Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

Dave Owens, Chair
George Bailey Jan Bunting
Tim Gay Steven Sopocy

Tim Dolehanty, County Administrator
Angie Thompson, Clerk
214 E. Center Street, Ithaca, MI 48847
989-875-5215 (Clerk)

A Regular Full Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Gratiot County was held Tuesday, November 17, 2026, beginning at 4:30 PM in the Gratiot County Courthouse Commissioners Room.

A. Call to Order by Chair Owens at 4:30 p.m.
B. Roll Call of Commissioners, Present: George Bailey, Jan Bunting, Tim Gay, Steve Sopocy, and Dave Owens. Absent: None. Also present: Administrator Tim Dolehanty and Clerk Angie Thompson.
C. Invocation by Commissioner Bailey.
D. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
E. Additions/Deletions to Agenda and approval.
    1.

    Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to approve the amended agenda. Motion Carried 5-0.
F. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest.
G. Brief public comment on agenda items.

    The Board welcomes all public input and appreciates adherence to the time limits established. Each period shall be limited to one 3-minute comment per period.

    Amy from Sumner Township wanting to build on a 2 ½ acres. They were informed they were in violation of a permit. And they need to go through a Zoning appeal.

H. Consideration of Consent Calendar: Board Minutes, Communications and recommendations from committees.
    1. Commissioner's Minutes from November 3, 2026.
    2. Communications.
        a. Gratiot County Drain Notices.
        b. Letter regarding the status/future of Animal Control.
        c. Department Reports.
        d. DNR State Forest Road Inventory- notice of proposed Changes.
        e. Letter from Laura Bever
        f. Urgent Request for Local Road, Watershed & Drain Code Protection Resolution Proposed 254 Mile MISO LRTP 32 345 kV Transmission Footprint.

Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Sopocy to approve the minutes and accept the communication. Motion carried 5-0.

I. Administrator's Report.
Tim handed out the Personnel Manual and the Benefit's Manual- these will be the next policies to review. Open Enrollment for Health Insurance. November 4th had a meeting to go over the Blight Ordinances. Local Emergency Meeting. We did purchase the Animal Control Building.

J. Commissioner Committee Reports.
Commissioner Bailey: Hamilton Township still working on the Hall. North Star Township is having problems with campers. Lafayette Township parking lot is paved, and they are working on the inside. Wheeler Township the Supervisor was called about inspectors.
Commissioner Owens: Gratiot Foundation Breakfast, they give out Scholarship. Lepect for Security.
Commissioner Bunting: Nothing to Report.
Commissioner Gay: Emerson Township going over ordinance about signs. The Cemetery has a new Rest Room. Alma City meeting had a resident complain about a Rat. At the Mental Health meeting the director had appraisal and talked about the wages.
Commissioner Sopocy: Newark Township without a Supervisor they will be working on replacing them. New Haven township had a Gentleman explaining about Battery Storage. New Haven Clerk resigned and they appointed the Deputy Clerk. The Supervisor will be resigning in the future. Elba Township they hope to open the Hall for Rentals.

K. Consideration of New Business.
1. Elected Prosecutor Salary- Laura Bever.
Introduced Kyle DeCloux. Will have Tim give the recommendations for the Salary.
2. MAC Executive Director Steve Currie.
3. Gratiot County Drain Annual Report.
4. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-472 to authorize Land Lease for Agricultural Purpose.
Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-472 to authorize Land Lease for Agricultural Purposes. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-473 to accept a Proposal for Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services.

Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-473 to accept a Proposal for Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-474 to accept Proposals for Funding Evidence-Based Approaches to Substance Use Disorders Using Designated Opioid Settlement Funds.
Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Sopocy to approve Resolution 26-474 to accept Proposals for Funding Evidence-Based Approaches to Substance Use Disorders Using Designated Opioid Settlement Funds. Motion carried 5-0.

L. Consideration of Unfinished Business.

M. Discussion and Report on Finance and Budget Matters.
1. Treasurer's Report.

Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Sopocy to approve the Treasurer Report and place it on file. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Consideration of Claims.
   Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to pay the expenditures. Motion carried 5-0
   Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Sopocy to accept the Revenue and Expense Report, Cash Balances, and Check Register and place on file. Motion carried 5-0.

Recommendation by Commissioner Gay to go to public comment before the Airport.

N. Consideration to enter the Airport Meeting.
   Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to go into the Airport meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
   Enter the Airport meeting at 5:59 p.m.
   Regular Meeting reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

O. Additional public comment.
   Kari Kohler is concerned about the way Animal Control has been changed. They need to be under the Sheriff Department, and they should be able to carry guns.
   Mary Humm continued about the changes with Animal Control.

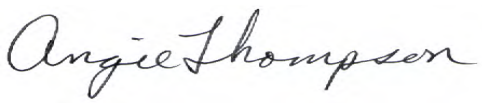
P. Consideration to go into closed session to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of the County Administrator as requested by the County Administrator as allowed under Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1).

   Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Bunting, to go into closed session for consider a periodic personnel evaluation of the County Administrator as requested by the County Administrator as allowed under Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 (1) at 6:15 PM. Roll Call: Yes: Bunting, Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, and Owens. No: None Carried 5-0.

   Meeting Reconvened at 6:33 PM.

   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bunting to approve Resolution 26-475 to amend County Administrator Employment Agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Q. Adjournment.
   Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk
Approved