

# ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## REGULAR MEETING

**January 20, 2026**

The Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commission Chambers on January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Clerk Everson called the meeting to order.
2. An invocation was given, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Clerk Everson called roll:

Present: Terry Conklin, Jared Hoffmaster, Ken Malone, Luis Rosado, Rick Shaffer, Christina Yunker, Rusty Baker

Also Present: County Administrator Teresa Cupp and Finance Director Angie Steinman

Absent: None

### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Baker to add a closed session to the agenda, as item #13. Motion carried.

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Saffer to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

Commissioner Yunker inquired about the prior monthly financials.

#### **A. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026**

#### **B. Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2026**

#### **C. MSU-Extension Memorandum of Agreement**

#### **D. Three Rivers Courthouse Bi-Directional Amplifier Budget Amendment**

101-212-675.010 \$30,120 Budgeted us of Fund Balance

101-965-995-445 \$30,120 Transfer to Capital Improvement Fund

445-001-699-101 \$30,120 Transfer in from General Fund

445-001-986.265 \$30,120 Capital Purchases

#### **E. Sheriff's Office – Fabius Township Contract and Budget Amendment**

101-212-675.010 \$24,860 Budgeted us of Fund Balance

101-965-995-266 \$24,860 Transfer to Law Enforcement Fund

266-301-699.101 \$24,860 Transfer in from General Fund

266-301-676.010 \$24,860 Reimbursement – Fabius Township

#### **F. Deputy Medical Examiner Appointment – Anna Tart, MD**

Motion carried.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Hoffmaster opened the floor to public comment at 6:04 p.m.

Kayla Mitchell, Sheila Kroupa, Deborah Davis, Tony Mayer, Robin Burpee, Georgina Shafer, Mary McClain, Linda Baker, Andrew Brandt, Deb Shippy, Kelly Weaver, Reggie Chapman, Anne Riopel, Rebecca Shank, Marissa Norris, provided comments.

Commissioner Hoffmaster closed the floor to public comment at 6:46 p.m.

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Employee Service Awards**

Erin Goff – 10 year

Stoney Summey – 10 year

Melissa Patch – 10 year

Hon. Paul Stutesman – 20 year

Mary Herendeen – 30 year

Teresa Cupp – 10 year

**8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

None

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**A. 2026 Commissioner Committee Assignments**

By consent, the Commission approved the 2026 Commissioner Committee Assignments, as presented.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None reported.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Centreville Courts Building Renovation Final Budget – Jennifer Sawyer**

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Malone to approve the Centreville Courts Building Renovation Final Budget, as presented.

Commissioner Yunker, Baker, Malone, Rosado, and Hoffmaster provided comments.

Commissioner Baker - No

Commissioner Malone - Yes

Commissioner Shaffer - Yes

Commissioner Conklin - No

Commissioner Rosado - Yes

Commissioner Yunker - No

Commissioner Hoffmaster – Yes

Motion carried 4-3, by a roll call vote.

**B. Data Centers/Battery Storage Facilities Resolution – Commissioner Yunker**

It was moved by Commissioner Yunker and seconded by Commissioner Malone to adopt the resolution, send to the other 82 MI counties, MI Township Services, MAC, Governor, and our local legislators, as presented, and waive the second reading. Commissioner Shaffer and Hoffmaster provided comments.

Commissioner Yunker – Yes

Commissioner Rosado – Yes

Commissioner Baker – Yes

Commissioner Shaffer – Yes

Commissioner Conklin – Yes

Commissioner Malone - Yes

Commissioner Hoffmaster – Yes

Motion carried 7-0, by a roll call vote.

**C. Server Platform Budget Amendment – Dustin Bainbridge**

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to approve the Server Platform Budget Amendment, as presented. Commissioner Malone provided comments. Motion carried.

**12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Conklin, Malone, Shaffer, Baker, Rosado, and Hoffmaster provided comments.

It was moved by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Malone to go into closed session pursuant to Sections 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider Corporation Counsel's written legal opinions regarding Freedom of Information Appeals from requesters: Gordon Lynn Evilsizor and EWU Media LLC., which written legal opinions are exempt from public disclosure under state and federal law.

Commissioner Yunker – Yes

Commissioner Rosado – Yes

Commissioner Baker – Yes

Commissioner Shaffer – Yes

Commissioner Conklin – Yes

Commissioner Malone - Yes

Commissioner Hoffmaster – Yes

Motion carried 7-0, by a roll call vote.

The Commission adjourned into a closed session at 7:26 p.m.

The Commission reconvened into an open session at 8:06 p.m.

Chair Hoffmaster stated that the Commission met in closed session pursuant to Sections 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider Corporation Counsel's written legal

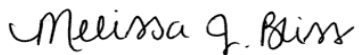
opinions regarding Freedom of Information Appeals from requesters: Gordon Lynn Evilsizer and EWU Media LLC., which written legal opinions are exempt from public disclosure under state and federal law, and no decisions were made.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Yunker to deny part and approve in part SO-2025-174. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Baker to deny in part and uphold in part the FOIA appeal. Motion carried.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and seconded by Commissioner Malone to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.



Melissa J. Bliss,  
Deputy County Clerk/Election Coordinator