

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 20, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, May 20, 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
J Henry Lievens	Brian Lamour		
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 Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (05/06/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to approve the minutes as presented for the May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Chairman Vensel included waiving the reading thereof.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 05/21/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,317,026.07

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the 05/21/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,317,026.07 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		Jay Heinzerling	
Greg Moore, Jr.	Brian Lamour				
David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens				

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated May 14, 2025 from Mr. Michael Woolford, Equalization Director, recommending the 2025 County Government Millage Rates for summer and winter tax bills. Separate supporting letters provided for each millage rate.
 - a. Letter dated May 15, 2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, providing the Commission on Aging's millage rate recommendation for Senior Services.
 - b. Letter dated May 15, 2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, providing the Veteran Affairs' millage rate recommendation for the Indigent Veterans Millage.
 - c. Letter dated May 15, 2025 from Ms. Terey DeLisle, Fairview Home Superintendent, providing Fairview's millage rate recommendation for Fairview County Home.
 - d. Letter dated May 15, 2025 from Mr. Andrew Clark, Museum System Director, providing the Museum System's millage rate recommendation for Museum services.

County General	4.7952	Summer Tax Bill
Senior Citizen	.6020	Winter Tax Bill
Fairview	.1700	Winter Tax Bill
Museum	.1500	Winter Tax Bill
Veterans	.0170	Winter Tax Bill

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communications, place them on file, and approve the 2025 County Millage Rates as submitted and authorize the Chairman to sign the Michigan Treasury Form L-4029.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims

- a. Check Register dated 05/09/2025 in the amount of \$ 642,389.37
- b. Check Register dated 05/16/2025 in the amount of \$ 600,689.28

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Swartout 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		Jay Heinzerling	
Greg Moore, Jr.	Brian Lamour				
David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens				

Motion carried.

2. Operations Committee - Report of Committee Chairman from 5/20/2025 meeting. Link to Operations Committee 5/20/2025 Agenda Packet: [HERE](#)

- a. Letter dated May 13, 2025, from Chief Judge Michael Brown, 1st District Court, requesting approval to add one (1) part-time Law Clerk position.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve adding one (1) part time Law Clerk position. Further, recommend a supplemental appropriation up to \$10,679.00 from the 2025 County Contingency Account to fund the amount not covered by the 1st District Court 2025 budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- b. Letter dated May 13, 2025, from Chief Probate Judge and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Section, Family Division 38th Judicial Circuit Court, Cheryl Lohmeyer, requesting approval to reclassify the grade 9 Juvenile Register position to a grade 10.

Chairman Lievens explained there are additional supervisory requirements that justify this reclassification.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve reclassifying the grade 9 Juvenile Register position to a grade 10. Further, recommend a supplemental appropriation up to \$6,396.00 from the 2025 County Contingency Account to fund the amount not covered by the Probate Court 2025 budget.

Discussion held regarding the budget.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated May 15, 2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning and Engagement Director requesting approval to submit an application for a FY25 Planning Assistance Program Grant application to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) in the amount of \$45,000, including an 18.15% local match built into the grant. The project cost is estimated at \$60,000, and requires a County funded match of \$23,200

Jason Berry, Community Planning and Engagement Director explained that this is a feasibility study to see if this is an option. He further explained municipalities are supportive but they are concerned a letter of support would commit them to a financial obligation which is not the case but that is why there aren't letters of support from them. Mr. Berry also explained he has received letters of support from a number of different residents.

Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to table this request until there is unwavering political and financial support from local municipalities.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated May 12, 2025 from Mr. Jeff McBee, Director, Human Resources, recommending approval of the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe, the 38th Circuit Court- Friend of the Court, and the Technical, Professional & Officeworkers of Michigan (TPOAM) with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jeff McBee, Human Resource's Director explained the compensation and fringes are consistent with all the other groups.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the recommendation and ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Monroe, the 38th Circuit Court- Friend of the Court, and the Technical Professional & Officeworkers of Michigan (TPOAM) with a term expiring December 31, 2026 and authorize the Chairman to execute the same on behalf of the County.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission/Department update

Mary Gantzios, Managing Attorney explained she called MIDC and asked about the Boards letter. MIDC said it would be brought in front of the commission at their next meeting on June 24th. Ms. Gantzios further explained Daniel Clark was ill last week so we do not have his conclusion at this time.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

1. Vice-Chairman Lievens explained since last fall there has been a part-time Emergency Management Director. The last fermi drill we did not pass with flying colors. There were certain aspects we failed which is not typical for Monroe County. He further explained when the next drills are and how failing these drills can affect the County.

Commissioner Moore brought up how there was a gentleman that used to come to the Board meetings regularly and they haven't seen anyone from that department in quite a while.

Discussion commenced.

Motion by Commissioner Moore, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to send this to Human Resources to see what needs to be done to have a qualified full-time candidate in place at the Emergency Management Division well in advance of the next fermi drill.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Vice-Chairman Lievens explained the County will also need a full-time Chief Financial Officer for our organization, being that Mr. Bosanac turned in his tentative letter with his retirement date being no later than October 1st.

Commissioner Lamour explained his idea was getting help from another Human Resources Director, Julie Everly, from the City of Monroe. She is very professional, out front, and straightforward. Our Human Resources Director is willing to get the

assistance from Ms. Everly.

Commissioner Swartout asked what the previous process for this was.

Commissioner Asper explained a head hunter might be a better idea due to Michael Bosanac's performance level. She suspects he would have stayed if the original organizational and succession plans stayed in place because he would have had help.

Discussion commenced.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to partner our Human Resources Department with the City's Human Resources Department, given the recent experience they've had with this process to start the application search process, advertising this position in all of the relevant municipal trade publications and get a status update with preliminary report of their efforts, successes, failures, and recommendations in a month from today's date.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Ned Burkey: Mark Hammond is the gentleman you're talking about.
2. Phillip Peters: Explained he works for the Michigan House of Representatives as a Regional Member Service Adviser for State Representatives Jamie Thompson and Jim DeSana. Mr. Peters further explained he is here to make himself available to anybody after the meeting if anyone would like to bring something to the speaker's attention.

Vice-Chairman Lievens stated unfunded mandates, revenue sharing, and roads were the main topics for Monroe County.

Dawn Asper added Mental health.

3. Reda Binecki: Spoke on behalf of Mrs. Everly. Stated how valuable Michael Bosanac is and explained how she worked with Mrs. Everly for many years. Mrs. Binecki stated Mrs. Everly is a wicked interviewer so if she gives a recommendation, you can trust it.
4. Maria Zagorski: Made a note that it is Dr. Everly, she has a Ph.D.
5. Danielle Hoover: Explained she is the only democrat running for the District 2 Commissioner position. She further explained her work history, everything she is involved in, as well as her family. Ms. Hoover also made herself available to any board member and constituents that would like to talk.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the May 6, 2025 meeting:
None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Expanded on his no vote. Dr. Evelyn is an amazing person so it is not personal, he just heard of this plan ten (10) minutes before the meeting. Further explained he would like to do his due diligence and stated that is the only reason for his no vote. He then told everyone to have a good Memorial Day and said he will be camping locally at the Sterling State Park so if anyone is out there, come say hi.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Explained his intentions were not to vote on this matter tonight, he just wanted to give information. He then apologized to Commissioner Asper and Commissioner Heinzerling for not getting them the information sooner. He thanked Mrs. Zagorski for bringing up how it is Dr. Everly, not Julie. He also explained how Dr. Everly could help with this hiring process.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Excused.

Commissioner Asper – Congratulated MCOP on their 60th year anniversary and explained they had 30/40 more people than they originally thought for reservations which is wonderful. She then explained there is going to be an Open house for the River Raisin Clubhouse on Thursday, June 5th from 3pm-7pm. Stated it is a big step for mental health to get this building.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated we all have to say a prayer before we go to bed tonight that we get the right person for our Chief Financial Officer. He then explained how great of a job the Road Commission has been doing. Further explained residents are happy with the outcome and wondering how it got done so fast. It was supposed to be closed for the season and its already open again. Outstanding Road Commission.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Passed.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

Thomas Graham – Explained this hiring process is a fluid situation. Just because we are starting this way, doesn't mean things can't change as we move forward. Explained he will keep tabs on it and follow it so that if we have to take a different direction, we can.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:



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