MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Rescheduled Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Thursday, June 26, 2025. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

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

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Swartout 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 June 26, 2025 Rescheduled Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (06/17/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the minutes as presented for the June 17, 2025 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Dale Binecki: Brought attention to project greenstone in Milan Township. Explained the citizens of Milan are highly agitated and they do not want this project in their neighborhood. Explained they want to know what the endgame of this project is. Mr. Binecki then asked the Board for a resolution of non-support for project greenstone.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Presentation by Daniel Clark and Dan Merritt from Rehmann regarding additional professional services related to Monroe County assigned counsel billings.

   Daniel Clark introduced himself and explained he is the partner that was responsible for the consulting project. Mr. Clark walked through the timeline and the structure of the consulting project that was focused on evaluating the attorney invoices submitted for payment to the County, related to indigent defense. Mr. Clark also explained the goal of the project was to assess the accuracy and reasonableness of billed time to the County to determine the next best steps. He stated the scope was not forensic, it was designed as a consulting project nor did they have the ability to conclude on such things as actual fraud or not. Mr. Clark also explained the project was split into four phases. Project initiation, preliminary invoice review, detailed analysis, and reporting and recommendations. Mr. Clark went through each phase and explained what they did and what the outcome was.

Dan Merritt introduced himself as the principle in charge of the County's Annual Financial Audit. He explained his role is to assist the County in submission of annual financial reports, which need to be submitted by June 30th in order to properly report to the State Michigan. Amr. Merritt stated that as of this point, a draft of their report has been preceded to the County and is ready for submission. This report includes a summary of the consulting report and a set of recommendations of additional ways to strengthen eternal controls.

Michael Bosanac explained that during an audit, if there are recommendations from the audit team, our obligation is to respond to their recommendations. We then must prepare a more formal protocol or practice in our procedures to strengthen whatever the issue was that the audit team has identified.

Discussion commenced.

Mr. Clark explained if the Board wanted to move forward with a forensic audit, he would recommend not using Rehmann for sake of independence. Recommended Plant Moran as the company to move forward with.

Commissioner Moore asked for a motion that by the next meeting they would have a list of independent forensics with the prices.

Vice-Chairman Lievens explained he would like to see a motion for Plant Moran to begin their work not to exceed $15,000 for a forensic audit.

Phil Goldsmith explained he has spent a lot of time on this. He stated he would recommend attempting to define the scope of the forensic and using himself, Mary Gantzos, Nicole Walters, and Melanie Young for help during this.

Chairman Vensel asked Mr. Goldsmith if there was anything in conversations he had that would cause him to say everything is justifiable.

Mr. Goldsmith answered no, he believes additional work needs to be done.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to employ Plant Moran to enter into a forensic investigation related to the matters discussed tonight, not to exceed $15,000.

Commissioner Moore stated he does support a forensic if that is needed, but he asked what the scope would be and what is going to be expected from this company. Explained if this isn't laid out, he doesn't feel comfortable paying them $15,000 so this would be a no vote for him.

Commissioner Swartout explained it would be better to have Plant Moran look at what we have and then tell us if they think we should do a forensic audit.

Chairman Vensel agreed and said if they come back saying they don't see any reason to continue with the forensic audit, then we won't.

Discussion commenced.

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.

Discussion was held regarding confirmation of the submission of the County's Annual Financial Audit.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 06/20/2025 in the amount of $ 382,340.75

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to confirm the non-claim payment as presented on the agenda for the date and amount listed.

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated June 20, 2025 from Chief Judge Mark S. Braunlich and Judge William Paul Nichols, 38th Circuit Court, requesting confirmation of a grant application to the State Court Administrative Office for FY2026 grant funding of the Adult Drug Treatment Court in the amount of $107,571.31. The grant requires a local contribution of $2,458.48, for expenses, not reimbursable by the grant. The request is for an additional 2025 appropriation of $100.00 and $2,358.48 to be included in the 2026 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, 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 FY2026 grant funding of the Adult Drug

Treatment Court in the amount of $107,571.31. The grant requires a local contribution of $2,458.48, for expenses, not reimbursable by the grant. The request is for an additional 2025 appropriation of $100.00 and $2,358.48 to be included in the 2026 budget.

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated June 26,2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director submitting the proposed updates to the Whiteford Township Master Plan for review and approval of the County Planners recommendations. Link to Master Plan

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the recommendations of the County Planner and transmit the recommendations to the Whiteford Township Council.

   Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Appointment of Subcommittee for the County Administrator/CFO Hiring Process

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the creation of the Ad Hoc Working Group to advise and assist in hiring a new County Administrator from Chairman Vensel, and to acknowledge the appointment of Commissioner David Swartout, Greg Moore Jr., David Vensel, and Brian Lamour as members of the Working Group, with Brian Lamour as Chairman of the Working Group.

   Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the June 17, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Thanked Dan Merritt and Daniel Clark for coming today and giving us an explanation. Stated it was good to see the Sheriff here and he is proud of how he reflects the County. Explained all the positive comments about Sheriff Goodnough he saw on different news articles and how much he appreciates that. Gave a shoutout to his wife for being in attendance.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Stated he appreciates Rehmann for their candidness and helping us get through this process. He looks forward to getting some answers which should alleviate some of the mental strain. Thanked the board for doing what is right. Explained it is our responsibility to make sure taxpayers' money is being used properly. Happy Fourth of July!

Commissioner Heinzerling – Excused.

Commissioner Asper – Excused.

Commissioner Hoffman – Echoed Commissioner Lamour and explained citizens need more information on the Greenstone Project. Further explained it is hard for us to create a proclamation/resolution without enough information.

Discussion commenced regarding the Greenstone Project.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Wants to look into something that protects our county's drinking water. Asked everyone to keep the Cuevas family in their thoughts and prayers. Our former post commander, Tony Cuevas, unexpectedly passed on Saturday. Tony was a great guy and his loss will be missed.

Chairman Vensel – Thanked members for adjusting their schedules so we could meet tonight.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Drewior

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