



## 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)

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

- A. Call to Order by Vice Chair Bunting at 4:30 p.m.
- B. Roll Call of Commissioners, Present: George Bailey, Jan Bunting, Tim Gay, and Steve Sopocy. Absent: Dave Owens. 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 agenda. Motion carried 4-0.
- F. Brief public comment.

*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.*
- G. Consideration of Consent Calendar: Board Minutes, Communications and recommendations from committees.
  1. Commissioner's Minutes from March 3, 2026.

**Board Action:** Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to approve the minutes and accept the communication. Motion carried 4-0.
- H. Consideration to enter closed session to consult with the County Attorney to consider attorney-client privileged communication exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute (MCL 15.268(1)(h)). Written opinion from the county attorney once the closed session starts. An attorney from Cohl, Stoker & Tosky will be present on Zoom for the discussion.

**Board Action:** Motion by Gay, and second by Sopocy to enter closed session to consult with the County attorney to consider attorney- Client privileged communication exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute (MCL 15.268(1)(h)). Written opinion from the county attorney once the closed session starts. An attorney from Cohl, Stoker & Tosky will be present on Zoom for the discussion. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Sopocy, Bailey and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0,  
Meeting reconvened at 4:59 pm

1. Discussion
2. Consideration of the FOIA Appeal.

**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy , second by Gay to uphold the FOIA fees for the FOIA request from Mr. Simmons. Roll Call: Yes: Sopocy, Bailey, Gay, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.

**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to uphold the denials for documents cited in the FOIA request from Mr. Simmons. Roll Call: Yes: Bailey, Gay, Sopocy, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.

I. Administrator's Report.

Couple changes to some of the Policies see Revised General Financial Policy and Revised Claims Processing. The Internal Control Audit, April 13<sup>th</sup> will start the process. Tim will be working on Blight. Will kick off the Calendar for the Budget.

J. Commissioner Committee Reports.

Commissioner Bailey: Hamilton Township meeting final budget and Board of Review. North Star adopted the Budget. Lafayette Township was finishing the Budget and working on the township hall. Wheeler Township adopted the budget. Airport Advisory meeting.

Commissioner Owens: Absent

Commissioner Bunting: ITC meeting at the Alma College. Michigan Works, working on a new Contract. And, attend the Conservation District Meeting.

Commissioner Sopocy: ITC meeting new power line going through Michigan. Ludington to Salt River, Coleman over to Midland then to Nelson Road in Gratiot County. Riverdale for Legislation Luncheon. New Haven Township is getting ready for Board of Review. Newark township working on Budget. Elba Township working on the new township hall. North Shade have new security cameras and working on Budget.

Commissioner Gay: Emerson Painting the hall, planting tree. Arcada Township had a finance meeting and approved the 26-27 Budget- and the Master Plan, going to have a Spring Trash day. Mental Health meeting Presentation about mental health needs in the community.

K. Consideration of New Business.

1. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-384 to appoint Board member to Gratiot County Jury Board.

**Board Action:** Motion by Gay, second by Sopocy to approve Resolution 26-384 to appoint Christie Freestone to the Gratiot County Jury Board for a term ending April 30, 2032. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-385 to accept the Fiscal year 2025 Audit Report.

**Board Action:** Motion by Bailey, second by Sopocy to approve Resolution 26-385 to accept the Fiscal year 2025 Audit Report. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-386 to authorize an agreement for Attorney Services.

**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-386 to authorize an agreement for Attorney Services at a cost of \$4,250.00 a month. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Bailey, Sopocy, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-387 Business Travel and Reimbursement Policy.

**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-387 Business Travel and Reimbursement Policy, Resolution 26-388 Driver Authorization Policy, Resolution 26-389 to Approve General Financial Policy, Resolution 26-390 Claims Processing Policy, Resolution 26-391 Health Insurance Portability, and Resolution 26-393 Sale of Real and Personal Property Policy. Covering K4, K5, K6, K7, K8, and K 10. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-388 Driver Authorization Policy.

6. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-389 to approve General Financial Policy.

7. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-390 to approve Claims Processing Policy.

8. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-391 a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Policy.

9. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-392 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Animal Welfare Fund Grant Agreement.

**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-392 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Animal Welfare Fund Grant Agreement. Roll Call: Yes: Sopocy, Bailey, Gay, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-393 Sale of Real and Personal Property Policy.

11. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-394 authorizes the sale of property consisting of approximately 5.79 acres within the South Ithaca Industrial Park.  
**Board Action:** Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to approve Resolution 26-394 authorizes the sale of property consisting of approximately 5.79 acres within the South Ithaca Industrial Park. Roll Call: Yes: Bailey, Gay, Sopocy, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.
12. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-395 to accept a proposal for Medical Examiner Services.  
**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-395 to accept a proposal for Medical Examiner Services. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.
13. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-396 authorizing entry of participation agreements in partial settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation.  
**Board Action:** Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-396 authorizing entry of participation agreements in partial settlement of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation. Roll Call: Yes: Sopocy, Bailey, Gay, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.
14. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-400 to accept a subscriber agreement for Corrections Communications Services.  
**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-400 to accept a subscriber agreement for Corrections Communications Services. Roll Call: Yes: Bailey, Gay, Sopocy, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.
15. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-401 to authorize an agreement for Taser Purchase and Associated Services.  
**Board Action:** Motion by Sopocy, second by Bailey to approve Resolution 26-401 to authorize an agreement for Taser Purchase and Associated Services. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.
- L. Consideration of Unfinished Business.
- M. Consideration to enter the Airport Meeting.  
**Board Action:** Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to go into the Airport meeting. Motion carried 4-0.  
Entered the Airport meeting at 6:29 p.m.
- N. Consideration to enter the Finance Meeting.  
Entered the Finance meeting at 6:49 p.m.  
Regular meeting reconvened at 6:55 p.m.
- O. Additional public comment and board comments.
- P. Consideration to enter into closed session to consult with the County Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the matter of Gratiot

County vs Wayne Buck Andrews as permitted under the Open Meetings Act as a discussion during an open session of the meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the County (MCL 15.268(1)(e)). Kyle O'Meara from Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, and Rhodes will be present.

**Board Action:** Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to go into closed session to consult with the County Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the matter of Gratiot County vs Wayne Buck Andrews as permitted under the Open meeting act as a discussion during an open session of the meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the County (MCL 15.268(1)(e )). Kyle O'Meara from Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, and Rhodes will be present. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, and Bunting. No: None. Absent: Owens. Motion carried 4-0.

**Board Action:** Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to proceed with the Attorney recommendation. Motion carried 4-0.

Q. Adjournment.

**Board Action:** Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.. Motion carried 4-0.



Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk  
Approved