

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, February 19, 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: 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. Tompkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.022-2026

"Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Agenda of the February 19, 2026, 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 February 5, 2026, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting*

Minutes of the February 5, 2026, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

Res.023-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2026, Board of Commissioners' Regular Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

Barry Wayne Adams of Marshall commented on the MDOT public informational event recently held at FireKeepers Casino Hotel.

Rachel Warner, Regional Member Services Advisor for State Representative Steve Frisbie shared updates on legislative initiatives including local property tax reform, lowering healthcare costs, and the recent legislation calling for a cell phone ban for classrooms.

Chris Vreeland of Fredonia Township commented on possible measures to protect residents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

Kristine Parsons, Managing Director of the Road Department, highlighted the Consent Agenda item related to local road projects for 2026, noting funding exceeds six million dollars supporting twelve townships.

Comr. Matt Saxton shared that he has reached out to Tekonsha Township to open communication between the township and the road department, noting their last local road project was in 2017.

Ms. Parsons addressed the requirements related to funding and how to assist the townships with planning for future road improvements.

8. Special Order of Business

There was none.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Other County Resolutions to be Acknowledged

B. Resolutions

1. CCRD Agreements with Townships - 2026 Local Road Projects

Res.024-2026

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Consent Agenda of the February 19, 2026, 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*

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott thanked State Representative Steve Frisbie who was present at the meeting, for his support and work to bring the additional road funding.

Kelli Scott also thanked Kristine Parsons for her time meeting with the numerous townships to develop a plan for the 2026 road projects.

Ms. Scott noted the upcoming Township Supervisor's Meeting next Tuesday in preparation for the 2026 construction season for the Road Department.

Administrator/Controller Scott shared the annual deposit for the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board in the amount of 6.13 million dollars has been received with this year's first allocation meeting scheduled on March 5.

B. *New Business*

1. *RFP#103-26 Roadside Mowing*

Kelli Scott noted the importance of using competitive bidding to ensure lowest costs to repair roadways. She added that the contracted mowing provider will perform two rounds of mowing this year, one at the beginning of the season and a second at the end, with the Road Department performing maintenance mowing in-between as needed.

Kello Scott added the mowing company selected , Jablonski & Sons, from Allegan County, currently services 11 other counties.

Res.025-2026

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. French to approve RFP#103-26 Roadside Mowing, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *Resolution to Create an Opioid Settlement Emerging Needs Fund*

Ms. Scott reminded the Board that the County's Opioid Settlement Fund is from private restricted funding from the national opioid settlements, bringing an estimated 600 thousand dollars to the County each year over 18 years. Scott added that this new Emerging Needs Fund will appropriate an initial 200 thousand dollars to be available on an ongoing application basis to help community organizations address urgent community needs.

Administrator/Controller Scott noted that the County has put in place legal agreements and procedures for spending of the fund on allowable uses to achieve accountability while creating more flexibility to respond to the opioid crisis.

Res.026-2026

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Resolution to Create an Opioid Settlement Emerging Needs Fund, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

13. Citizens' Time

Mr. Vreeland and Mr. Adams continued expressing concerns related to ICE and federal immigration.

14. Commissioners' Time

There was none.

15. Claims Payable Listing

- A. *Claims Payable for January 29, 2026, through February 11, 2026, in the amount of \$5,084,685.10*

Res.027-2026

“Moved Comr. Oo, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for January 29, 2026, through February 11, 2026, in the amount of \$5,084,685.10, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

Comr. Tompkins shared upcoming events at the Homer American Legion and Bohm Theatre in Albion.

Comr. French noted events at the Kool Family Community Center and Washington Heights.

Comr. Oo added an event for Burmese Community Day to be held at the Burma Center in Springfield.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37p.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, February 19, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the agreements for Albion, Athens, Bedford, Burlington, Clarence, Clarendon, Convis, Eckford, Emmett, Fredonia, Marengo, and Marshall Townships for the 2026 local road improvements and ratifies the Road Department's Managing Director's signatures on the County's behalf.

Res.024-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the 2026 local road improvements, as presented on the Consent Agenda."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

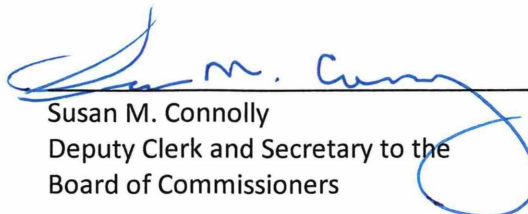
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

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 February 19, 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: February 19, 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, February 19, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the contract with J. Jablonski and Sons, Inc. for roadside mowing as presented and authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to execute the agreement on behalf of the County.

Res.025-2026

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. French to approve the contract with J. Jablonski and Sons, Inc. for roadside mowing, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

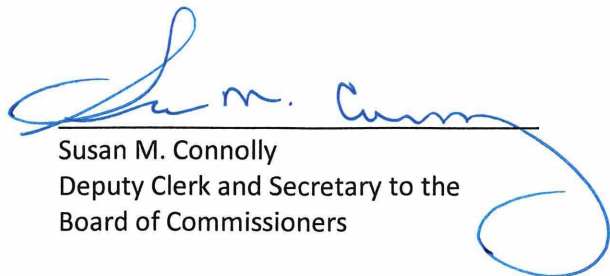
YES - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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Dated: February 19, 2026



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



CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____, 2026

RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN OPIOID SETTLEMENT EMERGING NEEDS FUND

WHEREAS, According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [Data \(michigan.gov\)](https://data.michigan.gov/) Calhoun County is the 15th most vulnerable county in Michigan related to substance use, with a rate of 38.3 overdose fatalities per 100,000 people, and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County is participating in and signing on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County is projected as of January 2026 to receive approximately \$13.2 Million over a total of eighteen (18) years as a result of litigation, with payments that began in late 2022 and have totaled \$4.4M to date; and

WHEREAS, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, in February 2024, the Board of Commissioners affirmed the creation of the Calhoun County Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee that has engaged local stakeholders and has been meeting monthly for the purpose of developing recommendations on the most effective strategies to utilize the funds consistent with the terms connected to their use; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners has previously appropriated cumulative totals of \$3.4M in external allocations to community organizations and internal allocations to County departments and Courts and expects ongoing funding averaging approximately \$700,000 per year, which may not allow for sustained annual RFP grant processes at previous levels; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Opioid Funds Steering Committee has recommended a proactive and flexible approach to mitigate overdose spikes, sustain critical services, and reach high-risk populations in addition to any future annual RFP grant processes; and

WHEREAS, County Administration and Finance is recommending starting in 2026 the allocation of an initial \$200,000, with intent to replenish the fund through the annual budget process or as otherwise as approved by the Board of Commissioners, and to be made available through a competitive application process; and

WHEREAS, the Request for Proposals (RFP) Subcommittee of the Calhoun County Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee has met to finalize criteria for eligibility and prioritization of projects for the Emerging Needs Fund following input from the Steering Committee in November 2025; and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel has determined that the creation of an Emerging Needs Fund aligns with the allowable uses of the national opioid litigation settlement funds, supporting goals such as harm reduction, evidence-based interventions, recovery systems of care, and equitable access to life-saving services, including but not limited to:

- Distributing harm reduction supplies (e.g., naloxone, fentanyl and xylazine test strips) or addressing equipment and infrastructure failures that threaten public health and safety;
- Supporting rapid community outreach and peer recovery activities;
- Responding to the emergence of new drugs and spikes in overdose trends;
- Stabilizing programming impacted by funding gaps;
- Providing match funds to leverage other time-sensitive grant opportunities.

:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the establishment of a \$200,000 Emerging Needs Fund to be allocated from the County's opioid litigation settlement funds and to be replenished through the annual budget process or as otherwise as approved by the Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this fund shall be administered under the oversight of the Calhoun County Opioid Settlement Committee through its RFP Subcommittee and facilitated by the County Administrator/Controller, who shall develop a process for the timely allocation of funds in accordance with County Fiscal Policies and in response to emerging public health threats, overdose surges, or service delivery disruptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administrator/Controller shall establish a process for receiving and reviewing funding requests, approving expenditures, and reporting on the impact of funded activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administrator/Controller is authorized to make any necessary budget adjustments consistent with this resolution and to sign any necessary contract documents consistent with this resolution, after approval as to form by the Corporation Counsel.



**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, February 19, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached Resolution to create an Opioid Settlement Emerging Needs Fund, with an initial appropriation of \$200,000 from the County's designated Opioid Settlement Fund, as presented, and authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to authorize awards of the funds and Corporation Counsel to negotiate and execute legal agreements with each recipient to finalize project scope and amounts.

Res.026-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to adopt the Resolution to create an Opioid Settlement Emerging Needs Fund, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

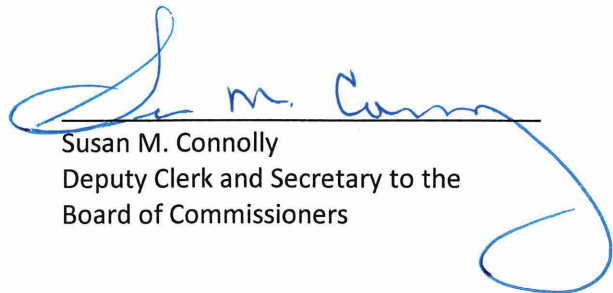
YES - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

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 February 19, 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: February 19, 2026


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



CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 19, 2026

RESOLUTION TO CREATE AN OPIOID SETTLEMENT EMERGING NEEDS FUND

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WHEREAS, Calhoun County is participating in and signing on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County is projected as of January 2026 to receive approximately \$13.2 Million over a total of eighteen (18) years as a result of litigation, with payments that began in late 2022 and have totaled \$4.4M to date; and

WHEREAS, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, in February 2024, the Board of Commissioners affirmed the creation of the Calhoun County Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee that has engaged local stakeholders and has been meeting monthly for the purpose of developing recommendations on the most effective strategies to utilize the funds consistent with the terms connected to their use; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners has previously appropriated cumulative totals of \$3.4M in external allocations to community organizations and internal allocations to County departments and Courts and expects ongoing funding averaging approximately \$700,000 per year, which may not allow for sustained annual RFP grant processes at previous levels; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Opioid Funds Steering Committee has recommended a proactive and flexible approach to mitigate overdose spikes, sustain critical services, and reach high-risk populations in addition to any future annual RFP grant processes; and

WHEREAS, County Administration and Finance is recommending starting in 2026 the allocation of an initial \$200,000, with intent to replenish the fund through the annual budget process or as otherwise as approved by the Board of Commissioners, and to be made available through a competitive application process; and

WHEREAS, the Request for Proposals (RFP) Subcommittee of the Calhoun County Opioid Settlement Funds Steering Committee has met to finalize criteria for eligibility and prioritization of projects for the Emerging Needs Fund following input from the Steering Committee in November 2025; and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel has determined that the creation of an Emerging Needs Fund aligns with the allowable uses of the national opioid litigation settlement funds, supporting goals such as harm reduction, evidence-based interventions, recovery systems of care, and equitable access to life-saving services, including but not limited to:

- Distributing harm reduction supplies (e.g., naloxone, fentanyl and xylazine test strips) or addressing equipment and infrastructure failures that threaten public health and safety;
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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the establishment of a \$200,000 Emerging Needs Fund to be allocated from the County's opioid litigation settlement funds and to be replenished through the annual budget process or as otherwise as approved by the Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this fund shall be administered under the oversight of the Calhoun County Opioid Settlement Committee through its RFP Subcommittee and facilitated by the County Administrator/Controller, who shall develop a process for the timely allocation of funds in accordance with County Fiscal Policies and in response to emerging public health threats, overdose surges, or service delivery disruptions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administrator/Controller shall establish a process for receiving and reviewing funding requests, approving expenditures, and reporting on the impact of funded activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administrator/Controller is authorized to make any necessary budget adjustments consistent with this resolution and to sign any necessary contract documents consistent with this resolution, after approval as to form by the Corporation Counsel.

Res.026-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to adopt the Resolution to create an Opioid Settlement Emerging Needs Fund, as presented."

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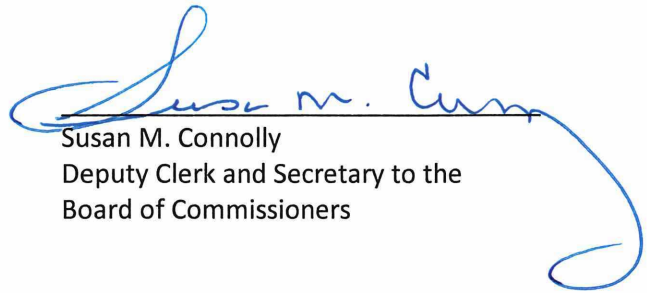
YES - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

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