French led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.001-2026

"Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Agenda of the January 15, 2026, Organizational Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, as presented."

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

5. Approval of Minutes

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

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

Res.002-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. French to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2025, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Residents of Battle Creek and Marshall expressed concerns related to local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations.

Rachel Warner, on behalf of State Representative Steve Frisbie, provided an annual update, highlighting road funding legislation passed in 2025, and contemplated property tax reform to potentially be introduced in 2026.

Michael Evans, on behalf of the Senior Empowerment Project, shared concerns related to affordable housing and the rental market for seniors in Calhoun County.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There were none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Election of Board of Commissioners Vice Chair for 2026

Res.003-2026

Comr. Morehart nominated Comr. Saxton to continue as Vice Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners in 2026 for a one-year term per Standing Board Rules.

Comr. Oo seconded the nomination for Comr. Saxton to remain Vice Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners in 2026 for a one-year term per Standing Board Rules.

Chair King called three times for other nominations and none were offered.

"Moved Comr. Strowbridge, second by Comr. Morehart to close the nominations and a unanimous vote in support for Commissioner Matt Saxton to be re-elected as the 2026 Vice Chairperson of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

Present - Comrs. King, Saxton, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

A ROLL CALL VOTE was held to verify the election of Comr. Saxton as Vice Chairperson.

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

Commissioner Matt Saxton was declared by unanimous vote to serve as Vice Chairperson of the 2026 Calhoun County Board of Commissioners.

B. Public Hearing to Consider a Countywide Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Res.004-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to Open the Public Hearing."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

Present - Comrs. King, Saxton, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

Comr. King declared the Public Hearing Open.

Assistant County Administrator — Community Services Doug Ferrall stated that the Calhoun County Land Bank will provide a presentation at the February 5 Board meeting.

Mr. Ferrall described the proposed Countywide Brownfield Redevelopment Authority ("BRA"), noting current cities within Calhoun County that have BRAs, and providing background history.

Doug Ferrall noted that with the new Countywide BRA, the County may be able to offer assistance to townships in grant writing, financing, and clean up of properties and infrastructure. Ferrall added that the BRA is not a taxing authority and will not levy mileages.

Comr. Saxton questioned if all townships and villages have been provided information related to the BRA.

Mr. Ferrall replied in the affirmative, and added that they can join prior to or after the creation of the authority.

Comr. Tompkins inquired if there will be a separate board for the BRA.

Doug Ferrall replied that the County's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will act as the BRA board.

Public Comment Began at 7:25pm:

Barry Wayne Adams noted industrial development and the ability to sustain infrastructure without another appointed board.

Eileen Kosmowski expressed her support of the BRA.

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge, to Close the Public Hearing."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

Present - Comrs. King, Saxton, French, Morehart, Oo, Strowbridge, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

Comr. King declared the Public Hearing Closed.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

B. Resolutions

1. 911 Emergency Telephone Service District Final Plan Amendment

2. Second Amendment to Administrative Services and Fringe Benefits Agreement with CCCDA

Res.005-2026

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Consent Agenda of the January 15, 2026, Board of Commissioner’s Organizational Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. French reported that the Summit Pointe Board met on January 6 and heard various committee reports.

11. Unfinished and Old Business

There was none.

12. New Business and County Administrator's Report

A. Administrator/Controller's Report

Assistant County Administrator - Internal Services Megan Banning congratulated Matt Saxon on his re-election as Vice Chair to the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Banning shared highlights from the current Board Update Report, including the recent Risk Management Crisis De-escalation Training offered by Summit Pointe for County employees.

Megan Banning noted County offices will be closed Monday, January 19 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a day of service.

B. New Business

1. CCRD MDOT Contract #25-5560: 6 Mile Rd from B Dr S to B Dr N in Emmett, Leroy, & Newton Townships

Megan Banning stated that this is a crush and shape project in conjunction with Newton Township with 10% funded by the Road Department.

Road Department Director Kristine Parsons offered a detailed explanation of the work, noting local and federal aid contributing to the project's funding.

Res.006-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Road Department MDOT Contract #25-5560: 6 Mile Road from B Dr S to B Dr N in Emmett, Leroy & Newton Townships, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Bid Award: RFP#111-25 Medical Examiner Services

Ms. Banning informed that the proposed five-year contract was created with optional extensions and was in response to a competitive bidding process.

Megan Banning noted Corporation Counsel Kate Ambrose was present to answer any questions.

Res.007-2026

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve Bid Award: RFP#111-25 Medical Examiner Services, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Financial Policy Updates

Assistant County Administrator Banning informed that financial polies are reviewed annually to clean up language and offer best practices.

Res.008-2026

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Financial Policy Updates, 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 reported on the status of the Court of Appeals claim related to the Marshall Ford Blue Oval Battery Park.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Morehart shared that Battle Creek received various real estate and community recognition by [Realtor.com](https://www.realtor.com), including praise for well-maintained neighborhoods, and grant programs, reflecting positive local real estate environments.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for December 11, 2025, through January 7, 2026, in the amount of \$7,356,189.45*

Res.009-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for December 11, 2025, through January 7, 2026, in the amount of \$7,356,189.45, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

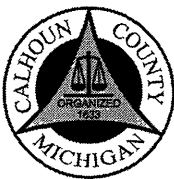
There were none.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44p.m. at the call of the Chair.

smc

Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners



CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION

At a Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, held in Board Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan, on Thursday, January 15, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority's Governing Board of Directors took action on recommending the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners amend the 2010 Emergency Telephone Service District "Final Plan" to reflect current public and private agencies being serviced by the 911 network and the dispatching method as reflected in Appendix 8 of the Final Plan.

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners ("Board") is authorized under Michigan's Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act, 1986 P.A. 32, as amended ("Act") and under authority provided by its Emergency Telephone Services District ("Final Plan") ("911 Plan") to make administrative findings regarding the public and private safety agencies being dispatched within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby makes an Administrative Finding that Appendix 8 of the Final Plan shall be amended to reflect the current public and private safety agencies being serviced by the 911 network and their dispatching methods.

Res.005-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve making an Administrative Finding that Appendix 8 of the Final Plan shall be amended, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

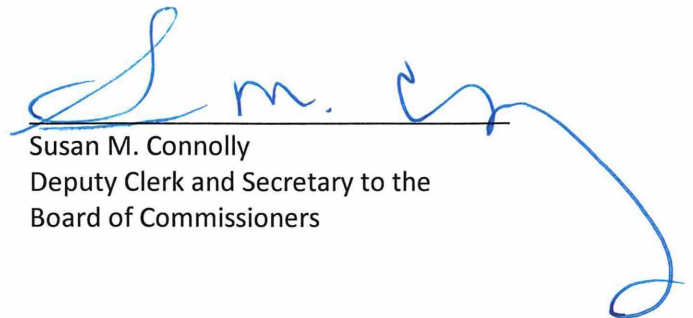
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF CALHOUN)

I, the undersigned, Calhoun County Deputy Clerk and Secretary to the Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting held on January 15, 2026, relative to adoption of the resolution therein set forth; that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be made available as required by said Act.

Dated: January 15, 2026



Susan M. Connolly
Deputy Clerk and Secretary to the
Board of Commissioners



**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION**

At a Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, held in Board Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan, on Thursday, January 15, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

Be It Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Second Amendment to Administrative Services and Fringe Benefits Agreement between Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority and Calhoun County and authorizes the Administrator/Controller to sign the Amendment on behalf of Calhoun County.

Res.005-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Second Amendment to Administrative Services and Fringe Benefits Agreement between Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority and Calhoun County, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

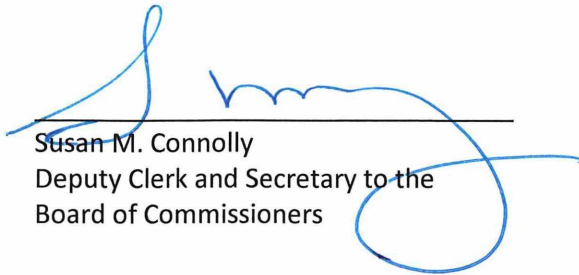
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED.**

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RESOLUTION**

At a Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, held in Board Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan, on Thursday, January 15, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

Be it resolved, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Michigan Department of Transportation Contract #25-5560, which includes: hot mix asphalt base crushing, shaping, and paving, earthwork, aggregate base, and shoulders, permanent signing and pavement markings along 6 Mile Rd from B Drive S to B Drive N in Emmett, Leroy, & Newton Townships and all necessary related work, and authorizes the Managing Director to sign on behalf of the County.

Res.006-2026

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Oo to approve Michigan Department of Transportation Contract #25-5560, as presented."

On a ROLL CALL VOTE

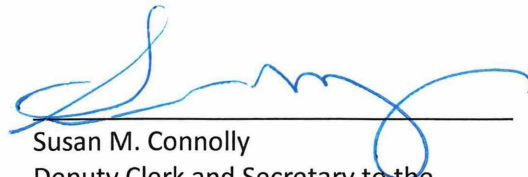
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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Dated: January 15, 2026



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RESOLUTION**

At a Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, held in Board Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan, on Thursday, January 15, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the agreement with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) to provide Medical Examiner services and approves the appointment of Dr. Patrick Hansma as the Calhoun County Medical Examiner and authorizes the Board Chair to execute the agreement. The Board authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to execute amendments and other related documents as reviewed by Corporation Counsel throughout the term of the agreement.

Res.007-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the agreement with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) to provide Medical Examiner services and approves the appointment of Dr. Patrick Hansma as the Calhoun County Medical Examiner, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

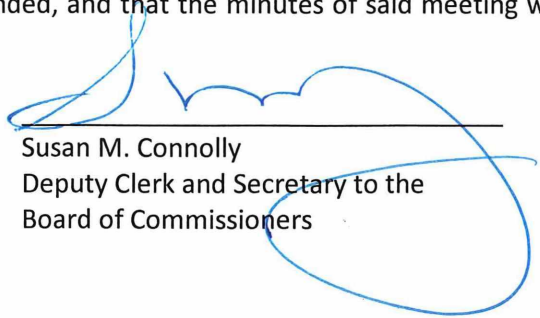
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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RESOLUTION**

At a Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, held in Board Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan, on Thursday, January 15, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

Resolved, the Board of Commissioners approves the updated Board policies.

Res.008-2026

"Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the updated Board policies, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

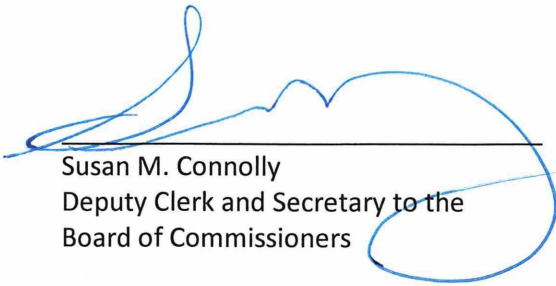
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED.**

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