MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. 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			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

Vice-Chairman Lievens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the August 5, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda with a clarification, item thirteen (13) is to discuss confidential legal opinion pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h).

Commissioner Asper amended this motion to correct the agenda item number from thirteen (13) to eighteen (18).

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 (07/15/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the minutes as presented for the July 15, 2025 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Jason Berry: Reminded the Board and public of the Caregiver and Safety Summit on August 14th. Everyone is welcome to come and he hopes to see some people there.

2. Darcy Piedmonte: Ms. Piedmonte explained her concerns with not having representation for District 2. She also explained how she didn't feel comfortable discussing her concerns with some commissioners because she believed they wouldn't have been taken seriously. Ms. Piedmonte asked the Board to talk to Mark Brant about moving on now and putting the good of the community before himself. Stated there is a lot of opportunity for growth in this County.

3. Steven Meyer: Mr. Meyer explained there was a moment at the last meeting where Mark Brant had knowledge from a closed session when the deliberations that occurred during that session had not been released. Mr. Meyer stated he would like reassurance that it will not happen again. My. Meyer hopes all Board members can respect the bounds of a closed session.

4. Gail Keane: Ms. Keane expressed her concerns with authorizing legal to move forward with legal proceedings. Stated the southern aspect of the County lacked representation at the last meeting and unless it is life or death, the representatives should be in attendance. Ms. Keane also discussed election protocol and stated the Board should have put the County Clerk to work at the beginning and taken action long ago.

5. Dwayne Dobbs: Mr. Dobbs inquired how Mark Brant got information from a sealed meeting.

6. Katybeth Davis: Ms. Davis explained Mark Brant has owned and operated several bootleg designer drug pharmaceutical companies since the 1980s. Inquired how many County Commissioners are aware of this history. Ms. Davis stated if anyone needs documentation, newspaper articles, playboy ads, etc. for these designer drugs, she has a lot. Ms. Davis stated the amount of discovery she has is enough to do some damage.

7. Bill Lavoy: Mr. Lavoy discussed issues regarding the closed session and stated he is curious if the Administration or if other Commissioners gave Brant the information, but just admit it and resign. Mr. Lavoy stated this is a firearm sanctuary County but he still cannot bring a concealed weapon into this room. Explained he always asks if there is a court in session and there never is so this is a point to be addressed in the future. Explained he supports the closed session with hopefully some public release of documents.

8. Danielle Hoover: Ms. Hoover explained she is speaking as a citizen only. Ms. Hoover stated she is the democratic candidate for District 2. Explained someone who is appropriately qualified should be in that seat and that someone could be her.

9. Shawna Farley: Ms. Farley explained her concerns with Mark Brant and his connections on the Board. Stated this Board has a responsibility to Monroe County voters, not Mark Brant. Ms. Farley explained they need to uphold the removal, restore the public's faith, and lead with integrity. Ms. Farley then stated Commissioner Asper asked her about a dispensary and the margins for it.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Presentation of Annual Implementation Plan for Area Agency on Aging 1-B for Fiscal

Year 2025 by Ms. Stephanie Carpenter (Hall), Directory of Planning and Advocacy. Click to view the Annual Implementation Plan.

a. Proposed Resolution approving the FY 2023-2026 Multi Year Plan of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B

Stephanie Carpenter explained the Annual Implementation Plan as well as goals for the next year. Ms. Carpenter also answered questions from the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to accept the Annual Implementation Plan for Area Agency on Aging 1-B for FY 2025, approve the FY 2023-2026 Multi Year Plan of the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, and approve the Proposed Resolution.

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. Municipal Corporate Resolution outlining certain authorities and assurances as a condition of the release of proceeds from the insurance policy of Linda Dudler.

Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO explained that Ms. Dudler has sadly passed away and in her will she bequiffed to the Sheriff's Office, K9 Unit, certain proceeds from her estate. The life insurance company, John Hancock, gave us certain conditions they want met from the County before they could release the proceeds and those certain conditions are included within this resolution.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the Municipal Corporate Resolution and the conditions for the proceeds from the life insurance policy of Linda Dudler.

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. Performance Resolution outlining agreements between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the County of Monroe.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the Performance Resolution outlining agreements between the Michigan Department of

Transportation and the County of Monroe.

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. Resolution to stop the automatic renewal of the Administrator/Chief Financial Officer Contract of Employment on February 16, 2026 and in subsequent years, such that the Contract would provide for a fixed year, ending at the close of February 16, 2028.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the Resolution to stop the automatic renewal of the Contract of Employment on February 16, 2026.

   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.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 08/06/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,025,019.98.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to confirm the 08/06/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,025,019.98 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. Letter dated July 18, 2025 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer, submitting the Cash and Investment Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2025.

   Jesse Stanford explained key points from this report and answered questions from the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept and place on file the quarter-ended June 30, 2025 Cash and Investment Report.

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.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 07/18/2025 in the amount of $ 647,155.09
   b. Check Register dated 07/25/2025 in the amount of $ 277,762.61
   c. Check Register dated 08/01/2025 in the amount of $ 671,749.12

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.

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. Letter dated July 30, 2025 from Mr. Chris Westover, Environmental Health Director requesting approval to accept the Scrap Tire Clean-Up grant award in the amount of $19,000 from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). There is no match required for this grant.

   Chris Westover explained there were four (4) different events this year and in total they received over six thousand (6,000) tires. Shoutout to the Sheriff for help handling these.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication and approve the acceptance of the Scrap Tire Clean-Up grant award in the amount of $19,000 from EGLE.

   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 23, 2025 from Chairman Vensel transmitting the recommended reappointment of Robert Neely to the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Board of Trustees or a term commencing July 31, 2025 and expiring July 31, 2028.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the reappointment of Robert Neely to the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Board of Trustees for a term commencing July 31, 2025 and expiring July 31, 2028.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Moore to table this reappointment.

   Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion was not carried.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the reappointment of Robert Neely to the Monroe County Retiree Health Care Board of Trustees for a term commencing July 31, 2025 and expiring July 31, 2028.

   Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

3. Letter dated July 31, 2025 from Michael Bosanac, County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer and Jeff McBee, Human Resources Director, recommending retaining Foster Swift as labor counsel.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the recommendation of retaining Foster Swift as labor counsel with the additional provision that the contract comes up as an annual reapproval.

Discussion was held.

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. Gail Keane: Ms. Keane asked what the policy was regarding the board appointment and stated Commissioner Asper was accusatory of that gentleman. Ms. Keane shared her concerns with the Flock cameras and explained if they are not doing what they're supposed to be, she believes the County has an obligation to put a block on them. Thanked the Board for what they do and explained one must have institutional and historical knowledge to sit in these seats. Told the Board to please keep doing their very best and she appreciates all the work they do.

2. Troy Goodnough: Sheriff Goodnough cleared up any misconception of Flock. Explained a week ago they had eleven (11) crimes committed in Frenchtown Township in the City of Monroe by one (1) group of individuals. Flock was able to identify this group by the car they drove. Explained there was a shooting in Bedford Township and Flock identified this suspect as well. This information cannot be shared or sold; it is a felony. Sheriff Goodnough further explained the process of receiving and purging this data. Stated the small investment they're making in Flock is doing its job very effectively.

3. Katybeth Davis: Ms. Davis stated the Board had an opportunity for transparency. These appointments should be made open to the public. Stated it is a good old boys club and the Board is full of cis white republicans. Explained she is shocked and disappointed with this whole thing. Ms. Davis also stated the average person looking from the outside would see that this does not look like a very effective Board for our community.

4. Bill Lavoy: Mr. Lavoy discussed his concerns with Mark Brant stating he acted as a County Commissioner by making board appointments. There were two people appointed, wonder what the validity of these are. Mr. Lavoy also shared his concerns with five (5) Commissioners signing a letter at MCCC when there are eight (8) Commissioners here. The college board could see this as an ethics issue and stop supporting the County. Mr. Lavoy stated maybe the Board will do a resolution for this.

5. Devin Rucker: Mr. Rucker is representing the development group, which is a marketing advertisement firm in the County. Mr. Rucker explained he spent time in Commissioner Heinzerling's district working on a recruitment video for Frenchtown Fire. Mr. Rucker

ended up spending twenty-four (24) hours with Frenchtown Fire and gave a shoutout to these people; Shift C Firefighter(s) Neil Hawley, Ryan Kernyo, Cory Guy, Joe Smigielski, and Chief Wendy Stevens. Mr. Rucker applauded the way they talked to people and did their job. Stated everyone goes to bed safer at night with these people on the job. Big credit to where credit is due.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the July 15, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Stated that for the closed session, he is going to be a no vote. He does not see any legal justification for it. Explains he would like to be transparent as possible. The taxpayer's money is the money spent on this so they should know about it and it should be open to the public. Thanked the Sheriff for explaining Flock cameras. Could not believe how quickly they found the alleged shooter in his area, using technology to their advantage. Explained if something comes up in closed session, they cannot discuss it after the fact and he feels this puts him at a disadvantage when the public asks questions. Glad to see the fair was a great success, we had record attendance this year.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Explained there are things you can and cannot talk about in the open meetings act. We need to give credence to the legal aspect of this, otherwise we could get sued. Being in a closed session is necessary that way we cannot be legally challenged with the information presented. Thanked the Sheriff for the information on the Flock cameras. Stated it has been worth every penny just based on what you did this weekend. Approved these cameras 100%.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Stated Frenchtown is a family. Sheriffs out there and the Frenchtown fire workers are all stand up guys. Thanks everybody for coming out.

Commissioner Asper – Explained it is the traveling license plate readers that are the problem. Brought up the Code of Ethics she created that aligned with the National Association of Counties that the Board voted to adopt. Stated she would like to see a more specific one with Monroe's handprint on it. Explains that Ms. Farley should have called her to clarify before accusing her of looking into a dispensary when she wasn't. Agreed with Commissioner Moore about the closed session. Stated this has been about transparency from the beginning and when the taxpayers are paying for this, whatever is coming up should be transparent. Explained she did not believe we meet closed session requirements.

Commissioner Hoffman – Thanked everyone for coming out. Thanked the Sheriff and stated we sure do need Flock with everything going on out there. Explained that they are transparent. Explained if you want to make a difference, put your name on the ballot and get up here. That's all you can do, but you can make a difference. Explained they got some things to take care of yes but you're in good hands and once we get this behind us, we are going forward. We are a strong County and we're going to stay strong.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Echo Commissioner Hoffman's and Commissioner Lamour's comments. This was not a unilateral decision made by the board to exclude the public. This was on vice of legal counsel because it is an ongoing investigation and there are things that may pose litigation. This is us following our procedure protocol. This isn't us trying to keep something from the public, it is us doing our due diligence and taking it step by step. So that when it is ready for the public, it will be the whole picture, vetted and available. Compliment Sheriff and his staff and the technology they're using (Flock). Explained that shooting occurred a mile from his office and his staff was concerned but then relieved with how quickly and professionally the situation was resolved. It would be unwise to not take advantage of this technology. Stated a couple things have been brought to their attention regarding breaching of policies with closed session(s) and directed the Chair to look into this and if we need to take steps to address it, we should. Recognizes former Chairman and Commissioner Lamar Frederick in our attendance today.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to go into closed session to discuss confidential legal opinion pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h).

Roll Call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion does not carry. Closed Session(s) require a 2/3 vote.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Miles

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