

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
August 18th, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Engler in conference room A/B of the Commission on Aging, 2200 S. Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Hybrid Meeting (In-person/Electronic)

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

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Present: Steven Weber, Tobin Hope, James Moreno, Frank Engler, Jerry Jaloszynski, Bob Campbell and Steve Swaney.

Commissioner Absent:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Hope to remove item #7 so Vernon Township can have more time to work on it. It will be moved to September 1st, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Jaloszynski made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item #7 and seconded by Commissioner Swaney. Motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Budget.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- A. Chairperson's request for four (4) openings on the Isabella County Human Rights Committee, to complete a 3-year term ending September 1, 2029 or until a successor is appointed. It was moved by Commissioner Hope to nominate Donna Giuliani and seconded by Commissioner Moreno. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. A motion was made by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Weber to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Donna Giuliani. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Moreno to nominate Russell Hyde and seconded by Commissioner Hope. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. A motion was made by Commissioner Jaloszynski and supported by Commissioner Hope to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Russell Hyde. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Hope to nominate Eric P. Davis and seconded by Commissioner Moreno. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. A motion was made by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Moreno to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Eric P. Davis. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Hope to nominate Amy Perschbacher and seconded by Commissioner Moreno. Chairman Engler called for nominations three times. A motion was made by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Swaney to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Amy Perschbacher. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and seconded by Commissioner Moreno to approve and place on file the August 4, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes; and the August 11, 2026 Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole Minutes. County Clerk, Minde B. Lux stated that there was a correction made on the August 4th, 2026 meeting minutes under item #3. The change was to remove Commissioner Jaloszynski as an Aye vote and keep his Nay vote. Clerk Lux also reminded the general public that the "draft" minutes are an actual "draft" which means this is the time for Administrator,

Clerk and Board of Commissioners to make changes, omissions and or add to the meeting minutes. Once approved they are stated "Approved". Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole:

1. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to ratify and place on file the July 31, 2026 Invoice List in the amount of \$326,280.89; August 7, 2026 Invoice List in the amount of \$522,021.09; and the Adjustments List dated July 30, 2026. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the invoices. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None
2. It was moved by Commissioner Weber and supported by Commissioner Moreno to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Millage for the Isabella County Transportation Commission at .862 of one mill. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the request. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Moreno, Hope, Engler, Campbell, Jaloszynski, Weber and Swaney. Nays: None
3. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Millage for the Isabella County Medical Care Facility at 1.0 mill. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the request. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, Weber and Swaney. Nays: None
4. It was moved by Commissioner Campbell and supported by Commissioner Moreno to approve Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Millage for the Isabella County Parks and Recreation at .35 of one Mill. Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the request. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Campbell, Hope, Moreno, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None
5. It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and supported by Commissioner Weber to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Millage for the Isabella County Commission on Aging at 1.0 Mill.

Administrator/Controller Brian Smith reviewed the request. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None

6. It was moved by Commissioner Jaloszynski and supported by Commissioner Swaney to approve the contract modification between Isabella County (as fiscal agent for Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works) and Gratiot Isabella Regional Education Services District (GIRESD) for case management services for the contract term of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None
7. It was moved by Commissioner Swaney and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to approve the Grant application between the Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and Isabella County, in the amount of \$53,460.35 for enhanced veteran services operations, and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None
8. It was moved by Commissioner Weber and supported by Commissioner Swaney to approve the updated Software Maintenance Agreement (SMA), for the Commission on Aging Building, and authorize the Commission on Aging Director to sign for the upgrade quote. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None.
9. It was moved by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Weber to approve the Proposed Health Insurance Cost Share Structure as presented. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski. Nays: Swaney.
10. It was moved by Commissioner Campbell and supported by Commissioner Weber to approve Budget Amendment #2026-31 to increase Tether Payments and authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the same. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber,

Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None

Intergovernmental Affairs: None

Administrator/Controller: We will hold a special meeting for the general public with open discussion, regarding the renovation of the current Administration building. Representatives from Progressive will be online to answer technical questions. This meeting will be posted according to the Open Meetings Act. The meeting will be August 26th, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at Commission on Aging, 2200 South Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: It was moved by Commissioner Moreno and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to schedule the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget beginning at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, as a hybrid meeting (in person and electronic) at the Isabella County Commission on Aging located at 2200 S. Lincoln Road, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858. Motion carried with Yeas: Commissioners Weber, Hope, Moreno, Campbell, Engler, Jaloszynski, and Swaney. Nays: None

Public Comment:

Samantha Amrhein, Victims' Advocates Coordinator for Isabella County. spoke to the board of commissioner regarding not receiving their cost of living according to the Isabella County Employees handbook, all employees are entitled to receive a cost of living fairly. The Prosecuting Attorney's office was told by a few board members to follow the proper procedures for requesting a wage increase and they did exactly that but the Chairman said that this matter will not receive attention. This situation deserves to be reviewed since the correct information was presented. This position is also grant funded. She is asking for a fair review.

Harrison Huijskens spoke regarding the Stevenson Lake Lake level special assessment. He wanted to make sure that the minutes reflect the removal of #7 on today's agenda and that it was moved to September 1st, 2026.

Lindow Koop wanted to thank Sheriff Main and the staff for trying to help people turn their lives around with education, recovering and spiritually. There was a meeting today regarding concerned citizens wanting an update on the ministry to the jail residents and there is now a parttime jail chaplain who is really doing a good job. They are having a special fundraiser on September 29th, 2026 at the 1st Nazarene Church to help provide for the people who are in jail.

Tim Lannon, Trustee of Union Township wanted to speak in regards to the health costs that was on the agenda today. He stated that if elected officials wanted to aid the employees on these health care costs, maybe they should not take health insurance as an Elected Official. A township decided to vote away with health care coverage to save money.

Karen Jackson, Register of Deeds wanted to let the Board of Commissioners now that she supported the decision that was made in regards to the Health Insurance increase to the employees.

Minde Lux, County Clerk told the Board of Commissioners how displeased she was in the decision that was made to place the burden of the extra health care charges to the employees of Isabella County. She also stated that if they wanted to save money, they should look at not taking the Health Insurance themselves since employees who are part-time are not qualified to receive Health insurance benefits so why should the Board of Commissioners. She also stated that this is the worst over her 30 years working for Isabella County that she has ever seen the employees treated.

Announcements:

Commissioner Hope stated that he is excited for the meeting next week with the general public regarding the Administration building.

Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Hope and supported by Commissioner Jaloszynski to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. Motion carried.