MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, October 21, 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
David Hoffman	David Vensel	David Swartout	
Jay Heinzerling	Brian Lamour	J Henry Lievens	
Dawn Asper	Greg Moore, Jr.		

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lamour 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 October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (10/07/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the minutes as presented for the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Ned Birkey: Provided the Board with agricultural updates regarding the sewage slug on farmlands. Explained that if done properly, it is a wonderful soil amendment but if done improperly, it is a contamination hazard. Mr. Birkey also informed every one of the new world screwworm fly. Explained it is a pest found in Central America but there was a human case found in Maryland. Further explained the way it affects us is there are no cattle being imported to the U.S. from Mexico so the price of beef is going to increase.

2. Gloria Fafco: Addressed the concerns regarding the MCCC vote coming up. Explained some kids don't fit in and MCCC allows them to further their education through the middle college or dual enrollment. Ms. Rafco explained the kids enrolled there now are worried what will happen to them. Further explained if an adult has an issue, go out to the college and talk to somebody. Encouraged people to not forget about the kids when they vote and to vote yes.

3. President Kojo: Introduced himself as the president of MCCC. Addressed that myths are being mistaken for facts. Explained there is no documented evidence that MCCC allows men in women's bathrooms. Further explained regarding the concept of indoctrination of our students, we have the Higher Learning Commission that reviews our curriculum, courses, and campus on a regular basis. They have found no evidence of indoctrination. Stated he is concerned about the marring of our reputation as a college. Explained this college is ranked in the top 9% in the entire nation. Also stated opposing posts have been taken down once they realized these were myths and not facts.

4. Rebecca Pasko: Introduced herself as the Chairperson of the Monroe Community Mental Health Authority and invited the Board and the public to town hall tomorrow at Ellis Library from 3-5pm. Explained there will be a special State speaker to discuss some issues at the state level and how it's affecting mental health. Lisa Graham, the CEO will also be there discussing strategic plans for the coming year. Stated they will also be introducing a new chairperson for their Community Relations Committee. Explained there has been confusion about how to get mental health services and since things have changed, this should provide some answers. Asked for help making the community aware of all the services that are offered to them.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

IX. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session to discuss collective bargaining

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to go into Closed Session to discuss collective bargaining.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Vensel stated they were back on the record.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the direction of the collective bargaining process as outlined by bargaining team.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 10/22/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,333,431.62

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to accept the 10/22/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $ 1,333,431.62 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion did not carry.

2. Update on development of the 2026 Annual Line Item Budget.

   Michael Bosanac, Administrator/CFO explained the preliminary status on the development of the 2026 Budget and answered questions from Commissioners. Discussion was held with no action required on the informational matter.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims
   a. Check Register dated 10/10/2025 in the amount of $840,007.24
   b. Check Register dated 10/17/2025 in the amount of $541,529.31

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

Motion carried.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated October 13, 2025 from Ms. Jamie Dean, Health Department Director requesting approval to apply for and accept a Medical Marijuana and Oversight Grant from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in the amount of $60,059.00 with no match required.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the application for and acceptance of a Medical Marijuana and Oversight Grant from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in the amount of $60,059.00 with no match required.

   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.

2. Letter dated October 16, 2025 from Ms. Mary Gantzos, Indigent Defense Managing Attorney requesting approval to accept the MIDC Grant Award in the amount of $2,843,381.42 with a County match of $217,053.37. Total program amount is $3,060,434.79.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Lamour to approve the acceptance of the MIDC Grant Award in the amount of $2,843,381.42 with a County match of $217,053.37. Total program amount is $3,060,434.79.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

   Motion carried.

3. Letter dated October 21, 2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director requesting approval of the Wayne State University Opioid Settlement proposed service program at an annual cost of $45,800.00.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the Wayne State University Opioid Settlement proposed service program at an annual cost of $45,800.00.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIV. OLD BUSINESS—

XV. NEW BUSINESS—

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT—

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

XVIII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Moore – Passed.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Passed.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed

Commissioner Asper – Reminded the public of the Open House at the Ellis Library. Explained that since mental health has CCBHC now, it has opened up a lot. Stated they have a crisis center and a van that can go out. Further explained there are so many mental health needs and if we were well equipped with knowing what services there are, we can help more people. This is tomorrow from 3-5pm at Ellis Library.

Commissioner Hoffman – Informed the public he got the petition and he has copies in the back for anyone that wants one. It's in good progress and its moving. It is infront of a committee now and they're going to stiffen up the words. It should be on the ballot in three (3) years and then the taxpayers that vote can make the decision of who should be sitting up here.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Passed.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Miles

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