

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. 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 | David Swartout   |        |
| Greg Moore, Jr. | Dawn Asper   |                  |        |

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Swartout led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to approve the February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (01/20/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the minutes as presented for the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting and waive the reading thereof.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT—

1. Gail Keane: Addressed issues from the last meeting and shared her thoughts regarding the Oath of Office, the bike path, the ICE Contract, and the Mental Health Authority.
2. Steven Meyer: Inquired when/if the public can expect a report from the investigation and where the suggested actions on the agenda come from. Shared his concerns with the integrity of the investigator being questioned.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION — None

IX. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 02/04/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,693,243.17

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to confirm the 02/04/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$1,693,243.17 with invoice number 120250 for Lamour Printing removed.

Discussion was held.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated January 21, 2026 from Ms. Susan Maier, Director of Fiscal Services, submitting the audit engagement letter dated January 15, 2026 from independent public audit firm Rehmann, for professional services to be performed on the County audit for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and place it on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Non-Claims

- a. Check Register dated 01/23/2026 in the amount of \$ 332,081.83
- b. Check Register dated 01/30/2026 in the amount of \$ 466,336.32

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

Motion carried.

#### XI. COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated January 28, 2026 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director submitting the proposed updates to the Dundee Township Master Plan for review and approval of the County Planner's recommendations.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the recommendations of the County Planner and transmit the recommendations to the Dundee Township Council.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

#### XII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

#### XIII. OLD BUSINESS—

- Michigan Indigent Defense Commission update

Commissioner Lievens stated there was no update but the investigation continues.

#### XIV. NEW BUSINESS—

- Pension amendments for collective bargaining units.

Commissioner Swartout inquired if there was an evaluation done to see the impact this would have on the budget.

Commissioner Lievens explained the plan going forward is a lesser expense. Further explained recruiting and retention is at a deficit in this County.

Commissioner Asper stated the Board did not receive a cost analysis for this. As far as hiring, the County's percentage is roughly 6-7% which is where everyone else is. Explained she is not comfortable without a cost analysis. Also explained she is not comfortable with it being added on after the agenda meeting where the Board found out that Mr. Bosanac would not be in attendance. Explained she would like his opinion before moving forward.

Commissioner Lievens explained the motion today is to authorize staff and labor counsel to open for the purpose of coming back to us with those numbers.

Commissioner Moore explained when a closed negotiation gets opened, the Board has to negotiate until it's closed again. In the past, he believes this was studied with an actuary, a cost analysis, and it took about eighteen (18) months. This allowed commissioners to have the pertinent information needed. Stated he would like to see a cost analysis and research done. Stated as far as the vacancy, people aren't leaving, there aren't hemorrhaging employees anywhere, and the County is well within the state and national margins.

Chairman Vensel explained Danielle Winegardner did the study and used our actual numbers on the defined contribution part of the plan and stated everything is negotiable.

Commissioner Moore explained he appreciated their opinions but he is not comfortable representing the taxpayer's money on their word.

Chairman Vensel elaborated on why it was added to the agenda after the agenda meeting.

Further discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to authorize staff and labor counsel to open negotiations for the specific purpose of amending the pension benefit for the following bargaining units: TPOAM Public Health Nurses, POAM District Court, POAM District Court Supervisors, TPOAM Friend of the Court, TPOAM District Court Probation, TPOAM Family Court, TPOAM Youth Center Therapists, and TPOAM General.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Pension amendments for the non-union group.

Motion by Commissioner Lievens, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to authorize staff and labor counsel to draft an amendment to the pension policy for the non-union group.

Commissioner Swartout stated he has the same questions he had last time. Without a cost analysis done, how many people does this involve and what is the cost going to be. Stated it is the Boards fiscal responsibility to know that before a decision is made.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT—

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

XVII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Asper – Explained the board did not vote themselves a four (4) year term; the legislators did. Explained the suggested actions and stated no one tells the board how to vote. Explained she used to be on three (3) boards but is only on one (1) now; which is AgeWays. Stated this goes along with her speaking out a little too freely.

Commissioner Moore – Stated looking at the pension, you have to look short term and long term. Elaborated on what happened at the Road Commission. Explained part of being fiscally responsible isn't just balancing the budget annually but it is also making sure it will balance in 20 years. Stated looking at the information, common sense tells him there is not enough to open these negotiations. Stated he is happy to discuss further after the meeting.

Commissioner Swartout – Passed.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed.

Commissioner Lievens – Explained pension is an investment. Stated he attended the Mental Health Authority meeting and they are considering millage. Explained he shared his concerns for this at said meeting and he is not going to support it. Explained he is not going to support any new millages this term and he is happy to discuss anything after the meeting.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated the County is not shaky; it is very sturdy and strong. Explained we have to keep up with the times. The Gordy Howell is going to open up and this place is going to blossom with different types of construction picking up. Stated our revenue is going to keep climbing.

Vice-Chairman Lamour – Informed he sits on the Pension Board and members of this board are fantastic and do their due diligence. Stated if we don't invest in our employees now, when do we. Explained a pension is a good investment in our employees because it makes them feel welcomed and wanted.

Chairman Vensel – Regarding the defined benefit pension plan, he truly believes this plan will help with recruitment and retainment as well as create loyalty. Explained when the defined benefit pension was taken out, it created a tiered system where some people had pensions while others didn't. Stated this all has to be negotiated and we will see how it goes.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:



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