MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Rescheduled Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, December 9, 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 Swartout	Brian Lamour	Greg Moore, Jr.	
David Hoffman	David Vensel	Jay Heinzerling	
Dawn Asper	J. Henry Lievens	Dale Biniecki	

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 Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Vice-Chairman Lievens to approve the December 9, 2025 Rescheduled Meeting Agenda with an amendment to move the two items under old business to the next meeting along with the closed session with Ms. Gabis

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to add a closed session regarding collective bargaining.

Commissioner Asper shared her concerns and disappointment regarding the meeting schedules and the agenda being changed the night of the meeting.

Commissioner Swartout inquired if this could wait until the first meeting in January.

Chairman Vensel explained the investigation attorney is set on the 16th since there is much to be done in order to get the final report.

Commissioner Moore stated he thinks it is important for all Commissioners to be in attendance for that kind of vote and expressed his concerns regarding the meeting schedules.

Discussion was held.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (11/13/2025 Rescheduled Meeting Minutes)
Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the minutes as presented for the November 13, 2025 Rescheduled Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Darcey Piedmonte: Speaking as a member of the Stronger Together Huddle of Monroe to bring awareness to the unfortunate mischaracterization of Monroe County's No Kings Day by Senator Joe Bellino. Ms. Piedmonte read a letter into the record that was sent to the Senate majority and minority leaders in response to Joe Bellino Senate floor speech. Ms. Piedmonte also explained the person charged with plans to incite violence of people participating in this rally did not show up for his court date. Ms. Piedmonte explained there is a warrant out for his arrest but he is still out there.

2. June Coin: Ms. Coin read a letter that Sharon McNeal wrote into the record.

3. Mary Strieval: Stated she is proud to be a member of Stronger Together Huddle and explained others ways she has served in the community. Ms. Strieval explained she attended the No Kings Day March on October 18th along with 600 other people. Stated at no time was there any violence advocated. They had a permit and the police were involved. Ms. Strieval also explained there were no violent t-shirts worn and there was a professional videographer that has evidence of this. Senator Joe Bellino went to the Senate floor and accused them on these acts. Ms. Strieval stated let the record show that on October 18, 2025 a peaceful march was held in Monroe Michigan.

Chairman Vensel explained the Board received a letter from Mr. Mark Brant that was requested to be read into the record.

Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles, read Mr. Brant's letter into the record.

Chairman Vensel asked Phil Goldsmith to come up and explain the Boards position on the first portion of Mr. Brant's letter.

Phil Goldsmith explained the background of the court decision(s) discussed in Mr.

Brant's letter and decisions taken after the fact. Mr. Goldsmith further explained the Court of Appeals denied the motion to lift the stay and denied the motion to cancel the election so the election went forward as intended. Dale Biniecki was elected in this Special Election to serve as County Commissioner for District 2. These election results were certified and Dale Biniecki took the Oath of Office which was then filed with the County Clerk. Mr. Goldsmith stated any action taken by Mr. Biniecki as he sits on this board is valid. Until the Court of Appeals issues its decision, they've allowed to process to occur and were going to follow that process.

Commissioner Moore expressed his concerns regarding liability of Monroe County.

Commissioner Asper expressed her concerns regarding inconsistencies with how we have handled this.

4. Mark Brant: Mr. Brant stated that this is the court order from Judge Kuhnke, Chief Judge for Lenawee County and nothing Phil says changes the order. Mr. Brant read the court order aloud and explained the election is not valid until and unless the Court of Appeals says it is valid. Nothing against Dale, he's a friend of mine, friend of everybody's, he's a friendly guy, but he shouldn't be sitting in the seat.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION —

IX. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session to discuss Ethics Investigation with Ms. Sarah Gabis

Moved this agenda item to the next Board Meeting (December 16th).

Added a Closed Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to go into closed session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

Commissioner Asper expressed her concerns with Closed Sessions being at the beginning of meetings and explained she does not think it is fair to the public.

Chairman Vensel explained if we place it at the end of the meeting, the public is under the impression that we're not going to take any action, which we cannot guarantee. Stated it makes more sense to have it at the beginning so the public can hear any actions taken.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to move into open session.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Confirmation of the 11/19/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $1,629,761.48

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Lamour to confirm the 11/19/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for $1,629,761.48 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Confirmation of the 12/03/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of $ 973,894.81

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to confirm the 12/03/2025 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report for $973,894.81 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

3. Revenues, expenditures and cash balance report for the 4th quarter ending November 30, 2025.

   Discussion was held with no action required.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims

    a. Check Register dated 11/14/2025 in the amount of $ 986,143.61
    b. Check Register dated 11/21/2025 in the amount of $1,372,918.79
    c. Check Register dated 11/26/2025 in the amount of $ 552,339.81

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

Motion carried.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter dated October 13, 2025 from Honorable Cheryl Lohmeyer, Chief Probate Judge requesting the addition of two (2) court recorder positions at the estimated cost of $159,710.00 for 2026.

    Vice-Chairman Lievens explained this brings the Probate Court in parody with the Circuit Courts and promotes the efficiencies of the court.

    Michael Bosanac asked for the motion to clarify agenda items one (1), two (2), and five (5) are being funded from contingency.

    Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the addition of two (2) court recorder positions of up to $159,710.00 for 2026 funded from contingency.

    Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated November 6, 2025 from Honorable Cheryl Lohmeyer, Chief Probate Judge requesting the addition of one (1) ESS Supervisor position with an estimated cost of $24,253.00 for 2026.

    Vice-Chairman Lievens explained this is a program that is mainly funded through a grant officiated by the Probate Court.

    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 one (1) ESS Supervisor position of up to $24,253.00 for 2026 funded from contingency.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated December 3, 2025 from Honorable Michael Brown, Chief 1st District Court Judge requesting approval for funding of $77,286.00 to the District Court to cover a shortfall in the Courts' budget for use of Electronic Monitoring of Defendants.

   Commissioner Asper asked how we ended up with that large of a shortfall.

   Stephanie LaPrad and Jessica Chaffin answered the Board's questions.

   Discussion was held.

   Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve funding of $77,286.00 to the District Court to cover a shortfall in the Courts' budget for use of Electronic Monitoring of Defendants.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated December 4, 2025 from Honorable Mark Braunlich, Chief 38th Circuit Court Judge requesting approval for funding of $23,464.00 to the Circuit Court to cover a shortfall in the Courts' budget for use of Electronic Monitoring of Defendants.

   Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve funding of $23,464.00 to the Circuit Court to cover a shortfall in the Courts' budget for use of Electronic Monitoring of Defendants funded.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

5. Letter dated November 13, 2025 from Ms. Annamarie Osment, County Clerk requesting elimination of the existing Records Clerk position and reclassification as a Records Processing Clerk with an estimated cost of $2,985.00 for 2026.

   Vice-Chairman Lievens explained this is a bittersweet request. Greg Witkop is retiring and this has opened an opportunity of position expansion.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the elimination of the existing Records Clerk position and the reclassification as a Records Processing Clerk of up to $2,985.00 for 2026 funded from contingency.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

6. Letter dated November 17, 2025 from Ms. Jamie Dean, Health Director, requesting approval to apply for and accept the Local Health Department Staff Wellbeing Grant in the amount of $4,000.00 from the Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH). There are no matching funds required.

   Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Asper to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the request to apply for and accept the Local Health Department Staff Wellbeing Grant in the amount of $4,000.00 from the Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH). There are no matching funds required.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

7. Letter dated December 9, 2025 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director, requesting acceptance of the Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation grant funding for up to $61,647.00 during the grant period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026 and approval to submit the final application to receive these funds. There is no County match required.

   Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication, place it on file, and approve the acceptance of the Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation grant funding for up to $61,647.00 during the grant period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026 and approval to submit the final application to receive these funds. There is no County match required.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

8. Appointments/ Reappointments of Monroe County Board/Commission Members.

Discussion was held regarding the Library Board Appointment.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to confirm the Chairman's nominations to the Boards and Commissions and place the roster of appointments/reappointments communication on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

9. Appointment of Monroe County Road Commission Board Member.

Chairman Vensel explained he is not going to nominate anyone so the Board can nominate someone.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Lamour to nominate David Kubiske for the Monroe County Road Commission appointment.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lievens supported by Commissioner Hoffman to appoint David Kubiske to the Monroe County Road Commission for an unexpired term and place the appointment communication on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Asper shared her concerns regarding the interview process they have done in previous years and hopes to go back to that next term.

Chairman Vensel explained it has been done multiple different ways throughout the years and explained he is not opposed to moving forward with that.

XIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS —

1. Consideration of Recommended 2026-2027 County of Monroe Annual Line-Item Budget Resolution.

   Click **Here** for the 2026-2027 Recommended Annual Line-Item Budget, which is posted on the County website. County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer will provide a summary overview of the Recommended Budget.

   Michael Bosanac presented the final PowerPoint related to the 2026-2027 Recommended Budget.

   Chairman Vensel opened the Public Hearing and asked for any public comments relating to the budget.

   Chairman Vensel closed the Public Hearing since no members of the public had any comments.

   Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Moore to accept the 2026-2027 Recommended Budget and approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2026-2027 Annual Line-Item Budget as the General Appropriations Act of the County of Monroe.

   Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XIV. OLD BUSINESS—

1. Investigation Funding Discussion

   Moved this agenda item to the next Board Meeting (December 16th).

2. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Update

   Moved this agenda item to the next Board Meeting (December 16th).

XV. NEW BUSINESS—

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Steven Meyer: Stated at the beginning of the meeting it was said the public should expect to see the independent investigation report in January and asked if this was true. Stated he is interested in the possible recommendations. Mr. Meyer explained there has been much discussion tonight regarding conflicts of interest and he would like to see mandatory financial disclosures from Commissioners to help with this.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

XVIII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Biniecki – Thanked the Board for welcoming him and the help they have offered is greatly appreciated. Read 2 Samuel 23:3-4. Explained despite what happens with the attorneys or courts, the citizens of District two (2) are his main concern. The people have spoken and he does not take that lightly. Hopes in the future their voice will be heard and not hidden. Stated he appreciated their courage to step up and vote for himself and thanked everyone.

Commissioner Moore – Echoed Commissioner Asper regarding the Road Commission appointment. Stated he would like to have some type of consistency and transparency to be able to interview. Stated the Road Commissioner retiring, Greg Stewart was exceptional for him and when he asked about the applicants, David Kubiske is who he suggested. Explained he talked to Dale Biniecki and asked if he would abstain from votes which he obviously did not, which is his prerogative and his choice. Stated he is 100% opposed to having a County Commissioner sit on this Board when we have a judgement that says the seat was never vacated. Publicly stated he disagrees with Phil and hopes it doesn't come to any type of liability for the County. Explained this is nothing against Dale. He loves that he ran and the people voted on that, we're just in a very unique position. Stated he is questioning what the Chairman's reasoning was for appointing Betzi Lievens. Stated his job as a County Commissioner is to ask questions and make sure we are doing what's best for Monroe County.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Lamour – Welcomed Commissioner Biniecki and thanked him for going through the process and giving representation to District two (2). Stated he appreciates his efforts and thanked him for being here.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed.

Commissioner Asper – Commissioner Moore articulated most of what she would agree with tonight. Repeated the point that there were definitely inconsistencies in the way we handled this. On one hand a gentleman was not able to take a seat on the dais even though he did his oath of office and the ruling states the election will turn on any appellate review. Therefore, that is what we should have waited for if that is what we were doing before. Stated she will do whatever it takes to get her other meetings rescheduled so she can be here next Tuesday because that is her commitment to this board.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated our counsel is doing a great job and we've got all our faith. They are leading us in the right way. Like he's been saying, the good will prevail and the evil will fail. Stated we are going to get back to normal.

Vice-Chairman Lievens – Welcomed Dale and stated its nice that we're starting to get back on the right path. Stated Mrs. Lievens just wanted to provide an uncompensated public service. Stated he is a little shocked his fellow Commissioner from Bedford takes exception from having somebody to represent the South/West part of the County. Asked where the conflict is for wanting to serve the community in an uncompensated fashion. Explained Betsy's been a long-time advocate for the libraries, she's done painting classes there and she was asked by members of that board to apply. Stated this is a personal attack and Commissioner Moore has taken every opportunity to oppose what he tries to do to promote for Bedford Township. Stated he said something about conflict of interest when he was caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Shame on you and shame on the former Chairman for dragging up through this. Explained Commissioner Asper promoted a candidate that is also involved with the Montessori schools. Stated Betzi applied because she was asked to and they were even on vacation when she filled out the application. Explained if one thinks they can attack his misses without a response, they are absolutely foolish. Hopes all sleep well tonight.

Chairman Vensel – Welcomed Dale Biniecki to the board. Regarding Commissioner Moore questioning his motivation for nominating Betzi Lievens, he explained his passion rises when he senses the question isn't genuine. Stated he believed he asked simply for effect.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m. with no further business to discuss

Respectfully submitted by:

Grace Miles

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