MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

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

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairman Lievens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda with an addition to communications to add XI-5 suggested action to change RHC Board of Trustees' bylaws and make the existing number five (5), number six (6).

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (03/18/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the minutes as presented for the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Asper amended the motion to waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Rebecca Turner: Stated she was with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and runs St. Josephs Center of Hope. She wanted to thank the board for the funding they allowed her company to have, especially since funding cuts have now started.

2. Dwayne Dobbs: Spoke about his concerns involving the vote for the Correction Officers to receive hazard duty pay. Explains there is not a branch in the military that does not have hazard duty pay. Mr. Dobbs stated he was a Correction Officer for 28 years and they receive workman's comp if they get injured on the job. Mr. Dobbs also explained there is no contact information for District 2 constituents on the website.

3. Jim Gardner: Thanked Sheriff Troy Goodnough and his deputies for the work they did last night on the Luna Pier Erie border. Thanked all the public safety officers. Mr. Gardner stated there is a lot of misinformation out there on what happened and it's very tragic. Thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved and family members. Thanked all responding experts and everyone who works well into the night to keep the public safe.

4. Grace Drewior: Read a letter into the record from the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Presentation by Mr. Doug Darling, Monroe County Farm Bureau concerning 2025 Farm Bureau Policy and Updates.

   Doug Darling provided the Commissioners with the 2025 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Book. Mr. Darling explained the process of how new policies get voted on. He also spoke about the farming industry in Monroe County and answered questions. Mr. Darling read a resolution aloud that was voted on at the Monroe County Farm Bureau at their Annual Meeting in September of 2024.

   Discussion commenced.

2. Child Advocacy Network (CAN) Council Child Abuse Awareness Proclamation.

   Judge Frank Arnold explained the efforts that go into this annually and reminded everyone that child neglect is part of child abuse awareness. Judge Arnold explained how important the prevention aspect of this is and stated this is investing in our families. He also invited everyone to the front lawn for pinwheel dedication this Friday morning and explained they're wearing blue to show awareness.

3. Resolution No. 25.6 from Monroe Charter Township to Allow Golf Carts on Certain Township Streets.

   Discussion was held regarding ordinances.

   Tom Graham stated this resolution was already adopted, we are just allowing it to go into place.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication and place it on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

4. Resolution to Establish Monthly Surcharge Rate for Central Dispatch 9-1-1 System Funding:
    a. Letter dated March 26, 2025 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, recommending approval of the Resolution to establish the surcharge at $2.00 per line, per month.

    b. Letter dated March 19, 2025 from Ms. Donna Kuti, Director, Central Dispatch providing recommendation from 9-1-1 District Authority Board for the 2025-2026 9-1-1 Surcharge.

    c. Resolution to Establish Monthly Surcharge Rate for Central Dispatch 9-1-1 System Funding Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Discussion commenced. Michael Bosanac and Donna Kuti answered questions.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the Resolution to establish Surcharge Rate for Central Dispatch 9-1-1 at $2.00 per line, per month effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 04/02/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $ 1,013,475.50

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the 04/02/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,013,475.50 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims.
    a. Check Register dated 03/21/2025 in the amount of $ 309,266.47
    b. Check Register dated 03/28/2025 in the amount of $ 674,124.21

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

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated March 20, 2025 from Chief Deputy Mike Preadmore requesting approval to submit the FY2026 MCOLES Justice Training Grant application. The total project has a proposed cost of $28,012.47 with a 25% match of $7,003.12 requested to be funded in the 2026 Sheriff's Office budget.

    Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the submission of the FY2026 MCOLES Justice Training Grant application. The total project has a proposed cost of $28,012.47 with a 25% match of $7,003.12 requested to be funded in the 2026 Sheriff's Office budget.

    Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated March 20, 2025 from Mr. Chris Westover, Environmental Health Director requesting approval to submit a grant application for a $20,000 Scrap Tire Clean-Up Grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great lakes, and energy (EGLE)

with no match required.

Chris Westover explained they hold these events four times a year and they are very well received. In about 20 years they have collected over 135, 000 tires.

Commissioner Moore thanked him for doing this. Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the submission of a grant application for a $20,000 Scrap Tire Clean-Up Grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great lakes, and energy (EGLE) with no match required.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated March 26, 2025 from Mr. Michael Woolford, Equalization Director submitting the 2025 Monroe County Equalization Report with an equalized value of $10,370,064,912.

   Click to view the 2025 Equalization Report.

   Michael Woolford presented the findings of the Equalization Report. Discussion commenced.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and approve the 2025 Monroe County Equalization Report as submitted and authorize the Board Chairman and County Clerk to sign Form L-4037 and Form L-4024 and transmit the same to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated April 1, 2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, submitting a review/recommendation from the County Planner of an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program (part 361 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act) for property in Ida Township.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication along with the review/recommendation for an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program a property in Ida Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Ida Township Board.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

5. Proposed changes to the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Board of Trustees bylaws.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to change the qualifications for one (1) member, as recommended by the Board of Commissioners Chairperson and approved by the Board to be a retired County employee who was or is a member participant enrolled in the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Plan or is an active County employee making mandatory contribution to the trust. County residency shall not be a requirement. Regarding testing, highly recommend the participation in the MAPERS Fiduciary Designation series of three tests but remove the mandatory requirement for any member of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners who serves on the RHC Trust Board.

Commissioner Asper stated that qualifications for this board are very high and it is quite hard to find qualified candidates with the previous requirements. She explained the difficulty of scheduling the MAPERS test as well. Commissioner Asper also discussed Roberts Rules of Order and how important it is for Chairperson to understand the rules.

Thomas Graham, Legal Advisor, stated that he agrees with the motion and the action but informed the board that we are not changing the bylaws we are changing the trust agreement resolution. Mr. Graham asked for the maker and supporter of the motion to agree it is the trust agreement resolution being changed. The Board agreed.

David Vensel explained he has a fair amount of experience with Roberts' Rules but this situation puzzled him. Stated he asked for legal help. Discussion commenced.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

6. Letter dated March 28, 2025 from Mr. David Vensel, Chairman recommending the appointment of Michael Grodi to the Retiree Health Care Trust Board to fill an

unexpired term ending July 31, 2025.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place on file and approve the appointment of Michael Grodi to a three (3) year term on the RHC Trust Board ending April 1, 2028.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission/Department update

Mary Gantzos, MIDC Managing Attorney, asked if the Board possibly had time to review the email she sent this afternoon. She apologized for the timing and explained she got the information late last night.

Commissioner Lievens explained he didn't have the time so it should be put on next meeting's agenda. He then explained even if he did have the time, he would require an expert to interpret the data regardless.

Mary Gantzos explained that is why she is usually hesitant about sending out raw data but she knew the Board liked to stay informed and updated throughout the process. Stated she is going to ask the auditors to help with the data and make it easier to understand.

Chairman Vensel explained he had time to read the summary letter and explained some of the justifications are weak at best.

Commissioner Moore asked about the rounding issue with excel and Clio.

Mary Gantzos explained the excel sheets that are used have always rounded up. When those sheets are entered into Clio, it rounds up the round up. Explained she keeps finding issues that creates problem within the system. She explains she is not try to make excuses, she is explaining the more we look into it, the more problems we're finding.

The Board thanked Mary for her work.

Commissioner Asper asked about the motion made at the last meeting since it was not their authority to do what they voted on.

Mary Gantzos stated they still have their current cases, but they are not getting any new cases. Discussion commenced.

Commissioner Hoffman asked about the Standing Ethics Committee being an agenda item under old business.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Bill Lavoy: Explained he tested the idea of trying to contact Mark Brant and explained how hard it is. He stated it would be quite difficult to serve his constituents while in prison. Mr. Lavoy shared his idea of setting up a Citizens Commission made up of volunteers in a non-partisan manner to go through the County budget. He stated this organization would be known as the Financial and Ethics Liability Oversight Network (FELON). He further explains what this group would focus on. Mr. Lavoy finished his comment by stating he believes the public should be allowed to conceal carry during public meeting since there is no court going on.

2. Jim Gardner: Sated he is speaking as a resident, not a Mayor. He asked why the meetings are not being recorded.

   The Board informed him, it is recording right now.

   Jim Gardner thanked them for the information and asked where he can find the meetings.

   Deputy Clerk, Grace Drewior, stated FOIA Requests can be filled out for any and all recordings.

   Commissioner Asper explained the equipment for the streaming arrived but set up takes three (3) days and it would've interrupted this meeting. Stated by the next meeting we should have everything.

   Jim Gardner stated this has been going on for too long and the recordings should be uploaded. Explains he is looking forward to being able to access the recordings. Mr. Gardner also told Hoffman he might want to pull his microphone closer so the public can hear him.

3. Steven Meyer: Mr. Meyer asked if archived recordings could be uploaded to the platform once the livestream is set up.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the March 18, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Stated he is tickled that Bill Lavoy is advocating for conceal carry, happy they are agreeing. Stated we should look into his concerns as we are an open carry state. In response to the POAM letter, he explained he clearly stated why he voted against that and he will gladly discuss with anyone that would like to. To the Mayor, he fully agrees with him and they have been working on streaming for months. Explains there are different things to work through on the technical, legal, and security side of it. Believes it is coming to the next meeting. Stated he really liked Steven's idea of having audio available and uploading archived recordings once they go live.

Commissioner Swartout – Discussed the voting from the last meeting. Stated he has an issue with the hazard pay votes because they were never told a total cost. Explains they were told $1,000 but that's not even the total cost per person. He asked how many people received the stipend and asked where the funding is coming from. Commissioner Swartout further asked if we used grant money because he was pretty sure there were ARPA funds they could have used. He finishes his comment by saying he is concerned that it was rushed so fast. It could have been made better if we slowed down.

Commissioner Lamour – Appreciate the different aspects that Doctor Darling brought to us. Great to understand how we can interact with the Road Commission to help them out. Getting back to the statements of Mr. La Montaine, he appreciates his voice towards the people that voted in favor of the hazard pay but disagrees that Commissioner Moore, Swartout, and Asper do not support law enforcement. States he knows they do. Explains he appreciates their values and this isn't zootopia. They aren't going to agree on everything. Stated they are getting their act together, working hard at it, it just takes some time. Asked everyone be patient and hold some of their comments in check because he knows all their values and he does not question them and supports them 100%

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed.

Commissioner Asper – Stated she really appreciated Commissioner Lamour's comment. Explains her bother was a police Sargent and he served for almost 27 years. She is aware of the mental things he went though and this had nothing to do with that. It had to do with procedure. Once they pass a budget if something is going to change, they need to know the cost. Explained this started as one group and then it was three. They originally voted to follow the recommendations of the bargaining team but that did not happen. Explains where her brother was employed, they planted a tree for him and they just named their tactical dog after him. Stated she doesn't want anyone to think she doesn't love law enforcement. Commissioner Asper also explained they have the budget published to the public line by line. They have auditors who go through the information as well. Further explains, the second floor has received awards because they're just that good. States that she hopes her answer is sufficient enough for Dwayne Dobbs. Commissioner Asper also stated when someone calls her, it goes through Grace and then comes to her. Explains the whole Board takes care of the County's business. We will make sure everyone is taken care of no matter what District they are in.

Commissioner Hoffman – Echo what Commissioner Lamour talked about with other members. Stated they are a team and they all work together for the good of the County. Thanked Judge Frank Arnold, Doug Darling, and Donna Kuti for coming out tonight. Stated there is some legislative in Lansing getting started to stop felons from getting into public office. Hopefully we will see something in the near future. Thanks for coming out.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Thanked Doug Darling for speaking with them and asked that he champion the cause to the road commission and come back to them with the result. Stated he has had multiple farmers share the same concerns as he did tonight. Vice-Chairman Lievens explained how a gentlemen lost almost an acre of land when the one hundred (100) year existing drain was filled in, and was roughly handled by the Road Commission. Stated the drains came first and the roads came second. Asked for him to let them know.

Michael Bosanac– Reiterated the Administrator Report. Stated they have an exceptional partnership at the Road Commission. As far as their financing for their new facility, they got a great rate, great beneficiaries, which are the folks who paid into the Road Commission Operations with lower cost to that. Explained we have an army of about half a dozen of auditors in our office and they started today.

Chairman Vensel – Explained that when Mr. Lavoy brought up conceal carry being allowed in meeting it brought up a bad memory. He further explained that when he was doing an expulsion hearing at a school, the father of the child the hearing was for, showed up and used open carry as a form in intimidation. Stated he would be careful saying it is a good thing to allow conceal carry in public meetings. He respects the courts, judges, and respect the fact they have to be safe but so do we. Chairman Vensel stated Michael Bosanac and himself have been in discussion about retaining a public defenders office. He stated he will be presenting at the Operations Meeting. Explained to the Board, in the near future look forward to possible closed session regarding pensions. Reminded everyone we have an Operations Committee Meeting next Thursday April 10th at 5:30.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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