

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



MEMBERS

Committee of the Whole
Second Floor, Old Courthouse
301 N, Main St.
Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION
Commission Chambers

Minutes: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Invocation - Pledge - Cell Phone Reminder:

The meeting was called to order at 01:31 PM by Chair Van Doren.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: David Aungst, Beth Blanco, Terry Collins, James Daly, Dustin Krasny, Kevon Martis, James Van Doren

Comm. David Stimpson and Ralph Tillotson were absent.

Also Present: Administrator Kim Murphy, Corporate Counsel John Gillooly, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Sheriff Troy Bevier, Brian Vish (WLEN), Finance Director Dan Zimolzak, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jen Ambrose, Dept. on Aging Director Cari Rebottaro, COC Coordinator Cara Snyder, Lenawee Adoption Coordinator Cathy Hopper, Bryan Vish (WLEN), MAC Executive Director Steve Currie, WellWise Services CSO Nichole Baker, WellWise Services CEO Kara Lorenz-Goings, Housing Help of Lenawee Executive Director Sarah Buku, Share the Warmth Mike Hendershot, Share the Warmth Board Member Callie Gafner, Share the Warmth Board Member Phebie McClure, Protective Parents of Michigan GERALYN MORRIS, Housing Help of Lenawee Housing Navigator William A. Willnow III, Dawn Fischer, Phebie McClure, Deputy Drain Commissioner Kara Choate, County Clerk Roxann Holloway.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of Minutes: October 15, 2025

Comm. Collins moved to approve the Minutes of October 15, 2025, Comm. Aungst seconded, Motion CARRIED.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Comm. Blanco moved to accept the agenda, as presented, Comm. Martis seconded, Motion CARRIED.

PETITIONS and COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:

Comm. Van Doren introduced MAC Executive Director, Steve Currie.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: [on any agenda item – 3 minute limit]

None.

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

Homelessness Awareness Month Proclamation -

- **Sarah Buku**, Executive Director Housing Help of Lenawee
- **Mike Hendershot**, Chair of Share the Warmth
- **Callie Gafner**, Share the Warmth Board Member

PRO#2025-21

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, attainable housing is an increasing challenge affecting people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life across Lenawee County and the nation; and

WHEREAS, housing instability impacts health, education, and economic opportunity, making it essential to raise awareness and support for individuals and families in need; and

WHEREAS, local organizations—including the Lenawee Continuum of Care, Housing Help of Lenawee, Share the Warmth, and many others—work diligently to provide shelter, transitional housing, counseling, and employment assistance to those experiencing housing insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Homelessness Awareness Month, observed throughout November, encourages all residents to learn about housing challenges, show compassion, and support community-driven efforts that promote stability, dignity, and opportunity for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim November 2025 as **Homelessness Awareness Month** in Lenawee County, and encourages all citizens to engage in efforts to address housing insecurity, support those in need, and help build a community where everyone has access to safe, stable, and attainable housing.

Comm. Krasny moved to adopt PRO#2025-21, Comm. Martis seconded, Motion CARRIED by a UNANIMOUS Roll Call Vote.

Family Court Awareness Proclamation

- **Geralyn Morris**- Protective Parents Michigan
- **Dionne Bowens**- Lenawee Probate Court Director

PRO#2025-22

Family Court Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to raise awareness about the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interests of children; and

WHEREAS, family court decisions have lasting impacts on children and families, making it essential that these decisions are informed by research, compassion, and a clear understanding of child safety and family well-being; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 58,000 children in the United States are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents each year, resulting in hundreds of preventable fatalities, including 39 children in Michigan since 2008 during divorce or custody disputes; and
WHEREAS, we recognize the need for a court system that values stability, permanency, and protection for every child, supported by judges and professionals who prioritize child safety and family stability; and
WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) brings attention to the importance of informed, safety-centered decisions that protect vulnerable children and promote accountability, understanding, and compassion within the family court system; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim November 2025 as **Family Court Awareness Month** in Lenawee County, and encourages all citizens to support efforts that protect children, empower families, and strengthen a family court system committed to justice, safety, and the well-being of every child.

Comm. Blanco moved to adopt PRO#2025-22, Comm. Collins seconded, Motion CARRIED by a UNANIMOUS Roll Call Vote.

Adoption Awareness Month Proclamation -

- **Dionne Bowens** - Lenawee Probate Court Director
- **Cathy Hopper** - Lenawee Adoption Coordinator

PRO#2025-23

Adoption Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Lenawee County recognizes the vital role adoption plays in providing children with safe, loving, and permanent families; and
WHEREAS, the County is committed to working alongside local agencies, organizations, and child advocates to recruit, support, and celebrate adoptive families, helping children achieve stability and lifelong connections; and
WHEREAS, securing nurturing and permanent homes for children is a goal that deserves attention and effort throughout the year, with special focus on raising awareness during the month of November; and
WHEREAS, communities across the nation observe National Adoption Month to promote understanding and encourage citizens to engage in the lives of children in need—whether as adoptive parents, mentors, volunteers, or advocates; and
WHEREAS, we honor and commend those who open their hearts and homes through adoption, recognizing the profound and lasting difference they make in the lives of children and families; and
WHEREAS, this observance, together with similar initiatives across the country, seeks to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe, stable, and loving home;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners

does hereby proclaim November 2025 as **Adoption Awareness Month** in Lenawee County, and encourages all citizens to support adoption efforts and celebrate the families who provide children with the gift of belonging and unconditional love.

Comm. Collins moved to adopt PRO#2025-23, Comm. Blanco seconded, Motion CARRIED by a UNANIMOUS Roll Call Vote.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Updates - **Steve Currie**, Executive Director

Executive Director, Steve Currie presented the 2025 Michigan Association of Counties Updates.

WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging Semi Annual Updates - **Nichole Baker, CSO and Kara Lorenz-Goings, CEO**

Nichole Baker, CSO and Kara Lorenz-Goings, CEO, shared the WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging Semi Annual Updates.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

(Roll Call Vote)

November Consent Agenda

Comm. Martis moved to approve the following Consent Agenda items, Comm. Daly seconded,

Board Appointments

Community Mental Health Authority Board - 12 members / 3 year term

Londa Pickles, Community Member- Sand Creek 3/27

Department on Aging (Lenawee) - 16 members / 3 year term

Rob Trevino, Member At Large 9/28

Rehmann Robson Contract

Approve a Consulting Agreement with Rehmann Robson for professional services related to the preparation of the 2025 audit and finance statements, and authorize the County Administrator to sign said agreement, in the amount of \$10,000.

Byrne JAG Grant

Accept the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) through the State of Michigan, to create a multidisciplinary reentry team to work with inmates from entry to release and authorize Captain Casey to execute the grant.

RES#2025-17 LAKE ARROWHEAD ESTATES WATER SYSTEM

Resolution Authorizing Rates Increases for Capital Improvements/Debt Service Charge

WHEREAS, the County of Lenawee (the "County") is the owner of the Lake Arrowhead

Estates Water System (the "System") in the Township of Raisin (the "Township") in the County; and WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on April 14, 1982, the Township Board of the Township requested the Board of Commissioners of the County to accept and exercise jurisdiction over the System, to provide the necessary operation and maintenance services for the System and to charge and collect sufficient revenues from the users of the System to pay all costs of the System in perpetuity; and WHEREAS, as a result of said action by the Township Board, the Board of Commissioners authorized and directed the Drain Commissioner to operate and maintain the System of behalf of the users thereof; and WHEREAS, the remaining original well pump failed and had to be replaced. WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined, upon recommendation of the Drain Commissioner, that it is necessary to add a monthly debt service charge for a period of (36) thirty-six months not to exceed \$25,493.85 plus finance charges. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that: Effective November 1, 2025 the monthly debt service charge for repayment of the replacement of a well pump and associated costs will be \$10.73 plus finance charges per month for (36) thirty-six months. Debt service charge to be included in monthly operations and maintenance billing statement. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are rescinded. RES#2025-17 is ADOPTED.

Juvenile Justice Grant – Contingency

Authorized the County Administrator to expend contingency funds through change orders for the MSC Detention Renovation project.

Motion to APPROVE Consent Agenda CARRIED by a Roll Call Vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (Comm. Martis)

Approve Accounts Payable Payments

10/16/25 AP Mins.

10/30/25 AP Mins

Comm. Martis moved to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$15,619,864.47, with the general fund's portion being \$573,678.21, Comm. Blanco seconded, Motion CARRIED.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (Comm. Collins)

Criminal Justice 11/6/25 Minutes

Comm. Collins reported from the Criminal Justice Committee.

IT/EQUALIZATION (Comm. Krasny)

IT/Equalization 11/6/25 Mins.

Comm. Krasny reported from the IT/Equalization Committee.

PERSONNEL / WAYS & MEANS (Comm. Martis)

Ways & Means 11/10/25 Minutes

Comm. Martis reported from the Personnel/Ways & Means Committee.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES (Comm. Collins)

Policy/Proc. 11/3/25 Minutes

Comm. Collins reported from the Policy & Procedures Committee.

Request: Certification Policy #2025-09

POL#2025-09 Lenawee County Required Certification Policy

Purpose This policy establishes the guidelines under which Lenawee County will provide financial support for employees obtaining required certifications for their positions. The purpose is to ensure employees are qualified to perform in their roles and to encourage professional development aligned with organizational needs.

Administration The Certification Policy is administered by the Lenawee County Administrator in accordance with the parameters described herein. The Administrator shall establish guidelines and directives supplemental to this policy as may be necessary.

Scope This policy applies to all regular full-time and part-time employees of Lenawee County whose positions require professional certification(s) as a condition of employment or continued performance

A. Lenawee County will provide financial support for employees to obtain certifications required for their job duties, including payment for preparatory courses, all required materials, and certification examinations. This support is subject to the conditions outlined below.

Eligibility To qualify for certification support under this policy, the following criteria must be met

A. The certification must be required for the employee's current role, or identified as necessary by the employee's department head or supervisor.

B. The employee must submit a request for approval through their supervisor or department head prior to enrolling in any course or scheduling an exam.

Covered Expenses Lenawee County will cover the following:

A. The full cost of approved certification preparatory courses and all necessary course materials, whether in person or online

B. The cost of the initial certification examination

C. If an employee does not pass the initial certification examination, Lenawee County will cover the cost of one (1) retake

D. Lenawee County will only pay for a maximum of two (2) examination attempts per certification

Employee Responsibilities Employees receiving certification support must:

- A. *Submit required documentation (course registration, successful exam confirmation) to their supervisor or department head.*
 - B. *Attend and complete all required preparatory coursework.*
 - C. *Schedule exams in a timely manner.*
 - D. *Notify their supervisor and HR if they do not successfully pass the first exam and intend to retake it.*
 - E. *Copies of all Certifications to be sent to Human Resources for inclusion in employee's personnel file.*
- Limitations and Exclusions Employees who do not pass the exam after two (2) attempts will be personally responsible for any costs associated with additional attempts.*
- If the certification is a requirement of their job description, they must report the failed attempts to their Department Head and Human Resources immediately after the second attempt.*
- Certifications not directly related to the employee's job responsibilities will not be eligible for payment unless approved by the County Administrator.*

Comm. Collins moved to adopt the Certification Policy #2025-09, Comm. Aungst seconded, Motion CARRIED.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES (Comm. Krasny)

Phys. Resc. 11/6/25 Minutes

Comm. Krasny reported from the Physical Resources Committee.

BOARD APPOINTMENT (VOTING MEMBER) REPORTS

AIRPORT COMMISSION (Comm. Collins)

Airport 11/3/25 Minutes

Comm. Collins reported from the Airport Commission.

BRIDGING THE GAP SUBCOMMITTEE

Comm. Martis reported from the Bridging the Gap Committee.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY (Comm. Stimpson)

No report.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (Comm. Stimpson)

No report.

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION (Comm. Blanco)

No report.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING (LDA) (Comm. Collins)

Comm. Collins reported from the Department on Aging.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | MEDICAL CARE FACILITY (Comm. Tillotson)

No report.

EMERGENCY 911 DISTRICT BOARD (Comm. Collins)

No report.

HEALTH BOARD (Comm. Collins)

Health Board 10/15/25 min

Comm. Collins reported from the Health Board.

HOMELAND SECURITY & LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING (Comm. Collins)

No report.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY (Comm. Collins)

Landbank 10/28/25 Mins

Comm. Collins reported from the Landbank Authority.

LENAWEE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (Comm. Tillotson)

No report.

MAC - Finance & General Government (Admin. Murphy)

Comm. Van Doren reported from MAC Finance & General Government

MAC- Judiciary & Public Safety (Deputy Elliott)

Deputy Elliott reported from MAC - Judiciary & Public Safety.

MAURICE SPEAR CAMPUS (Comm. Collins)

Comm. Collins reported from Maurice Spear Campus.

MICHIGAN WORKS (Comm. Collins)

No report.

PARKS COMMISSION (Comm. Tillotson)

10/20/25 Park Mins.

No report.

REGION 2 PLANNING COMMISSION (Comm. Tillotson)

No report.

SOLID WASTE/MATERIALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (Comm. Stimpson)

No report.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OVERSIGHT POLICY BOARD[CMHPSM] (Comm. Tillotson)

No report.

LIAISON (NON-VOTING) REPORTS

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION [LENAWEE] (Comm. Blanco)

No report.

ROAD COMMISSION (Comm. Martis)

Comm. Martis reported from the Road Commission.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS (Comm. Collins)

Comm. Collins reported from Veteran's Affairs.

WELL WISE SERVICES (Comm. Van Doren)

No report.

OTHER LIASON APPOINTMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

FOIA Appeal

Dep. Admn. Elliott gave a brief overview of the FOIA Appeal.

Comm. Collins moved to uphold the original denial decision of the FOIA request, Comm.

Martis seconded, discussion followed. Motion CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: [on any topic- 3 minute limit]

Public Comment was received from the following:

Dawn Fischer- Palmyra, Michigan - FOIA Denial Response

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Admn. Murphy reminded the commissioners serving on the Scholarship Committee to review the guidelines. Contact the Administrator's Office with any questions or concerns. The deadline for the scholarship is December 1, 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Admn. Murphy announced that the County Christmas Tree will be delivered on Nov. 13, 2025. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 1, 2025, at 7PM.

ADJOURN/RECESS:

Comm. Martis moved to adjourn at 2:52 PM, Comm. seconded, Motion CARRIED.

James Van Doren, Board Chairman

Roxann Holloway, County Clerk