

**ISABELLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BY-LAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE  
2025**

**ARTICLE I  
MEETINGS**

- 1.1 Regular Schedule: Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The Annual Meeting, a statutory meeting (Rule 1.2), shall take the place of a Regular Board meeting unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Any regular or adjourned meeting of the Board which falls upon a County holiday (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Good Friday Afternoon, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and County, State and or Federal Election dates) may be re-scheduled upon approval of the Board of Commissioners.

- 1.2 Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is defined as the meeting at which the annual budget is adopted. The annual meeting of the Board of Commissioners shall be held each year after September 14, but before October 16.

- 1.3 Special Meetings: A special meeting of the Isabella County Board of Commissioners may be called and requires a public notice stating the time date and place of the meeting at least eighteen hours before the meeting following the usual and customary posting requirements. The Isabella Board of Commissioners shall adhere to MCL 46.10 when calling for a special board meeting. A special meeting shall be held only when a request from the Chair or at least one third of the members of the County Board of Commissioners is provided to the County Clerk. The written request of the special meeting must specify the time, date, place, and purpose of the special meeting. Upon receipt of the request, the Clerk shall give notice to each of the commissioners within eighteen hours in one of the manners provided as follows:

- a. Via electronic mail (email);
- b. Via personal delivery of the notice of the special meeting to the commissioners.
- c. Leaving the notice of the special meeting at the residences of the commissioners.

- 1.4 Time: Regular Session of the Board of Commissioners shall start at 5:00 pm on both Tuesday meeting dates.

- 1.5 Place: The Board will meet at the **Isabella County Commission On Aging Building 2200 S. Lincoln Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**, or as allowable per the Open Meetings Act.
- 1.6 Public Notice of Meeting: The Clerk of the Board of Commissioners each year shall, within ten (10) days after the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners each calendar year, give public notice of the schedule of time and place of scheduled Board meetings by posting the schedule in the County Clerk's Office in the temporary County Building and in any other conspicuous place in the temporary County Building that the County Clerk shall designate as appropriate and on the County's website.
- 1.61 Change in Schedule: If there is a change in the schedule of regular meetings or committee meetings of the Board of Commissioners, there shall be posted within three (3) days after the meeting at which the change is made, a public notice stating the new dates, times, and places of Board meetings.
- 1.62 Rescheduled Regular, Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole or Special Meeting: For rescheduled regular, Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole, or special meetings of the Board of Commissioners, public notice designating the date, time, and place of the meeting shall be posted at least eighteen (18) hours before the meeting. The requirement of eighteen (18) hours notice shall not apply to special meetings of sub-committees.
- 1.63 Reconvening of Recessed Meeting: A meeting of the Board of Commissioners, which has recessed for more than thirty-six (36) hours, shall be reconvened only after public notice, which is equivalent to that required for rescheduled or special meetings as set forth above.
- 1.64 Procedure for Meeting Notices: Per the Open Meetings Act, the Isabella Board of Commissioners will post its annual meeting schedule for the calendar year. The notice will include the dates, times, and location of the regular meetings and shall be posted at the principal office of the Board of Commissioners, at the office of the County Clerk, and on the Isabella County website.
- 1.7 Use of cellular phones: Use of cellular phones, pagers, and other communication devices shall be prohibited during a BOC meeting except for emergency communication. This notice shall be posted in **the meeting room** and then noted on the agenda for the Committee meeting as well as the Regular meeting.
- 1.8 Public Meeting: Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners shall be open to the public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. MCL 15.261 et seq.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **QUORUM**

- 2.1 QUORUM: A majority of Commissioners of Isabella County shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business of the County.

- 2.2 Absence of Quorum: Upon the absence of a quorum, the members present may adjourn to a time certain. Public Notice is not required if the time set for reconvening is less than thirty-six (36) hours.

### **ARTICLE III** **VOTING**

- 3.1 Majority Vote: All questions which shall arise at the meetings of the Board of Commissioners shall be determined by the votes of a majority of the members present, except (1) upon the final adoption of any claim against the County, which matters shall be determined by a majority of all the members elected and serving, and (2) upon the final adoption of any matters which by statute require a greater majority and as specified in 3.11.
- 3.11 A two-thirds vote shall be required on the following procedural motions:  
To suspend the rules or order of business  
To limit or extend debate  
To object to consideration  
To move previous question  
To hold a closed session pursuant to Open Meetings Act.
- 3.2 Roll Call Vote: The names and votes of members shall be recorded on an action which is taken by the Board of County Commissioners if the action is on taxes, a bond, an ordinance, Budget or Budget Amendment, resolution, apportionment, election of any officer, approval of contracts and expenditures. Upon the demand of any member present, a roll call vote shall be ordered and recorded by the Board Clerk.
- 3.3 Secret Ballot Voting: No vote may be taken by secret ballot except as authorized by law.
- 3.4 Mandatory Voting: Each member present shall be required to vote on every question unless they deem themselves to be in conflict of interest in which case the member may abstain.
- 3.5 Reconsideration of Vote: When a question has been put and decided by a roll call of the members, any member who voted on the prevailing side may move for a reconsideration thereof; on all voice votes, any member may move for a reconsideration. No matter may be reconsidered more than once. A motion to reconsider must be made at the same meeting at which the original motion was voted on.
- 3.6 Rescind Previous Action: The Board of Commissioners may rescind a section, or all, of a previous motion, resolution, rule, directive, by-law, or paragraph that has been adopted at a previous time, provided that none of the action involved has been carried out in a way which is too late to undo.

### **ARTICLE IV**

## **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

- 4.1 Authority: “Roberts Rules of Order, revised” shall govern all questions of procedures which are not otherwise provided by these rules or State law.
- 4.2 Procedure:
- 4.21 Motions, Resolutions, Committee Reports. No motion shall be debated or voted upon unless seconded. Any motion, with the permission of the person, who moved and seconded it, may be withdrawn at any time before it has been adopted. Prior to a vote, the chair will ask if the Board would like the motion repeated. At the request of any member of the Board, a motion shall be presented in writing.
- 4.22 Motion to Clear the Floor. If in the judgment of the Chairperson, procedural matters have been confused, the Chairperson may request a “motion to clear the floor.” Such motion, if made and seconded, shall take precedence over all other motions and shall not be subject to debate or if carried, to a motion to reconsider. The motion to clear the floor, if carried, shall clear the floor completely and with the same effect as if all matters on the floor were withdrawn.

## **ARTICLE V ORGANIZATION**

- 5.1 Chairperson:
- 5.11 Election: During the first meeting in each calendar year, the Board of Commissioners shall select, by majority vote of all the members, one of its members to serve as Chairperson of the Board. Said Chairperson shall take office and assume the duties immediately upon election and shall serve until January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year or until the election of new officers. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairperson, then the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the office of Chairperson.
- 5.12 Duties:
- 5.121 The Chairperson, if present, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Commissioners, preserve order, and decide questions of order subject to appeal to the Board.
- 5.122 The Chairperson shall be the agent for the Board in the signing of contracts, orders, resolutions, determinations, and minutes of the Board in the certification of the tax roll.
- 5.123 The Chairperson shall serve in such capacities and make appointments as the law, or these by-laws, shall require.

- 5.124 The Chairperson shall serve as a member-at-large on all Board Committees. The Chairperson shall have a right to vote in committees.
- 5.125 The Chairperson, for purposes of representing the County in various functional or ceremonial capacities, shall be considered as the Chief Elected Official of the County Board of Commissioners.
- 5.126 Upon his/her election, the Chairperson shall proceed to appoint all standing and special committees and shall designate the Chairperson of each standing committee. Unless a Board member voices an objection to the Chairperson's appointment(s), approval will be presumed. The Chairperson may designate Chairperson of special committees or leave that determination to the individually appointed special committees. The Chairperson's decisions can be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the Board.
- 5.127 The Chairperson of the Board shall have the power to administer an oath to any person concerning any matter submitted to the Board of Commissioners or any matter connected with the discharge of their duties, to issue subpoenas for witnesses and to compel their attendance as permitted by law and in the same manner as courts of law.
- 5.128 The Chairperson of the Board, when appropriate, shall refer matters coming before the Board to one of the standing or special committees of the Board. The Chairperson shall arbitrate all jurisdictional disputes between committees. Any decision of the Chairperson is subject to appeal to the Board.
- 5.129 The Chairperson of the Board, in the absence of the Vice-Chairperson, shall chair the Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole.

5.2 Vice-Chairperson:

- 5.21 Election: During the first meeting in each calendar year, the Board of Commissioners shall select, by majority vote of all the members, one of its members to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Upon being elected, said Vice-Chairperson shall immediately take office and assume all duties of the office. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-Chairperson, then the Board of Commissioners shall select, by majority vote of all the members, one of its members to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

5.22 Duties:

- 5.221 The Vice-Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Board if the Chairperson is absent.

5.222 The Vice-Chairperson shall serve on the Intra-County Drainage Board when the County Commissioner member of the Drainage Board is disqualified.

5.223 The Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole.

5.3 Clerk: Duties:

5.31 To preside, until a Chairperson or temporary Chairperson is elected, during the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners in each calendar year.

5.32 To record all the proceedings of the Board in a book provided for that purpose.

5.33 To make regular entries of all the Board's resolutions and decisions upon all questions.

5.34 To record the vote of each Commissioner on any question submitted to the Board, if required, in accordance with Rule 3.2.

5.35 To preserve and file all accounts acted upon by the Board and for no reason allow such accounts to be taken from the office, unless otherwise designated by the Board of Commissioners.

5.36 To certify, under Seal of the Circuit Court or the official seal of the County, without charge, copies of any and all resolutions or decisions on any of the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners, when required by such Board or any member thereof.

5.37 The Clerk, upon resolution of the Board, shall perform other duties appropriate to the Office of County Clerk.

5.38 In the event the Clerk or duly appointed Deputy Clerk is absent from a meeting of the Board, the Clerk shall appoint another person to act as temporary Clerk until the Clerk or duly appointed Deputy arrives.

5.4 Parliamentarian: The Board Chair shall appoint a parliamentarian who shall advise the Chairperson and the Board of Commissioners regarding questions of parliamentary procedures.

5.5 Standing Committees: The Board of Commissioners shall have the following standing committees with the following number of members. Each standing committee shall report to the Board on all matters referred to the Committee by the Chairperson or by Board action.

Inter-Governmental Affairs  
Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole

Two Members  
Seven Members

5.51 Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole

5.511 General Duties – This Committee shall serve as a body that will discuss and work towards a common understanding of all matters that will come in front of the Board of Commissioners. No formal action may be taken by this committee other than to give recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for action at its next regular scheduled Full Board Meeting. This Committee agenda can include outside presentations and allow staff to participate in deliberations at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

5.512 Time: Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole shall begin at 10:00 am on the Tuesday that is one week prior to the Board of Commissioners regular meeting.

5.52 Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

5.521 General Duties - The Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee is responsible for acting as a liaison between County government and any other unit of government whenever concerted action between governmental units is needed to solve common problems or achieve common goals concerning the residents of Isabella County.

5.53 Committee Procedures and Meetings

5.531 Each standing committee shall report to the Board on all matters referred to the Committee by the Chairperson, by Board action or by the Administrator/Controller.

5.532 All matters to be presented to a standing committee of the Board shall be presented first to the Administrator/Controller, who shall then present the same to the appropriate standing committee.

5.533 Each standing committee shall have and perform such other duties as the Board may direct.

5.534 Meetings: Meetings of Standing Committees may be convened by its Chairperson at any time upon reasonable notice to its members and to the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners provided the notice complies with the requirements of the *Open Meetings Act*, Act 267 of 1976.

5.5531 Any changes regarding the time, date and place of all committee meetings shall be announced at the regular board meeting immediately preceding the committee's meeting.

5.5532 The County Clerk shall notify the news media of the time, date and place of all committee meetings that shall take place in addition to regular and special meetings of the Board of Commissioners.

5.6 Special Committees: Subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Board of Commissioners, the Chairperson of the Board may establish special committees and designate Commissioners to serve thereon. Unless a Board member objects to the Chairperson's designation, approval will be presumed. The membership of special committees shall automatically terminate upon the succession to office of a new Chairperson of the Board, unless reappointed by the new Chairperson of the Board.

5.7 Discharge of Committee: The Board can take the question or subject out of a committee's hands after referring it to the committee and before the committee has made a final report on it, and the Board itself can consider it. This is applicable to both standing and special committees.

5.8 Administrator/Controller:

5.81 An Administrator/Controller will be hired by the Board of Commissioners to perform duties assigned to that individual by the Board.

5.82 A job description for the Administrator/Controller will be developed by the Board of Commissioners with related performance goals and will be reviewed periodically but not less than once a year.

5.83 A contract shall exist between the Board of Commissioners and the Administrator/Controller. A formal evaluation of the Administrator/Controller shall be conducted annually.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **CONDUCTING OF MEETINGS**

6.1 Order of Business for Regular Meetings and Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole:

1. Call to Order-Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. General Public Comment: Restricted to items on this agenda
5. Public Hearing
6. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
7. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes
  - b. Other
- 8. Committee Reports
- 9. Administrator/Controller
- 10. Old Business
- 11. New Business
- 12. Public Comments
- 13. Announcements
- 14. Adjournment and/or Recess to a date and time certain or at the call of the Chairperson.

6.2 Agenda:

- 6.21 All information to be placed on the agenda must be received by the Administrator/Controller's Office from Elected Officials, Department Heads, County agencies, Board of Commission members, or Administrator/Controller no later than 12:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday before scheduled Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole meetings for the next regular or adjourned regular meeting.
- 6.22 The Chairperson of the Board and the Administrator/Controller shall then prepare the agenda. On the Friday before each regular meeting, the Administrator/Controller's Office shall post the agenda on the County website. Contained therewith shall be a brief description of all matters to be considered and a copy of all committee reports; recommendations of the Administrator/Controller to be acted upon at said meeting shall be attached thereto.
- 6.23 Only with one hundred percent (100%) consent of the present members of the County Board may any Committee resolution or recommendation of the Administrator/Controller be acted upon by the Board of Commissioners at any regular meeting or adjourned regular meeting unless a copy thereof has been delivered to each County Commissioner either with the agenda or separately not later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Board Meeting.

6.3 Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn will mean adjournment to the next regular meeting or call of the Chair.

## ARTICLE VII

### RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

7.1 Speaking Priorities and Limits:

- 7.11 Every member desiring to speak shall address the Chair and, upon recognition by the presiding officer, shall confine himself/herself to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language.
- 7.12 A member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless for purposes of calling the member to order, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member while speaking be called to order, he/she shall cease speaking until the question of order to be determined and, if in order, he/she shall be permitted to proceed.
- 7.13 A Commissioner may request, through the Chairperson, the privilege of having an abstract of his/her statement on any subject under consideration by the Commission entered in the minutes. Such statement shall be entered in the minutes.
- 7.14 The sponsor of any properly moved and seconded motion, resolution, ordinance or report, not appearing on the agenda for the meeting, shall have the right to speak for a time not longer than three (3) minutes after the formal introduction but prior to any discussion of the matter on the floor. When a measure has more than one sponsor, the Chairperson of the Board shall determine which person shall first speak under this rule.
- 7.15 No member shall speak more than once on any subject being debated until every member who chooses to speak shall have spoken unless permission is given by the Board. Permission shall be assumed given unless a Board Member raises an objection.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **NON-MEMBER ADDRESSES TO COMMISSION**

Only members of the Board of Commissioners shall be given the floor to speak during any Board meeting **EXCEPT**:

- 8.1 Any County Official who:
  - a. Wishes to address the Board during the discussion on an item affecting his/her department may do so, upon recognition of the Board Chair.
  - b. Limits his/her comments to the agenda item.
- 8.2 The parliamentarian when called upon to advise on procedure or when recognized by the Chair.

- 8.3 Any person who is listed on the agenda or who has been requested by the Chair to comment upon a matter before the Board. The Chair shall honor the request of any Commissioner to permit a non-member to address the Board.
- 8.4 Any member of the public speaking under the privilege of “Limited Public Comment,” or “General Public Comment.”
- 8.5 Limited Time:
- 8.51 The maximum time for public discussion by way of addressing the Board on only one (1) topic shall be three (3) minutes per speaker. This limitation of time on addressing the Board may be extended by a majority vote of the Commissioners present at the Board meeting. MCLA 15.263(5).
- 8.6 Public Comment: There shall be a sign-in sheet located at the guest table prior to the commencement of each meeting. Each person desiring to address the Commissioners shall complete the following:
1. Name
  2. Address
- 8.61 When deemed necessary, at the discretion of the board chair, the Board may make cards available for the members of the public wishing to address the board that will state their name and address.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- 9.1 Public notice must be given whenever a vacancy occurs on one of the Boards or Commissions which the Board of Commissioners is responsible for filling, provided that such vacancy is one which must be filled by a member of the general public; such public notice shall describe the nature of the Board or Commission, the duties of the members and the term of office. The public notice should also indicate where applications can be obtained and the deadline for filing such applications.
- 9.2 Public notice of vacancies on Boards or Commissions shall take the form of a press release prepared by the Administrator/Controller and be made available to the Morning Sun, and posted on the County website: [www.isabellacounty.org](http://www.isabellacounty.org).
- 9.3 Public notice must be given at least three (3) weeks prior to the regular board meeting at which consideration of the appointments will occur.

- 9.4 Applications for Boards and Commissions must be received before 4:30 p.m. on the day of the published deadline for applying for that vacancy. Applications must be filed with the County Administrator/Controller's Office and stamped with a date and time of filing.
- 9.5 Late applications will not be considered unless no other applications are received for a particular vacancy. In that event, the late applications will be held over until the vacancy has been re-advertised.
- 9.6 When nominations are closed (a two-thirds vote required), appointments will be made by a majority vote of the Board members present.
- 9.7 Upon Appointment the Administrator/Controller shall notify the appointee and the Board or Commission.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **BOARD VACANCIES**

- 10.1 When a vacancy occurs in the office of Commissioner by death, resignation, relocation of residence from the district, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment within thirty (30) days by the County Board of Commissioners by a resident and registered voter of that district. The person appointed to fill a vacancy which occurred in an odd numbered year shall serve until the vacancy is filled with a special election. That special election shall be called by the County Board of Commissioners. The person appointed to fill a vacancy which occurs in a year which is an election year for the office of County Commissioner shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the County Board of Commissioners does not fill the vacancy by appointment within thirty (30) days, the vacancy shall be filled by a special election regardless of whether the year is an election year or an odd year.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS**

- 11.1 The Clerk of the Board shall keep minutes of each meeting showing the date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decision made at a meeting open to the public, and the purpose or purposes for which a closed session is held. The minutes shall include all roll call votes taken at the meeting.
- 11.2 The minutes taken at a Board meeting shall be public records open to public inspection and copies of the same shall be available to the public at the County Clerk's Office for the reasonable estimated cost for printing and copying.
- 11.3 Draft minutes of the Board meeting to which they refer shall be available to the public for inspection not more than eight (8) business days after the Board meeting. Approved minutes shall be available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office not later than five (5) business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved by the Board of Commissioners. MCL 15.269.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF RULES**

- 12.1 These by-laws having been adopted by not less than a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the members of the Board, may be amended or rescinded by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board. They shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded and must be reaffirmed at the annual organizational meeting.
- 12.2 Any proposed amendment to the by-laws shall be introduced in written form at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners and cannot be acted upon until the next regular meeting.