

PERSONNEL/WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

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MEMBERS

Kevon Martis, Ralph Tillotson
Committee of the Whole
301 N. Main St, Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers

Minutes: Tuesday, July 7, 2026

I. Call to Order

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

Also Present: Administrator Kim Murphy, Corporate Counsel John Gillooly, Sheriff Troy Bevier, Accountant Matt Turgeon, Finance Director Dan Zimolzak, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jen Ambrose, Community Engagement Quinn Wilt, Budget Analyst Tracy Stace, Community Development Coordinator Lisa Hewitt-Cruz, Health Officer Monica Hunt, Friend of the Court Director Dave McFarland, County Clerk Roxann Holloway

Absent: Ralph Tillotson, Terry Collins, Dave Stimpson

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Comm. Martis.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: June 9, 2026

Motion by Blanco to approve the minutes of June 9, 2026, seconded by Aungst. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment (on any agenda item)

None.

IV. Rules

None.

V. Board Appointments

A. Board Appointments

The following resignations, reappointments, and appointments are submitted for your confirmation.

The attached Board Appointment and Liaison appointment list is being submitted for confirmation.

Homeland Security & Local Emergency Planning Committee

Public Safety Communications: Lt. Chris Hudson, Central Dispatch 12/26

Motion by Van Doren, to recommend approving the board appointment as presented to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Aungst. Motion carried.

VI. Personnel Business

A. Employment Changes

Administrator Murphy reviewed the employment changes as of June 30, 2026; no further discussion.

B. Employee Anniversaries

Employee anniversaries included in the packet; no further discussion.

C. Other Personnel Business

None.

VII. Ways & Means Business

A. Finance Reports

Administrator Kim Murphy reviewed the general fund income statement and fund equity changes finance reports.

B. **Request:** Amendment to Friend of Court timekeeping System Agreement (MGT)

Last year, the Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with MGT, the timekeeping system for the Friend of the Court (FOC) that is grant reimbursable for services.

FOC Director Dave McFarland was present to review the request. Currently, the FOC timekeeping system is on paper time sheets and MGT is upgrading to a cloud-based electronic timekeeping system to support counties in meeting IV-D claiming requirements. The amendment has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel.

McFarland shared that after grant reimbursement, the expense increase is \$781.66 for 10 users with an expected annual net increase of \$505 for year 2 and after.

Motion by Van Doren to recommend approving the amendment to the 2025 MGT contract for an electronic time-sheet system in the amount of \$1,280 (66% Reimbursed) to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Blanco. Motion carried.

C. *******Request:** Rouget Farms & Glacier Meadows Intervenor

Comm. Martis provided information regarding the Michigan Public Service Commission and the Affected Local Unit of government (ALU).

Michigan Public Act 233 of 2023 is a state law that created a state-level permitting process for

large-scale renewable energy facilities. This act took effect on November 29, 2024, and is administered by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The law applies to Solar facilities of 50 megawatts (MW) or more, Wind facilities of 100 MW or more, and Energy storage facilities of 50 MW or more with at least 200 megawatt-hour (MWh) of discharge capability.

In the original act, the MPSC interpreted an Affected Local Unit of government (ALU) as the local municipality in which the project was located. However, in May 2026 the Michigan Court of Appeals rejected the MPSC's narrow interpretation of an ALU and ruled that an ALU includes every county, township, city, or village in which any portion of the project is located. Under this act, Lenawee County is an affected local unit of government. The Act further provides that upon filing the application with the MPSC, the applicant/developer shall provide a one-time grant to each ALU in the amount of not more than \$75,000 per ALU and not more than \$150,000 in total. RWE Clean Energy has an application at the MPSC for a solar project named Rouget Farms located in Palmyra and Orsted has an application at the MPSC for a solar project named Glacier Meadows Solar for a project in Blissfield. Lenawee has received the statutorily required \$75,000 intervener check for both projects as required by the Michigan Court of Appeals decision.

Corporation Counsel John Gillooly was present and stated that after reviewing materials he is also recommending we intervene and hire a different law firm. Mr. Gillooly stated that the Law Firm Lenawee retains would be required to work with the Michigan Public Service Commission and Foster Swift Collins & Smith is a law firm familiar with this process, and therefore recommends the County retain their services; specifically Mr. Michael Homier.

Motion by Van Doren, to authorize not to exceed \$75,000 to engage Foster Swift Collins & Smith to intervene on the County's behalf regarding Rouget Farms Solar and Glacier Meadows Solar projects at the Michigan Public Service Commission to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Blanco. Motion carried.

It was further discussed that we have 2 checks in the amount of \$75,000 each and any unused funds should be returned if not utilized.

D. *******Request:** *Rouget Farms & Glacier Meadows Host Community Agreement Michigan Public Act 233 of 2023 is a state law that created a state-level permitting process for large-scale renewable energy facilities. This act took effect on November 29, 2024, and is administered by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The law applies to Solar facilities of 50 megawatts (MW) or more, Wind facilities of 100 MW or more, and Energy storage facilities of 50 MW or more with at least 200 megawatt-hours (MWh) of discharge capability. Section 227 of PA 233 states that the applicant shall enter into a Host Community Agreement with each ALU prior to the start of operations. This agreement requires a statutory payment of \$2,000.00 per MW.*

RWE Clean Energy has an application at the MPSC for a 175 MW solar project named Rouget Farms planned for Palmyra Township; a Host Community Agreement statutory

payment would yield \$350,000.

Orsted has an application at the MPSC for a 200 MW solar project named Glacier Meadows Solar planned for the Blissfield area; a Host Community Agreement statutory payment would yield \$400,000.

The request is to recommend authorizing the County Administrator to enter into negotiations to draft a Host Community Agreement for Rouget Farms and Glacier Meadows solar projects and authorize the Board Chairman to sign after corporation counsel review.

Motion by Van Doren, to recommend authorizing the County Administrator to enter into negotiations to draft a Host Community Agreement for Rouget Farms and Glacier Meadows solar projects and authorize the Board Chairman to sign after corporation counsel review, to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Blanco. Motion carried.

E. Committee Referrals/Recommendations

1) **Request:** Website Accessibility Software

Last month, the 1st reading of the Website Accessibility Software request was presented and is being brought back for the 2nd reading, according to the Dual Review Policy. This software purchase is related to compliance efforts associated with the Department of Justice ADA Title II rule requiring local government websites and digital content to meet WCAG v2.1 AA accessibility standards. This software will assist the County in aligning agendas, packets, minutes, and supporting documents with these requirements while also enhancing public accessibility and engagement. Following the prorated first-year cost of \$12,739.83, the expected annual recurring service cost, subject to annual uplift, is estimated at \$22,504.

The request is to recommend entering into an annual contract with CivicPlus for ADA Website Accessibility services at a first year price of \$12,739.83 and annual recurring cost of \$22,504 to the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Blanco, to recommend entering into an annual contract with CivicPlus for ADA Website Accessibility services at a first year price of \$12,739.83 and annual recurring cost of \$22,504 to the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Daly. Motion carried.

2) **Request:** Integrated Solution Pilot-Program with Polco

Marketing and Communications Coordinator Jen Ambrose presented information regarding a proposed software agreement with Polco, to improve community engagement.

This software may be used across several departments for resident engagement tools, surveys, budget simulation, upload data, assist with writing grants, dashboards for data sharing, assist with strategic planning, identify trends and possible grant opportunities.

This includes a two-year pilot program in the amount of \$40,000 and the first year's expenses would be covered by an available Lenawee County Health Department Grant.

The request will be to recommend authorizing the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with Polco for an amount not to exceed \$40,000, and authorize the necessary

budget adjustments for 2026 (\$20,000 fully funded by Health Department grant), to the Board of Commissioners.

No action was taken today. This is considered the first reading according to the Dual Review Policy and will be brought back to the August Personnel/Ways & Means for the second reading.

F. Other Ways & Means Business

None.

VIII. Additional Items for Consent Agenda

None.

IX. Public Comment (on any non-agenda item)

No comment.

X. Commissioner Comment

No comment.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Blanco to adjourn the meeting at 10:36am, seconded by Daly. Motion carried.