MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles, 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

Commissioner Asper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (08/19/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting and waive 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—

1. Mark Ferris: Mr. Ferris shared his concerns with Detroit Edison. Explained their history and stated that someone should be looking into this and raising their taxes. Mr. Ferris also explained how notice of these meeting used to be posted in the paper and doing this would help the issue of transparency. Mr. Ferris inquired what would need to be done in order to eliminate the County Commissioners jobs.

2. Dwayne Dobbs: Mr. Dobbs inquired if the Board has looked into how privileged information was disclosed from the closed session the time before last. Mr. Dobbs explained this is an ethical violation and based on what he's been reading, it could also be criminal.

3. President Kojo (MCCC): Introduced the Vice President of Student Success, Scott Behrens, and the Director of Finance and Administration, Frank Thomas. President Kojo explained MCCC has long partnered with the County government to improve the lives of Monroe County residents. Recent examples include the loop trail that goes through their campus, as well as the work with their DTE tax assessments. President Kojo further explained some of the facts and statistics of MCCC. President Kojo explained that the MCCC millage is not new, it is a renewal.

4. Bill Lavoy: Mr. Lavoy stated about a year ago Mark Brant resigned from the Board. Around this time, documents were released of the Administrator using County resources to write a recommendation for sentencing in support of Mr. Brant in June. Mr. Lavoy stated that the Administrator also failed to inform the Board. Mr. Lavoy shared his concerns with the communication category ranking of the Administrator Evaluation and explained 50% is a failing grade in any educational institution.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

1. Presentation of the Monroe County Veterans Affairs Services Update by Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director and Mr. Alvin Bons, Veterans Affairs Coordinator

   Al Bond explained the population of veterans in the County over the years as well as the statistics of how many veterans were assisted in 2024.

   Discussion held regarding the Burial Allowance and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the Monroe County Veterans Affairs Services Update and place it on file.

   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. Area Agencies on Aging Resolution to support MI Choice. Area Agencies on Aging Resolution to support the Medicaid MI Choice Program by urging State Representatives and State Senators to adopt the funding request (2025-4) and fully fund the MI Choice risk pool.

   Motion by Commissioner Asper, supporter by Commissioner Swartout to approve adopting the Area Agencies on Aging Resolution to support the Medicaid MI Choice Program by urging State Representatives and State Senators to adopt the funding request (2025-4) and fully fund the MI Choice risk pool.

   Commissioner Asper stated she is a member on this board and explained the importance of this Resolution.

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.

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 09/03/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $964,494.49

   Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the 09/03/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $964,494.49 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 August 21, 2025 from Mr. Jesse Stanford, Monroe County Treasurer presenting the report on the restricted account in the property foreclosure fund after the 2023 auctions reflecting the addition to the find of $605,028.89.

   Jesse Stanford provided background information regarding the foreclosure process and how it has changed. Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the report from the Monroe County Treasurer regarding the restricted account in the property foreclosure fund after the 2023 auctions in the net amount of $605,028.89 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	Jay Heinzerling			
David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens				

   Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 08/22/2025 in the amount of $ 418,865.22
   b. Check Register dated 08/29/2025 in the amount of $ 600,689.28

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

Motion carried.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Operations Committee - Report of Committee Chairman from 8/14/2025 meeting. Link to Operations Committee 8/14/2025 Agenda Packet: HERE

a. Letter dated August 6, 2025 from Honorable Michael Brown, 1st District Court Chief Judge requesting the addition of a full-time attorney magistrate and an additional Recorder/Secretary position with an estimated General Fund allocation of $30,300 for 2025 and $187,950 annually with both positions effective October 4, 2025.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the addition of a full-time attorney magistrate and an additional Recorder/Secretary position with an estimated General Fund allocation of $30,300 for 2025 and $187,950 annually with both positions effective October 4, 2025.

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 August 6, 2025 from Honorable Michael Brown, 1st District Court Chief Judge requesting combination of the part-time Monroe County Veterans Treatment Court (MCVTC) Coordinator, the full-time Monroe County Mental Health and Recovery Court (MCMHRS) Coordinator, and the Driving While Impaired Court (Sobriety Court starting in October 2025) Coordinator positions into one full-time Problem Solving Court Coordinator position, resulting in the reclassification of the grade 11 Monroe County Mental Health and Recovery Court Coordinator to a grade 12 Problem Solving Court Coordinator. This position will be effective on October 1, 2025 and does not require an additional appropriation from Monroe County.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve combining the part-time Monroe County

Veterans Treatment Court (MCVTC) Coordinator, the full-time Monroe County Mental Health and Recovery Court (MCMHRS) Coordinator, and the Driving While Impaired Court (Sobriety Court starting in October 2025) Coordinator positions into one full-time Problem Solving Court Coordinator position, resulting in the reclassification of the grade 11 Monroe County Mental Health and Recovery Court Coordinator to a grade 12 Problem Solving Court Coordinator. This position will be effective on October 1, 2025 and does not require an additional appropriation from Monroe 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.

2. Letter dated August 19, 2025 from Mr. Chris Westover, Environmental Health Director, requesting approval of a Materials Management Planning Committee recommendation, Karl Hatopp, for the remainder of an unexpired term.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and approve the Materials Management Planning Committee recommendation, Karl Hatopp, for the remainder of an unexpired term.

   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.

3. Letter dated August 27, 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.

   Discussion was held.

   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 for 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	Dawn Asper		Jay Heinzerling	
Greg Moore, Jr.	Brian Lamour				
David Vensel	J. Henry Lievens				

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated August 28, 2025 from Mr. David Vensel, Chairman, Board of Commissioners presenting the Boards January 1, 2024 to July 25, 2025 performance evaluation results for Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/ Chief Financial Officer.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to accept the communication and place the January 1, 2024 to July 25, 2025 performance evaluation results for Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer on file.

   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—

XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

Vice-Chairman Lievens asked for the Veterans Burial Allowance issue to be referred to the appropriate group or committee and brought back to us at the next meeting with a recommendation that reflects the current realities within the limits we can permit for that burial amount.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Mark Ferris: Stated shame on Gretchen Whitmer for allowing the state energy policy to be conducted at the township level. Mr. Ferris explained he believes if it is at a township level, only the people in that township should be allowed to speak on it. Mr. Ferris stated he hasn't seen anyone in this room address this issue.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

1. Copies of any Special Tributes or Certificates issued since the August 19, 2025 meeting: None.

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Stated he appreciates Commissioner Lievens for bringing attention to the burial allowance being so low and would like to revisit it. Explained the Chairman, CFO, and attorneys have spent hundreds, maybe thousands, of hours in meetings with DTE over the last four (4) to five (5) years. Explained they have negotiated and talked to the State Tax Tribunal. Stated he would be more than happy to discuss it further after the meeting.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Agreed with Commissioner Lievens and Commissioner Moore regarding the veterans. The County and several municipalities have been in touch with DTE, trying to get things done. Explained DTE has major control over this and it is very difficult to fight them but he thinks they've done a good job. Further explained the Board is limited with what they can do and they've done as much as they can.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Excused.

Commissioner Asper – Explained they are currently in negotiations with Detroit Edison and DTE has increased each year. Commissioner Asper explained a little history regarding DTE for better understanding. Explained that the County has an Administrator involved in all of this and his name is Michael Bosanac. Stated he is absolutely extraordinary. Explained that online states Commissioners get paid $75,000 and informed the public, it is under $15,000. Thanked Mr. Bosanac for the incredible work. Stated Mr. Lavoy should wait to get the reports from the investigator before continuing to make comments. Last year, Mr. Bosanac scores were in the newspaper because that's how high the board scored him. Stated September is Suicide Prevention month and there is a vigil scheduled to take place at Loranger Square at 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday. Stated she appreciates the Veterans updates and agreed with Moore and Lamour that the burial amount should go up.

Commissioner Hoffman – Agreed with previous Commissioners in regards to the veteran's burial allowance. Explained he has been working hard with the state representative on a Resolution as well as both political parties. Commissioner Hoffman explained this is going to be a few years out but he is pushing to get this on the ballot in November three years from now. Asked Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles, to read the Resolution into the record. Mrs. Miles read it aloud and Commissioner Hoffman stated he has been working hard on this and has copies for the public as well. Explained he has gotten multiple calls about the Sheriff code of conduct and stated these callers need to contact the Sheriff.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Passed.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

Michael Bosanac – Explained the coal plant tax stipulation agreement that was entered into between the City of Monroe and the utility is ending at the end of this year. Discussions are commencing as to where the utility believes the valuation is and they're going through an appraisal process, as well as the city. With respect to the nuclear power plant, that agreement was longer in duration than the coal plant. This agreement is in place until 2028. Mr. Bosanac further explained these are two different plants and two different markets. Stated the City has invited him to participate and he explained they are the lead. They are the taxing jurisdiction and they set the value for the power plant. Stated the city roughly represents about 21.5 mills and everyone else is around 18.5 mills.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 6:57p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Miles

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