

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MAY 7, 2026

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00pm, Thursday, May 7, 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, HR/Labor Relations Director Dr. Karissa Hutchins, Communications Director Amber Coco, and Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Susan Connolly.

2. Moment of Silence/Invocation

Comr. King called for a moment of silence.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Comr. Saxton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Res.052-2026

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Tompkins to approve the Agenda of the May 7, 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 April 14, 2026, Board of Commissioners Equalization Session*

Minutes of the April 14, 2026, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting.

Res.053-2026

"Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2026, Board of Commissioners' Equalization Meeting, as presented."

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

6. Citizens' Time

A few residents expressed concerns related to roadway deterioration on H Drive South and the possible return to gravel in Marengo Township.

James Smith of Battle Creek requested that the Board of Commissioners rename the Justice Center the Sojourner Truth Justice Center.

Dr. Leslie Hagan of Ocala, Florida, daughter of Mary S. Coleman, expressed her support for the renaming the Justice Center as the Mary S. Coleman Justice Center of Calhoun County. Ms. Hagan highlighted some of Mary Coleman's life and accomplishments, and expressed appreciation for the permanent positive impact left on the community.

7. Elected/Appointed County Officials' Comments

There was none.

8. Special Order of Business

A. Public Hearing and Resolution to Rename the Calhoun County Justice Center

Res.054-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to Open the Public Hearing.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Chair King declared the public hearing open.

The Honorable John A. Hallacy from the 37th Circuit Court made opening remarks in support of the Resolution to rename the Justice Center. Judge Hallacy shared the legacy of Mary Coleman and the many contributions made to Calhoun County.

Battle Creek resident Mr. Smith continued his public comment in support of naming the Justice Center after Sojourner Truth, noting her legacy throughout Calhoun County.

Dr. Leslie Hagan added to her public comment in support of renaming the Justice Center after Mary S. Coleman.

Barry Wayne Adams expressed opposition to renaming the Justice Center.

Comr. French noted that constituents in her district support renaming the Justice Center after

Sojourner Truth, sharing the hospital named a wing after her.

Comr. Saxton shared that while he generally does not support naming buildings after individuals, understanding the historical contributions made by Mary Coleman, he was supportive of this Resolution.

Comr. Strowbridge noted there would be no cost to County residents.

Res.055-2026

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Strowbridge to Close the Public Hearing.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

Res.056-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Saxton to Approve the Resolution to Rename the Calhoun County Justice Center to the "Mary S. Coleman Justice Center of Calhoun County", as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

NO - 1, Comr. French.

Motion **CARRIED**.

B. Proclamation - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month

Comr. King read the following Proclamation into the record:

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and

WHEREAS, thousands of new amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS, and someone passes away from ALS; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and

WHEREAS, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and

WHEREAS, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life, and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is committed to make ALS livable and cure it for everyone, everywhere; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

Date: May 7, 2026

By: Derek King, Chair Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Res.057-2026

“Moved Comr. Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the Proclamation, as presented.”

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

C. Annual Report of the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

Brian Pittelko, Executive Director of Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) shared the organization's annual report and noted that the council represents Region 3 consisting of Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph.

Mr. Pittelko added that SMPC is a regional planning organization that aims to improve the

economic, environmental, and fiscal health of member organizations through transportation, land use and environmental planning, economic development, and efficient local staffing. Pittelko stated that Jen Bomba, the County's Community Development Director, serves on the board.

Comr. Tompkins questioned the timeframe for developing the new 5-year plan. Mr. Pittelko replied that it would take an estimated six to nine months to develop.

9. Consent Agenda

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. 2026 FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board Administrative Services Agreement

2. Support for Renaming 11 Mile Road Bridge

Res.058-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 7, 2026, Board of Commissioner’s Regular Session, as presented.”

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

10. Special Committee/Workshop/Board Reports

Comr. French offered highlights from the Summit Pointe Board meeting held on May 5, including the annual election of officers.

Comr. French reported that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

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 Judge Hallacy for his proposal to rename the Justice Center and thanked the family of Mary Coleman for traveling from Florida to attend and participate in the public hearing.

Ms. Scott highlighted a few accomplishments made by Mary Coleman, sharing that she was instrumental behind the funding of the juvenile home and implementing programming.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that she attended the recent 2026 MAC Legislative

Conference and heard updates on the proposed 2027 state budget, proposed property tax reform, the new road funding package.

Kelli Scott reported that the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board met on May 7, approving all Tier II cost reimbursement requests except for Emmett Township's engineering reimbursement for sewer and water loop studies, which will be considered at the next meeting following a requested meeting between FireKeepers Casino Hotel management, Emmett Township and the City of Battle Creek to provide more information about the need for the sewer improvements.

Scott added that the Native American Heritage Fund Board met on April 23 and was unable to vote on any financial decisions due to a vacancy on the Board that needs to be filled through an appointment by the Governor.

Ms. Scott shared the Board of Health met on April 20 to discuss the reorganization of staff.

B. New Business

1. *Updates to Policy #371 FMLA and Policy #378 Paid Medical, Parental, and Caregiver Leave*

Ms. Scott noted the updates are driven by legislative changes with no financial impact to the County but are in compliance with the law.

HR/Labor Relations Director Dr. Hutchins noted the updates were reviewed by union officials, department heads and elected officials, as well as the court administrator.

Res.059-2026

“Moved Comr Tompkins, second by Comr. Saxton to approve updated to Policy #371 FMLA and Policy #378 Paid Medical, Parental, and Caregiver Leave, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

2. *CCRD Bid Award: RFP#107-26 Mineral Well Brine Pickup*

Kelli Scott stated that this bid was for materials used for dust control on gravel roads, and asked Deputy Director of the Road Department Kori Albrecht to comment. Albrecht noted that the two vendors being recommended for the bid award are located in Lee Township and Battle Creek to help lower costs.

Res.060-2026

“Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Morehart to approve the Calhoun County Road

Department Bid Award RFP #107-26 Mineral Well Brine Pickup, 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 expressed opposition to the return to gravel roads.

14. Commissioners' Time

Comr. Tompkins wished mothers a Happy Mother's Day and expressed condolences to Comr. French on the passing of a family member.

Comr. French congratulated the Coleman family and shared that her vote in opposition of the renaming was on behalf of the district she represents within Calhoun County.

Comr. Saxton noted the renaming of 11 Mile Road from the Consent Agenda is at no cost to the County.

15. Claims Payable Listing

A. Claims Payable for April 8, 2026, through April 29, 2026, in the amount of \$7,823,393.92

Res.061-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Oo to approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for April 8, 2026, through April 29, 2026, in the amount of \$7,823,393.92, as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

16. Announcements

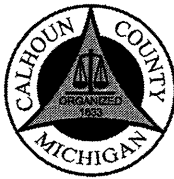
Comr. French shared the Annual Countywide Nonprofit Advocacy Breakfast would take place on May 8.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.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, May 7, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the renaming of the Calhoun County Justice Center to “Mary S. Coleman Justice Center of Calhoun County,” as presented and hereby authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to take all necessary steps to effectuate the name change.

Res.054-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to Open the Public Hearing.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

Res.055-2026

“Moved Comr. Saxton, second by Comr. Strowbridge to Close the Public Hearing.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Motion **CARRIED**.

Res.056-2026

“Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Saxton to approve the renaming of the Calhoun County Justice Center to “Mary S. Coleman Justice Center of Calhoun County,” as presented.”

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

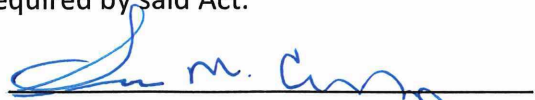
NO - 1, Comr. French.

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 May 7, 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: May 7, 2026



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



AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS,** amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and
- WHEREAS,** thousands of new amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS, and someone passes away from ALS; and
- WHEREAS,** on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS,** the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and
- WHEREAS,** people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and
- WHEREAS,** securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and
- WHEREAS,** clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life, and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and
- WHEREAS,** the ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and
- WHEREAS,** the ALS Association is committed to make ALS livable and cure it for everyone, everywhere; and
- WHEREAS,** Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

Date: May 7, 2026

Derek King, Chair
Calhoun County 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, May 7, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the 2026 FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board Administrative Services Agreement with the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board, as presented and authorizes the County Board Chair to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County.

Res.058-2026

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to approve the 2026 FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board Administrative Services Agreement with the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

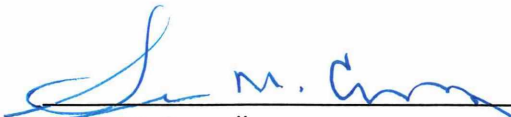
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

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 May 7, 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: May 7, 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, May 7, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the proposed renaming of 11 Mile Rd over I-94 to FireKeepers Way, approves the proposed aesthetics package to be utilized on the 11 Mile Rd bridge over I-94, and authorizes the Managing Director to sign all documents required to carry out the necessary actions as outlined in Calhoun County's Addressing Ordinance on behalf of the County Administrator & Board Chairman.

Res.058-2026

"Moved Comr. Morehart, second by Comr. Strowbridge to support the proposed renaming of 11 Mile Rd over I-94 to FireKeepers Way, as presented."

On a **VOICE VOTE**

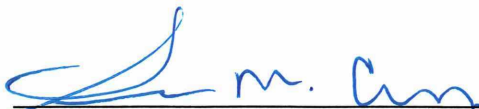
Present - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED.**

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
COUNTY OF CALHOUN)

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Dated: May 7, 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, May 7, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

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

Res.059 -2026

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

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

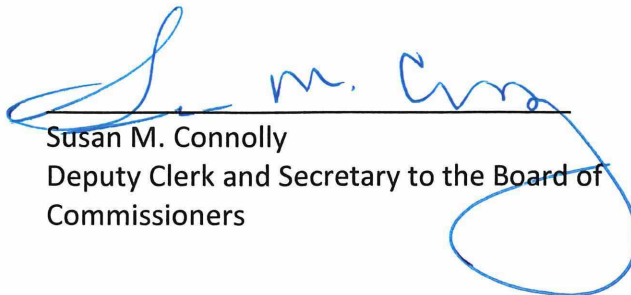
YES - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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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 May 7, 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: May 7, 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, May 7, 2026, with Chair Derek King presiding, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby approves contracts with Corrigan Environmental Solutions and S&M Liquid Tire Fill for Mineral Well Brine Pickup Only, as presented, and authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to execute the agreements and other subsequent documents on behalf of the County.

Res.060-2026

"Moved Comr. French, second by Comr. Morehart to approve contracts with Corrigan Environmental Solutions and S&M Liquid Tire Fill for Mineral Well Brine Pickup Only, as presented."

On a **ROLL CALL VOTE**

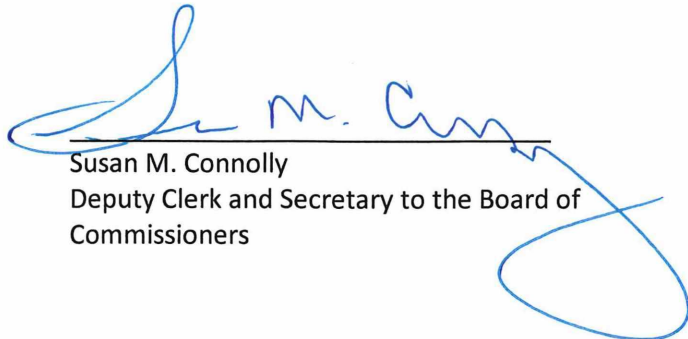
YES - 7, Comrs. Oo, French, Morehart, Strowbridge, King, Saxton, and Tompkins.

Motion **CARRIED**.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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COUNTY OF CALHOUN)

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Dated: May 7, 2026



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