

Minutes
Isabella County Board of Commissioners
REGULAR BOARD
HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON/ELECTRONIC)
Isabella County Commission on Aging Building
2200 S. Lincoln Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
November 4th, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Call To Order by Chairman Engler in conference room A/B of the Commission on Aging, 2200 South Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Hybrid/Meeting (in-person/Electronic).

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was led by Chairman Engler.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Tobin Hope, James Moreno, Frank Engler, Jerry Jaloszynski, and Steve Weber.

Absent: Steve Swaney and Bob Campbell

Also present: County Administrator/Controller Brian Smith and Isabella County Clerk, Minde B. Lux.

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Weber to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

General Public Comments (for agenda items only):

Bree Moeggenberg spoke regarding the Isabella County Administration Building and the FOIA Appeal for Greg Schmidt. She stated that the MSU Extension is not a mandatory office and should not be funded at this time in the renovation of the administration building. There needs to be open communication from the commissioners and talking behind close doors should not happen. She stated that the committee meetings that were held in regards to options for the administration building were held and they were not held at board meetings for the public to listen to. She also stated that the FOIA for Greg Schmidt should be reversed and the information should be given to him on the request. The Isabella County Road Patrol needs to come back.

Debra Gray-Franke spoke to the board regarding the County Administration Building. She stated that the commissioners need to build public trust back into the community. The board needs to take their time now and look at all options with more data to make a sound decision. Item #5 should be tabled. A million dollars has already been spent on the abatement of the building.

Presentations and Special Reports: None

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

- A. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Hope to open nominations for one opening on the Department of Health and Human Services/Medical Care Facility Board for a 3-year term ending October 31, 2028, or until a successor is appointed. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Hope to cast a unanimous ballot for Mary Myler Hunter. Motion carried.
- B. It was moved by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to open nominations for two openings on the Isabella County Veterans Committee for a 4-year term ending June 1st, 2029 or until a Successor is appointed. It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and seconded by Commissioner Hope to nominate Robert Denslow. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to nominate Russ Alwood. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Denslow and Russ Alwood. Motion carried.
- C. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to appoint Jill Borland to the Great Lakes Bay Michigan Work's Workforce Development Board, for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2027, or until a successor is appointed. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve and place on file the October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes; and the October 28, 2025 Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole Minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole:

1. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to ratify and place on file the October 17, 2025 Invoice List in the amount of \$275,962.46; the October 24th, 2025 Invoice List in the amount of \$206,392.74, and the Adjustments List dated October 16, 2025. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed each invoice. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Weber. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the Early Termination Agreement and Early Termination Payment in the amount of \$2,722.50 between Isabella County and CMS Internet, LLC, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the early termination. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Weber. Nays: None.
3. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to approve the Region VII Area Agency on Aging Purchase of Service Provider Agreement, along with the Addendums, and the Business Associate Agreement, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Weber. Nays: None

4. It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the Amendment to Travel Policy No. 250 as presented, to extend the reimbursement submission period from 30 days to 60 days. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Weber. Nays: None
5. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to approve the authorization for the County Administrator/Controller to prepare and send out a Request for Proposal for Design Bid Build Professional Services for the Isabella County Administration Building Remodel Project. Commissioner Engler stated that they did a design build at the new jail and it was extremely expensive so there was not much discussion on that since they were not going to spend that kind of money on it. Commissioner Engler also stated that this gives the administrator the ability to put out an RFP to get an actual cost to go forward. Brian Smith stated that the RFP does not bind the county to accept any of the bids. Commissioner Jaloszynski stated that he knows there was a plea from a young lady during general public comment to place this on hold but two years ago we had a committee looking at the various aspects to this project and we had determined that we cannot afford to build new. We have to do it within the city since this is the county seat and there are no other options but to rebuild in the current foot print. He also stated that we have studied this and it is time to move forward and get our employees back into a building. Commissioner Hope said that we have a proposal for design bid from Spicer and now we are placing it out for RFP to see if there are any other contractors out there that would bid that same type of proposal. We did have Spence Brothers do a proposal for building on our current property by the jail and it came out to cost around \$444.00 a square foot. This will not compare to refurbishing our current building with the similar contract with Spence Brothers \$251.00 a square foot. The building we have is structurally sound. This does not bind us to anything. There was talk in committee last week regarding the time line. We need to start formulating a time line for our employees. Commissioner Moreno stated that we can't keep delaying these things, we need to reduce the stress of the different locations. Leasing space is going to keep getting expensive. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski and Weber. Nays: None.

Intergovernmental Affairs: None

Administrator/Controller: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Commissioner Hope stated that we should give Mr. Schmidt a date to which he can have the information in the FOIA APPEAL. Administrator/Controller Smith stated that we cannot give any information because the auditors have not completed it and as soon as it is created and exists, it can be given out. Commissioner Jaloszynski asked if there is a balance sheet through October 31st, 2025? Administrator/Controller Brian Smith stated it does not exist until created. Finance Director Chris Witmer stated that the specific document that is requested in the FOIA is not something the county prepares, it is prepared through the county auditors. The county auditors prepare the financial statements. The county has to have the audit wrapped up by March 31st by law every year. It is expected to be available by the beginning of March. A motion was made by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Moreno to uphold the Denial for the FOIA Appeal for Greg Schmidt. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski and Weber. Nays: None.

General Public Comments:

Kim Fox stated that he hopes the commissioners do their due diligence with the County Administration Building and that we are able to get the road patrol back. Mr. Fox also wanted to let the commissioners know that the signage needs to be changed on north and south Mission Rd and needs to have the signs pointing in the correct direction to which the new jail is located.

Bree Moeggenberg stated that the commissioners have spoken about two committees that have taken place and yet none of these conversations have taken place in this room. You will continue to be scrutinized by the general public. You are also looking like you are trying to hide information on the FOIA. You have to be transparent.

Aaron Pestel commented that he wishes we would have done the RFP back a year ago. Depending on how the RFP is written it is going to be difficult for contractors to bid without having the chance to walk through the building and look at various options. It is not the fault of the other contractors and that things have been closed only to Spicer. We need to take our time and make sure that we enable contractors to get the information to them. We think that we need to get a loan and that will cause prevailing wage which might limit local contractors. If we do not have a local contractor, we will end up with the \$164,000 a year administrative assistant rates and \$ 396,000 a year entry level project manager rate as part of the quote that Spicer provided. Please do not just throw this RFP over the wall and hope that magic happens, consult, listen and engage with the contractors. Help them help you. If we do not get any bids then there is nothing wrong with the contractors, there are issues with the RFP.

Announcements:

Commissioner Moreno stated that he attended the Health and Human Services meeting which he stated that the main discussion was SNAP. There are many agencies collaborating to assist those in need.

Commissioner Jaloszynski stated that he attended the Isabella Substance Awareness Committee with Commissioner Moreno and they took action to appoint the three members they nominated for the Isabella County Opioid Committee and it should be on the agenda next week. There should be around 11-12 members to be on this committee and he is looking forward to working with the committee.

Commissioner Hope took a moment to remember Judge Ervin who was our Probate Court Judge and sent condolences to his family on his recent passing.

Commissioner Engler stated to get out and support your local high schools in the upcoming week.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and supported by Commissioner Moreno to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m. Motion carried.