

**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**  
**October 21, 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, Steve Swaney, Jerry Jaloszynski, Bob Campbell and Steve Weber.

**Absent:** None

**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 Moreno to approve the agenda with the following changes: remove #2 Spicer Group under Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole and move Public Comment to go before the Closed Session. Motion carried.

**General Public Comments (for agenda items only):**

Bree Moeggenberg thanked the Commission for removing Spicer Group from the agenda. She stated the Board of Commissioners have had one year to discuss this issue. She also spoke in regards to the Denial of her FOIA.

**Presentations and Special Reports:**

- A. Sera Henry, Director of Humane Animal Treatment Society (HATS), reported the Annual Presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

**Appointments to Boards and Commissions:**

- A. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to nominate Phillip Mikus for one opening on the Human Rights Committee as an At- Large Representative, for a 3-year term ending September 1, 2028, or until a successor is appointed. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. It was moved by Commissioner

Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Phillip Mikus. Motion carried.

- B. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve one Republican Party member and one Democratic Party member, using a ballot provided at meeting, to serve on the Isabella County Board of Canvassers for a four-year term ending October 31, 2029. Democratic Representative Tim Caldwell received 7 votes declaring him appointed. Republican Representative Brent Fisher received 5 votes declaring him appointed. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda:**

It was moved by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commissioner Hope to approve and place on file the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes; and the October 14, 2025 Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole Minutes. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and seconded by Commissioner Weber to ratify and place on file the October 3, 2025 Invoice List in the amount of \$371,354.90; the October 10, 2025 Invoice List in the amount of \$411,562.41, and the Adjustments List dated October 2, 2025. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed each invoice. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jaloszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to approve the Devos Farms Farmland Agreement Application dated September 5, 2025 (Gilmore Township) and instruct the Isabella County Clerk to forward the approved application to the MDA-Farmland and Open Space Program. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jaloszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None.
3. It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and seconded by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the Devos Farms Farmland Agreement Application dated September 5, 2025 (Gilmore Township) and instruct the Isabella County Clerk to forward the approved application to the MDA-Farmland and Open Space Program. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jaloszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None
4. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the Devos Farms Farmland Agreement Application dated September 5, 2025 (Isabella Township) and instruct the Isabella County Clerk to forward the approved application to the MDA-Farmland and Open Space Program. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jaloszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None
5. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and seconded by Commissioner Weber to approve the Devos Farms Farmland Agreement Application dated September 5, 2025 (Nottawa Twp) and instruct the Isabella County Clerk to forward the approved application to the MDA-Farmland and Open Space Program. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Campbell and Weber. Nays: Jaloszynski.

6. It was moved by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commissioner Hope to move to accept the Isabella County Drain Commissioner's 2025 Annual Report, as presented, and file the Report with the County Clerk. Motion carried.
7. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and seconded by Commissioner Weber to approve to adopt the 2025 Drain Tax Apportionment for Isabella County tax Billing. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jalszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None
8. It was moved by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve to approve the 2025 October Apportionment Report, as presented by the Equalization Department Director, Pete Preston. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jalszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None

**Intergovernmental Affairs:** None

**Administrator/Controller:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to review the Moeggenberg – FOIA APPEAL. County Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed all three items and stated that he incorrectly answered the FOIA. The FOIA will be granted. Motion carried.
2. It was moved by Commissioner Jalszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the proposed Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement with MRP Properties Company, LLC commencing December 1, 2025 and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Jalszynski, Campbell and Weber. Nays: None

**General Public Comments:**

Bree Moeggenberg thanked the Board of Commission for the reversal of the FOIA. She also stated that they want answers and options on the Administration Building remodel. There is a fiduciary responsibility to the general public. If this is not done, she has opened a 501c4 and will get referendum signatures.

Dan Thatcher from Nottawa Township thanked the Drain Commission for the report. He stated that the roads are better. He also stated that there is a building on Bamber that the Board of Commissioners should look at for possibly renting during this time.

Robert Nagy of Chippewa Township asked the Board of Commissioners to be open, clear and concise on future contracts. He also stated that the Morning Sun is not doing a good job on reporting what is happening at these meetings. There needs to be a way people who do not have internet can find out what is happening at the County. He also stated that Isabella County does not need other counties recycling brought here.

**Announcements:** None

**3. CLOSED SESSION:**

Chairman Engler reviewed the request to consider entering into a Closed Session. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and supported by Commissioner Moreno to enter into a closed session at 6:02 p.m. to review and discuss with our attorney Supreme Court strategy in the tax-foreclosure litigation including the pending lawsuit of Pung v. Isabella County. (Case No. 1:19-cv-11887), pursuant to MCL 15.268(e), because discussion on the open record will have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation or settlement position of Isabella County and also to discuss material exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege, MCL 15.243(1)(g), pursuant to MCL 15.268(h). Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Engler, Swaney, Campbell, Weber and Jaloszynski. Nays: None.

It was moved by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to accept the closed session minutes regarding discussion with our attorney Supreme Court strategy in the tax-foreclosure litigation including the pending lawsuit of Pung v. Isabella County. (Case No. 1:19-cv-11887), pursuant to MCL 15.268(e), because discussion on the open record will have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation or settlement position of Isabella County and also to discuss material exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege, MCL 15.243(1)(g), pursuant to MCL 15.268(h). Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Swaney, Moreno, Engler, Campbell, Weber and Jaloszynski. Nays: None.

It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and supported by Commissioner Weber to come out of closed session meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Swaney, Engler, Campbell, Weber and Jaloszynski. Nays: None.

It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Swaney to approve the Engagement Letter, as presented and discussed in closed session, between Warner, Norcross + Judd LLP and Isabella County and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Swaney, Moreno, Engler, Campbell, Weber and Jaloszynski. Nays: None.

**Adjournment:**

It was moved by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Weber to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. Motion carried.