

I.T. / EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

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MEMBERS

Dustin Krasny, Terry Collins, Ralph Tillotson
301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers

Minutes: Thursday, April 3, 2025

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM by Commissioner Krasny. Chairman Van Doren appointed himself to the committee in the absence of Commissioner Tillotson.

Present: Commissioners: Dustin Krasny, Terry Collins, Jim Van Doren

Absent: Commissioner Ralph Tillotson

Also Present: Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, IT Director Ben Ricker, Equalization Director Shelly Delong, Marketing & Communications Jen Ambrose, Budget Analyst Tracy Stace, Community Development Coordinator Francine Zysk

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Collins, Second by Commissioner VanDoren to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2025. Votes in Favor: Commissioner Krasny, Commissioner Collins, Commissioner VanDoren. Opposed: None. Motion Passed.

A. Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2025

III. Information Technology

A. Finance Report

Deputy Administrator Elliott presented the Finance Report to the Committee. The committee had no questions regarding the Finance Report.

B. IT Report

I.T. Director Ricker reported that the Computer Replacement Program is well underway. Nothing new to report on the remaining I.T. projects. A written report was provided to the committee.

C. Communications

Marketing & Communications Coordinator Ambrose reported that media views and other website statistics for the last month remain unchanged compared to the prior month. The metrics for main Lenawee County social accounts show increased performance for the last month. Total social followers across all accounts is about 25,000. Facebook remains our most popular viewing platform for the meeting livestreams, with over 1,000 full views of the

meetings last month. We continue to send out two weekly newsletters and six monthly newsletters with over 16,000 emails in our database. A written report was provided to the committee.

Commissioner Van Doren inquired about making the board appointment vacancies more visible on the front page of the website. Coordinator Ambrose stated that we do a full campaign when we have a vacancy that a board or committee is finding difficulty to fill or is not receiving any applications, but to her knowledge that is not the current case. Administrator Murphy inquired if residents could utilize the search bar on the front page to search "board appointments" to easily access the information; Coordinator Ambrose confirmed that residents could utilize that method, but it is not a trending search term.

D. Department Reports / System Concerns

There were no Department Reports or System Concerns reported.

E. Updates / Other Business

There was no other business.

IV. Equalization

A. Equalization Report

Equalization Director Delong reported that all March Board of Reviews have closed and submitted their information to the department. The Equalization Report has been completed and will be presented to the Personnel/Ways & Means Committee on April 15, 2026. There was an increase of just over 4.5% on the SEV and just over 4.1% increase in taxable value over last year. She is now working on the Millage Reduction Fractions for the 2025 millage rates. Studies are beginning and letters will go out later this month. She will be creating a new database for the 2026 studies. Assessing letters are going out for first quarter sales and field work will begin this month. A written report was provided to the committee.

B. Updates / Other Business

There was no other business.

V. Other Business

A. Michigan's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) update

Community Development Coordinator Zysk provided an update on the Michigan Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant program for the committee with a presentation. Here are some highlights:

- Pre-registration closed on March 10th; project applications from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are open until April 9th*
- The program has issued new scoring metrics for applicants, which will be good for our community*

- *We have provided three letters of support for area ISPs: Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC), Comcast, and Strategic Management (Peninsula Fiber Network). They have identified potential new service areas throughout Lenawee County.*
- *Last year, we submitted over 200 BEAD challenges for unserved residents. Other municipalities in our county have submitted challenges for a total of approximately at least 400 challenges submitted.*
- *Through her work in connecting residents to providers, Coordinator Zysk has been able to reduce our unserved households from approximately 2700 to 1500.*
- *The BEAD grant funds 50% of the project cost, the ISPs will fund the remaining cost themselves. They will need to evaluate their return on investment for each unserved pocket of residences. This grant program will not guarantee that all Lenawee households will have broadband access.*

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Collins, Second by Commissioner VanDoren to adjourn the meeting at 01:33 PM. Votes in Favor: Commissioner Krasny, Commissioner Collins, Commissioner VanDoren. Opposed: None. Motion Passed.