

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 17, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting in the City of Monroe, on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Chairman David Vensel called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call by Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles, as follows:

| PRESENT         |              |                  | ABSENT |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------|
| Jay Heinzerling | Brian Lamour | David Swartout   |        |
| David Hoffman   | David Vensel | J. Henry Lievens |        |
| Greg Moore, Jr. | Dawn Asper   |                  |        |

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Vensel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Clerk, Grace Miles led the Opening Prayer.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (03/03/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes)

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented for the March 3, 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     |     |         |         |
| David Swartout | Dawn Asper      | J. Henry Lievens |     |         |         |
| David Vensel   | Jay Heinzerling |                  |     |         |         |

Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT —

1. Ned Birkey: Informed the Board of the Agriculture banquet next Monday. Explained Tuesday is National Agriculture Day. Provided the Board with agricultural updates in Monroe County. Shared that legendary farm broadcaster, Orion Samuelson, has sadly passed away. Discussed bridge payments, well water usage, and the invasion insects that have entered the Country.
2. Steven Meyer: Stated he hopes the closed session does not get derailed again. Explained the question the public wants answered is how many Monroe County government officials knew about Mark Brants crime and were potentially complicit in covering it up. Quoted Joe Bellino and shared his concerns.
3. Jenna Morse: Introduced herself as the Monroe County Drain Commissioner. Stated feel free to reach out to her with any questions.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS, SPECIAL TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION

1. CASA Presentation

CASA presenter notified the County they wouldn't be in attendance, prior to the meeting.

2. CAN Presentation

Christi Rogers, Executive Director of Child Advocacy Network, informed the board of what they do for the community as well as the training they offer. Ms. Rodgers also explained April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session to discuss privileged and confidential attorney-client communications with Ms. Sarah Gabis and the County Legal Advisors, who are both attorneys representing the County, concerning the ongoing County Investigation, as permitted by the Open Meetings Act (MCL 15.267(1) and MCL15.268(1)(h).

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Swartout to go into closed session to discuss privileged and confidential attorney-client communications with Ms. Sarah Gabis and the County Legal Advisors, who are both attorneys representing the County, concerning the ongoing County Investigation, as permitted by the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.267(1) and MCL15.268(1)(h).

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried. The Board moved into closed session.

Once the Board returned, motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to go back into open session.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to waive privilege concerning the investigation report up through phase one (1) findings and recommendations, and direct the attorney to prepare the report for public release.

Commissioner Asper asked if the Board will be seeing the report before it is released.

Ms. Gabis explained the report is marked as a draft and marked with attorney client privilege. Further explained she would remove those markings and provide the portion of the report that is being authorized for release back to Mr. Graham. What the Board does with it after this point, is up to the Board.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to authorize limited disclosure of privileged information by Attorney Gabis to the Attorney Generals Office regarding the investigation and the investigation report in final form., and direct Attorney Gabis to make such disclosure.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

## X. FINANCE MATTERS

1. Payment of the 03/18/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$987,706.99.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman, supported by Commissioner Swartout to approve the 03/18/2026 Accounts Payable Current Claims Report in the amount of \$987,706.99 and approve the Claims for the date and amount presented.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

## XI. CONSENT AGENDA

### 1. Approval of Non-Claims

- Check Register dated 03/06/2026 in the amount of \$ 1,062,016.09
- Check Register dated 03/13/2026 in the amount of \$ 596,099.31

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

Motion carried.

### 2. Approval of Bodman Law Billings regarding the Independent Investigation.

- Invoice #904936 in the amount of \$2,045.00
- Any future billings

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to approve the Bodman Law invoice in the amount of \$2,045.00 as well as any future billings.

Commissioner Asper asked if this is the first time Bodman Law Billings have been on the agenda for approval.

Chairman Vensel stated no.

Commissioner Moore explained his issue is there is no set amount and no timeline. Stated he will be voting no for those two reasons.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

## XII. COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter dated March 12, 2026 from Ms. Mary Gantz, Managing Attorney, Monroe County Indigent Defense, requesting approval to submit the Fiscal Year 2027 Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Grant Application in the amount of \$2,786,636.02,

consisting of \$2,570,850.73 of grant funding and a required County local cost share of \$215,785.29.

Discussion was held regarding funding.

Motion by Commissioner Asper, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to approve the submission of Fiscal Year 2027 Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Grant Application in the amount of \$2,786,636.02, consisting of \$2,570,850.73 of grant funding and a required County local cost share of \$215,785.29.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

2. Letter dated March 9, 2026 from Detective Lieutenant James Jarrett requesting approval to accept funding from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for a Narcotics Team Grant in the amount of \$21,962.00.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to approve the acceptance of funding from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for a Narcotics Team Grant in the amount of \$21,962.00.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

3. Letter dated March 11, 2026 from Mr. Jason Berry, Community Planning & Engagement Director submitting the proposed updates to the Exeter Township Master Plan for review and approval of the County Planner's recommendations.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lamour, supported by Commissioner Heinzerling to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the recommendations of the County Planner and transmit the recommendations to the Exeter Township Council.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

4. Letter dated March 17, 2026 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 properties in Dundee Township.

Discussion was held.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication along with the review/recommendation for an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for properties in Dundee Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Dundee Township Board.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- Letter dated March 17, 2026 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 properties in Dundee Township.

Motion by Commissioner Heinzerling, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication along with the review/recommendation for an application to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program for properties in Dundee Township, place it on file and submit the recommendation of the County Planner to the Dundee Township Board.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

- Letter dated March 12, 2026 from Chairman Vensel transmitting recommended appointments to the Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority for terms commencing April 1, 2026 and expiring on March 31, 2029.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Vice-Chairman Lamour to accept the communication, place it on file and approve the recommended appointments to the Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority for terms ending March 31, 2029 for Rob Calhoon, Juanita Roscoe, Doug Stevens, and Rebecca Pasko as representatives of General Public.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

7. Letter dated March 12, 2026 from Mr. Michael Bosanac, Administrator/Chief Financial Officer regarding the Government Finance Officers Association Award of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Swartout, supported by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the communication and place it and the certificate on file.

Roll call by Clerk as follows:

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

Motion carried.

XIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS — None

XIV. OLD BUSINESS— None

XV. NEW BUSINESS— None

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT— None

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS — None

XVIII. MEMBERS TIME –

Commissioner Asper – Thanked Mr. Birkey for updating the board and showing the importance of agriculture. Appreciated the CAN Presentation and stating she is looking forward to April and putting up pin wheels. Stated there is a bit of a bias when it comes to Mr. Meyer's comments.

Commissioner Moore – Explained he voted no for the investigation release since there was no one under oath and there were no affidavits signed. Asked the public to keep this in mind while reviewing the report. Stated he has never been a part of a vote where the board has given a blank check and he is not going to do that with public money. Stated if anyone would like to discuss this further, they are more than welcome to speak with him after.

Commissioner Swartout – Agreed with Commissioner Moore. Stated he has an issue with being fiscally responsible and voting for an undisclosed amount of money.

Commissioner Heinzerling – Passed.

Commissioner Lievens – Thanked Ned for his continued agricultural service. Recognized the delegates from the Child Advocacy Network. Stated hopefully he sees everyone at Forest View for their fundraiser. Explained CMHA had their fiscal review and they're in a good financial status. They have discussed the role of artificial intelligence in therapy work and are having internal discussions regarding work groups.

Commissioner Hoffman – Stated it has been a tough ride so far but the good will prevail and the evil will fail. Thanked the CAN and stated he is looking forward to his sign for his yard. Thanked Ned for everything he does.

Vice-Chairman Lamour – Thanked Ned and stated he gave a great presentation. Thanked Christi and Maria and stated they gave a great presentation on CAN's behalf. Stated he is looking forward to supporting them in any way he can in the Commissioners Chambers.

Chairman Vensel – Passed.

- XIX. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Vensel adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. with no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Miles". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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