

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 21, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles, as follows:

PRESENT			EXCUSED
J. Henry Lievens	Brian Lamour	David Swartout	Jay Heinzerling
David Hoffman	David Vensel		
Greg Moore, Jr.	Dawn Asper		

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to conduct business.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Asper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the July 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda with the amendment of the closed session being moved to the end, before adjournment, as well as the removal of the Operations Committee agenda items.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (06/16/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT —

1. Ned Birkey: Provided the board with agriculture updates. Shared information regarding the Supreme Court ruling concerning aspirin labels, the Canadian wildfires, cyclosporiasis parasite, screw worm cases being quarantined, crop projections for Michigan, foreign ownership of farmland, and the 20th anniversary of western bean cutworms.
2. Steven Meyer: Stated there was a hearing on July 10th in 1st District Court where Mark Brant was found responsible for two counts of violating Whiteford Township's ordinances. Shared these counts were regarding marijuana smell and marijuana facilities. Explained this is a violation of his parole and he does not deserve anymore excuses.

Commissioner Lievens entertained the idea of having a designated spot on the agenda for Mr. Birkey's agricultural updates under presentations.

Mr. Birkey stated he would respectfully not request that.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION

IX. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session to consider an attorney client privileged opinion of labor counsel pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h) concerning an employment matter.

The Board moved this agenda item to the end of the agenda, before adjournment.

X. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 07/08/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,455,620.95

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to confirm the 07/08/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$1,455,620.95 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

2. Payment of the 07/22/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$2,492,819.93

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lievens to approve the 07/22/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for \$2,492,819.93 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	

Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated July 16, 2026 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer submitting reports filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury in compliance with Public Act 202 of 2017 regarding the Monroe County defined benefit pension and retiree health care trust funds.

Motion was made by Commissioner Swartout with no support. The board moved on to the next agenda item.

4. Letter dated July 16, 2026 from Ms. Sue Maier, Director of Fiscal Services, providing the corrective action plan to be submitted to Michigan Department of Treasury for Monroe County related to the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Ms. Maier provided further information and answered the Commissioners questions.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file and confirm acknowledgement of the Corrective Action Plan.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
 - a. Check Register dated 06/18/2026 in the amount of \$ 495,999.96
 - b. Check Register dated 06/26/2026 in the amount of \$ 398,641.89
 - c. Check Register dated 07/02/2026 in the amount of \$ 964,584.74
 - d. Check Register dated 07/10/2026 in the amount of \$ 848,662.46
 - e. Check Register dated 07/17/2026 in the amount of \$ 674,980.72

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to confirm the non-claims payments as presented on the agenda for the dates and amounts listed.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Operations Committee – Report of Committee from 07/16/2026 Meeting. Operations Committee 07/16/2026 Agenda Packet included.
 - a. Retiree Health Care Trust Agreement Revisions
 - b. Pension Board Ordinance Revisions

The Chairman removed this agenda item.

2. Letter dated July 2, 2026 from Honorable Amanda Eicher, 1st District Court, requesting confirmation of the submission of a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for funding of the FY2026-2027 Mental Health Recovery Court in the amount of \$190,154.00, with a local contribution of \$1,031.00 to provide for payroll processing costs and travel costs that cannot be provided by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to \$80.00 would be required in 2026, with the balance of \$951.00 requested to be included in the 2027 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and confirm the submission of a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for funding of the FY2026-2027 Mental Health Recovery Court in the amount of \$190,154.00, with a local contribution of \$1,031.00. Further, authorize the County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer to provide an additional appropriation of up to \$80.00 in 2026 and authorize funding \$951.00 in the 2027 budget.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated July 2, 2026 from Honorable Amanda Eicher, 1st District Court, requesting confirmation of the submission of a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office FY 2026-2027 Monroe County Sobriety Court in the amount of \$41,040.00, with a local contribution of \$65.00 to provide for payroll processing costs and travel costs that cannot be provided by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to \$10.00 would be required in 2026, with the balance of \$55.00 requested to be included in the 2027 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and confirm the submission of a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office FY 2026-2027 Monroe County Sobriety Court in the amount of \$41,040.00, with a local contribution of \$65.00 to provide for payroll processing costs and travel costs that cannot be provided by the grant. Further, authorize the County Administrator/Chief Financial officer to provide an additional appropriation of up to \$10.00 in 2026 and authorize funding \$55.00 in the 2027 budget.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	

Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated July 6, 2026 from Honorable Michael Brown, 1st District Court requesting confirmation of the submission of a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for funding of the FY2026-2027 Veterans Treatment Court in the Amount of \$36,771.00, with a local contribution of \$319.00 to provide for payroll processing costs and travel costs that cannot be provided by the grant. An additional appropriation of up to \$10.00 would be required in 2026, with the balance of \$309.00 requested to be included in the 2027 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept and place the communication on file and confirm the submission of the grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for funding of the FY2026-2027 Veterans Treatment Court in the amount of \$36,771.00, with a local contribution of \$319.00. Further, authorize the County Administrator/ Chief Financial Officer to provide an additional appropriation of up to \$10.00 to the Veterans Treatment Court in 2026 and authorize funding \$309.00 in the 2027 budget.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

5. Letter dated July 13, 2026 from Honorable Mark S. Braunlich and Honorable William Paul Nichols, 38th Circuit Court, requesting approval to proceed with a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for FY2027 grant funding of the Adult Drug Treatment Court in the amount of \$100,705.68. The grant requires a local contribution of \$248.00, for expenses, not reimbursable by the grant. The request is for an additional 2026 appropriation of \$100.00 and \$548.00 to be included in the 2027 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lievens to accept the communication, place it on file and approve proceeding with a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for FY2027 grant funding of the Adult Drug Treatment Court in the amount of \$100,705.68. The grant requires a local contribution of \$248.00, for expenses, not reimbursable by the grant. The request is for an additional 2026 appropriation of \$100.00 and \$548.00 to be included in the 2027 budget.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

6. Letter dated July 16, 2026 from Mr. Bradley Smith, Emergency Management Director requesting acceptance of additional funding in the FY2024 UASI Grant in the amount of \$4,632.00.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Moore to accept the communication, place it on file and accept the additional funding in the FY2024 UASI Grant in the amount of \$4,632.00.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

7. Letter dated May 26, 2026 from Ms. Rebecca Pasko, Mental Health Authority Chairperson transmitting the recommended appointment to the Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority for a term commencing July 21, 2026 and expiring on March 31, 2028.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file and approve Ms. Nanette McCloud's appointment to the Community Mental Health Authority for a term commencing July 21, 2026 and expiring on March 31, 2028.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lievens asked for more information regarding the agenda item that did not receive support and asked if there is a sense of urgency for it to be addressed this evening.

Michael Bosanac stated this is simply to accept and place on file. Mr. Bosanac explained these reports have already been submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury. Further explained he submitted them to the Board of Commissioners electronically before doing so, according to the public act.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file, and acknowledge the governing board's action in receiving the reports in the official meeting minutes as recommended.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				

David Vensel	David Swartout				
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Motion carried.

XIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIV. OLD BUSINESS —

XV. NEW BUSINESS —

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ned Birkey: Stated everyone in this room has an area of expertise and thinks it would be inappropriate to single out one person. Explained he provides an agriculture report as part of the contract he has.

Commissioner Lievens explained it was out of recognition of the importance of agriculture and Chairman Vensel stated the board appreciates his reports and enjoy it.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS — None

XVIII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Asper – Shared the political affiliation of Mr. Meyer and stated to look at the context. Explained she brought articles regarding data centers that she will leave for the public to grab. Shared her thoughts regarding the Supreme Court decisions Mr. Birkey spoke on. Also explained the data centers project noises that animals perceive as dangerous and it is interfering with reproduction of livestock. Shared the public needs to ask about the carbon dioxide sequestration. Stated she believes the by-laws need to be reviewed again regarding appointments.

Commissioner Moore – Stated he appreciates Ned providing the board with information. Shared it was good to see all the judges and thanked them for coming. Shared the Monroe County Business Alliance Board is in good shape regarding the annual fiscal report. Told the public to enjoy the fair and stated it is one of the best County fairs in the Midwest.

Commissioner Swartout – Big thank you to the Sheriff for requesting a commanding vehicle last year. Explained this vehicle handed 911 calls for three counties.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Excused.

Commissioner Lievens – Elaborated on the importance of farmer markets and stated almost every township in Monroe County has a farmers market. Shared appreciation for the sales going up and explained to support them all the time, not just when there is a crisis.

Commissioner Hoffman – Explained the reproductive status of cattle on his farm. Shared he has been on this board for sixteen (16) years and he has never seen it so disarrayed. Stated Monroe is too good of a County and Mr. Brant should get off the case so they can move forward. Shared his concerns with administration and the most recent storm. Thanked Mr. Bradley Smith for contracting them regarding these issues. Stated Mr. Meyer makes a lot of sense. Elaborated on what the Board has done for the County and stated the board used to be a team. Reiterated his concerns for lack on notification regarding the storm. Told the public to enjoy the fair and thanked

the two thousand (2,000) plus 4Hers in Monroe County

Vice-Chairman Lamour – Thanked Ned for his report. Stated they are great and very helpful.

Chairman Vensel – Explained he prefers having closed session at the beginning of the meeting so the audience can be present when action is taken to be transparent. Stated the agenda was amended tonight in curtesy of the audience as there will be no action taken on this specific closed session. Shared how important he believes public comment is and stated the only requirements are stating your name and where you reside, public affiliation is not required. Stated he respectfully disagrees with Commissioner Asper's comments.

XIX. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session to consider an attorney client privileged opinion of labor counsel pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h) concerning an employment matter.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to go into Closed Session to consider an attorney client privileged opinion of labor counsel pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h) concerning an employment matter.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried. The Board moved into Closed Session.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Lievens supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to adjourn.

Roll call by Deputy Clerk as follows:

AYE			NAY	EXCUSED	ABSTAIN
Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	David Hoffman		Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens				
David Vensel	David Swartout				

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:



Grace Miles
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
Monroe County Board of Commissioners