# MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
# JULY 15, 2025

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

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

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

Chairman Vensel explained before they approve the agenda, Mr. Mark Brant has attended the meeting tonight. This Board by majority vote agreed with Phil Goldsmith's legal opinion stating that because of his federal conviction, he is no longer eligible to serve in office.

Mark Brant explained he feels as if he is still a County Commissioner so until a judge tells him he is not, he will sit in his seat.

Commissioner Swartout advised cancelling the meeting. Chairman Vensel explained there is business to be conducted and if not voted on tonight, deadline(s) would pass before the next meeting.

Discussion commenced. A compromise was made in order to continue with the meeting. The compromise being Mr. Brant sitting on the dais but not participating in the meeting.

## V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the July 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda with amendments.

Chairman Vensel made an amendment to remove agenda item #4 under communications regarding the CFO job posting.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept this amendment.

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Vensel made another amendment to remove the second part of the three (3) part succession plan for the Equalization Department under communications.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept this amendment.

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lamour made an amendment to add the CFO Evaluation as an agenda item in place of the first removed item.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept this amendment.

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (06/26/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the June 26, 2025 Rescheduled Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Ned Birkey: Shared some agricultural concerns with current issues in the County. Explained border patrol is in Monroe County and there are people incarcerated for being

illegal. Mr. Birkey stated the US Secretary of Agriculture talked about farm security is national security. Mr. Birkey also explained in Michigan, the Upper Peninsula is a primary place where foreign ownership of farmland is due to timber and minerals.

2. Bill Lavoy: Explained he wants to know why he can't sit on the dais and if he did what would happen. Mr. Lavoy asked if he would he be able to sit there the whole meeting or would someone come and remove him.

3. Dwayne Dobbs: Explained there are plenty people here from District two (2) that wanted physical representation. Mr. Dobbs asked why he couldn't sit up there when he was the second highest vote for a write in. Mr. Dobbs stated the Board made a decision and they need to stick with it.

4. David Smith: Explained he has been treated less than a human at the jail and less than an inmate. Mr. Smith stated judges have been lying, the magistrate has been shutting off the record, and he's had guys following him around.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Monroe County Drainage District Bonds apportioned to Monroe County in the amount not to exceed $412,500:
   a. Letter dated June 14, 2025 from Mr. Steven Mann, Bond Counsel, Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C. to Michael Bosanac Administrator/Chief Financial Officer enclosing Resolution Pledging Limited Tax Full Faith and Credit for the North Branch of Big Swan Creek Intercounty Drain Drainage District.
   b. Bond authorizing Resolution under Public Act 342 for Monroe County 2025 Drainage District Bonds (Limited Tax General obligation) apportioned to Monroe County in the amount not to exceed $412,500.

Tim Surgo, Deputy Drain Commissioner, representing the office of the County Drain Commission, stated this is fairly routine that the North Branch of the Big Swan Creek Intercounty Drainage District is asking for the full faith and credit of the County to move forward with selling of bonds. Mr. Surgo explained it is in conjunction with the department of agriculture and the State of Michigan, and Wayne County and Washtenaw County are partners in this project.

Connor Stars, Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C. stated this resolution essentially requests the limited full faith and credit of the County as security for the County's obligated share under this issuance.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the Bond authorizing Resolution for Monroe County 2025 Drainage District Bonds (Limited Tax General Obligation) apportioned to Monroe County in the amount not to exceed $412,500.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

| AYE | | | NAY | EXCUSED | ABSTAIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jay Heinzerling | Brian Lamour | | | J. Henry Lievens | |
| David Hoffman | David Vensel | | | Greg Moore, Jr. | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| David Swartout | Dawn Asper | | | | |

Motion carried.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Confirmation of the 07/02/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $ 689,195.84.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to confirm the 07/02/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $ 689,195.84 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

2. Payment of the 07/16/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,159,811.86.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to confirm the 07/16/2025 Accounts payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,159,811.86 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

3. Letter dated June 27, 2025 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 by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file, and acknowledge the governing board's action in receiving the reports.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

| AYE | | | NAY | EXCUSED | ABSTAIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jay Heinzerling | Brian Lamour | | | J. Henry Lievens | |
| David Hoffman | David Vensel | | | Greg Moore, Jr. | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| David Swartout | Dawn Asper | | | | |

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 06/27/2025 in the amount of $ 836,791.77
   b. Check Register dated 07/03/2025 in the amount of $ 645,203.78
   c. Check Register dated 07/11/2025 in the amount of $ 899,430.82

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

Commissioner Asper asked if any of these claims included payments to the investigation with Bodman Law and what the totals were.

Chairman Vensel explained there was a request for an increase in the retainer related to the investigator and it was granted but he does not know the total. The Chairman further explained that the lead attorney on this believes she is going to be ready to present in closed session at the August 5, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Operations Committee - Report of Committee Chairman from 7/10/2025 meeting. Link to Operations Committee 7/10/2025 Agenda Packet: HERE

   a. Letter dated July 2, 2025 from Honorable William Paul Nichols, 38th Judicial Circuit Court requesting approval to accept the additional State Court Administrative Office grant funding in the amount of $17,000, and change the Adult Drug Treatment Court Program Coordinator position from a part-time position to a full-time position with all additional costs being covered by the grant with zero additional cost to the County.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the acceptance of the additional State Court Administrative Office grant funding in the amount of $17,000, and approve changing the Adult Drug Treatment Court Program Coordinator position from a parttime position to a full-time position with all additional costs being covered by the grant with zero additional cost to the County.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

| AYE | | NAY | EXCUSED | ABSTAIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|

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

Motion carried.

b. Letter dated July 8, 2025 from Mr. Michael Woolford, Equalization Director, requesting approval to implement a new plan for the Equalization Department for 2025.

I. Addition of an Appraiser/GIS Analyst position.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the addition of an Appraiser/GIS Analyst position with an estimated cost to the General Fund of $28,671.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

II. Acceptance of Michael Woolford Retirement Notice and reemployment at 145 hours per year.

Commissioner Asper asked if Mr. Woolford would be retiring and then coming back as a consultant.

Mr. Woolford explained this is just to continue equalization until Trey can get his certification or if the Board decides to go elsewhere. Stated he will be able to provide the services of Equalization Director. Explained he has been eligible for retirement since March but he wanted to finish equalization in April before moving forward with retirement.

Commissioner Hoffman stated that he believes they're going to be advertising for this position.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept Michael Woolford's Retirement Notice and reemployment at 145 hours per year with an estimated cost to the General Fund of $9,097.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated July 9, 2025 from Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer, requesting approval to submit the application of FY2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026) Child Care Fund budget to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The total budget submitted to MDHHS is $5,373,000.00 with a County local share amount of $2,273,125.00 with funding through December 31, 2025 included in the budget and the balance as part of the 2026 budget development.

   Commissioner Hoffman asked Michael Bosanac if this is something they can handle.

   Michael Bosanac explained this is consistent with what is normally budgeted and it aligns with the State's fiscal year so there is no issue in terms of budgeting.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and approve submitting the FY2025 Child Care Fund budget in the total amount of $5,373,000.00 with a County local share amount of $2,273,125.00 with funding through December 31, 2025 included in the budget and the balance as part of the 2026 budget development.

   Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

3. Letter dated July 8, 2025 from Ms. Alana Horkey, Victim Rights Coordinator, Prosecutor's Office, requesting approval to apply and accept the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim Rights Grant for FY2026 in the amount of $276,261.00 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The grant requires a total match of approximately $59,927.00.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to apply for and accept the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim Rights Grant for FY2025 in the amount of $216,334.00 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with a match of approximately $59,927.00, with $14,981.75 included in the 2025 budget and $44,945.25 requested to be included in the 2026 budget.

   Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

4. Administrator/Chief Financial Officer Evaluation

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve bringing back the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer Evaluation.

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Robert Pawlowski: Explained he is from Southgate Wayne County and thanked Chairman Vensel and Commissioner Lamour for the information he got from their meeting at 5:00 regarding public transit in our region. States he appreciates the education and explains how helpful it is. Mr. Pawlowski explained Lake Erie transit is a necessity. It is a huge thing for seniors, people with disabilities, and students all across our region.

2. Bill Lavoy: Asked if Mark Brant's computer was on. Stated as a non-commissioner, he has access that the public doesn't and he has a problem with that. Stated Grace was standing by him helping him with something. Not sure if she was showing him how it worked, but the point is Mr. Brant has special access that the public does not. Mr. Lavoy asked if the computers just showed the agenda or if there was other information.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the June 26, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Excused.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Asked Mr. Bosanac for an update on the N. Custer Rd. project and the Trail Project. Commissioner Lamour also stated he is glad we took the high rode but he believes Mr. Brant should be in the audience. We made the decision as a Board that he is not a County Commissioner. This is basically degrading our rights as County Commissioners by having him up here. If a judge decides differently, he has full blessings to be up here but as of right now I am in full favor of having him removed.

Michael Bosanac – Explained that the Administrators Report he sent to the Board states the North Custer Rd. project should be completed by next week. The trail project is almost done, they just need a few more weeks and then they're prepared to begin putting the base in for the trail.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed.

Commissioner Asper – Explains the Board read the legal opinion and didn't follow through by taking it to a judge. The Board has been having many conversations where not all members are involved. We could have had this decided a long time ago and it would have been good if there was communication on this Board. There's been communications in the background not including 3 members, which I have never had that happen in my eight (8) years.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated he agrees fully with Commissioner Lamour and he feels bad for the folks in the audience that had to sit through this again. We're trying to get this thing straightened out, get it behind us, and go forward. The County is as strong as ever and it is always going to be.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Excused.

Chairman Vensel – Stated MIDC met June 24th to consider our request and asked if we have received anything back from them.

Michael Bosanac – Explained that there were over ninety (90) applicants and there is a financial pressure to reduce costs and many have gotten a delayed response which we are one of.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Miles

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