Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

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

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

Regular Full Board Meeting
TENTATIVE AGENDA
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 4:30 PM

A. Call to Order
B. Roll call of commissioners
C. Invocation
D. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
E. Additions/Deletions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda
1.
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. Gratiot County Commissioner's Minutes from February 3, 2026. 3
2. Communications.
a. Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. 6
b. Consumers Energy information on Data Centers. 14
c. Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. Minutes and Financials. 15
d. Jasper Township Master Plan Notice. 20
e. Michigan Association of Counties Conference April 27-29. 21
f. Notice of Distribution of Gratiot Countywide Master Plan. 25
g. Gratiot County Road Commission Minutes. 26
3. Other Counties Resolutions. 29

H. Administrator's report.
I. Commissioner Committee Reports.
J. Consideration of New Business.

1. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-364 to authorize the County Administrator to procure property for Animal Shelter use. 31
2. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-365 Commissioner Purchases Policy. 33

3. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-366 Contract Procedures Policy. 35
4. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-367acceptance of Gifts and Grants Policy. 37
5. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-368 authorizing an agreement for an Audit of Internal Controls and Accounting Procedures. 39
6. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-369 Purchasing Procedures Policy. 58
7. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-370 Settlement of Claims Policy. 60
8. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-371 Social Security Number Privacy Policy. 62
9. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-372 Authorizing adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2026 Gratiot County Budget. 64
10. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-373 reclassification of Positions within the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. 69
11. Consideration to approve Resolution 26-374 approve an agreement for Pine River Restoration Services. 82
K. Consideration of Unfinished Business.
L. Consideration to enter into the Airport Meeting.
M. Consideration to enter into the Finance Meeting.
N. Additional public comment and board comments.
O. Adjournment

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, February 3, 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, Steve Sopocy, and Dave Owens. Absent: None. Also present: Administrator Tim Dolehanty and Chief Deputy Clerk Teresa Bushre.
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. 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 January 20, 2026.
   2. Communications.
      a. Letter from ITC about a Local Listening Session.
      b. EightCAP, Inc Minutes from November 21, 2025.
      c. Gratiot County Central Dispatch Authority Board Minutes.
      Board Action: Motion by Bailey, second by Gay to approve the minutes and accept the communication. Motion carried 5-0.
H. Administrator's Report.

Tim presented the Board with the next round of Policies he would like them to look over, and they will be on the next agenda to approve.

Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bunting to give Tim Dolehanty the authority to settle the court case that will be heard on February 7, 2026. Motion carried 5-0.

I. Commissioner Committee Reports.

Commissioner Bailey: Breckenridge Meeting, just talking about the budget. They will be meeting with Wheeler to talk about common interests. Kurt Giles will be attending to discuss Transportation for them to join the Authority. Health Department.

Commissioner Gay: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Owens: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Bunting: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Sopocy: Parks and Recreation- Getting ready for the spring. Working on the Grant applications. Health Department offers Radon testing. Still recommends the Flu Shot. Greater Gratiot meeting to talk about his Jurisdictions.

J. Consideration of New Business.

1. Animal Shelter Annual Report- Jamie Haase.
2. Resolution 26-352, Parks and Recreation Sub Grant Awards.

   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, and second by Bunting to approve Resolution 26-362 to approve Parks and Recreation Millage Grants. Roll Call: Yes: Gay, Sopocy, Bailey, Bunting, and Owens. No: None. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Gratiot County Department of Community Development Annual Report 2025.

   Board Action: Motion by Sopocy, second by Bunting to direct the Planning Commission to prepare an Ordinance for Data Centers for Gratiot County, and to report back to the Commissioner's on a quarterly basis. Motion carried 5-0.

K. Consideration of Unfinished Business.

L. Additional public comment and board comments.

M. Consideration to enter into Closed Session to consider strategy connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement (MCL 15.268(c)).

Board Action: Motion by Bunting, and second by Sopocy to go into closed session at 5:59 p.m. to consider strategy connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement as allowed by (MCL 15.268(c)). Motion carried 5-0.

N. Adjournment.

Board Action: Motion by Gay, second by Bailey to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.



Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk
Approved

February 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Site-Specific Review Determination Letter Copy

Please note that you are receiving a copy of this Site-Specific Review Determination Letter because EGLE is required to notify all of the following parties within a watershed where the registration of either a Zone B cold-transitional or Zone C withdrawal has been approved: registered water users, water use permit holders, local government officials, conservation districts, regional planning agencies, watershed management planning committees, storm water committees, water users committees, and community water supplies.

As such, you may wish to establish or be included in a local water users committee to address any issues related to withdrawals within the watershed. Any questions regarding the establishment of a water users committee should be directed to Hannah Arnett, Permits Section, Geologic Resources Management Division (GRMD), at 517- 599-9767 or email to ArnettH2@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

James F. Milne

James F. Milne, Supervisor
Water Use Assessment Unit
Geologic Resources Management Division
517-285-3253

Enclosure

DEBORAH STABENOW BUILDING • 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30256 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7756
Michigan.gov/EGLE • 800-662-9278

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
GEOLOGIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

February 4, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Ben Chaffin
Chaffin Farms
3611 W. St Charles
Ithica, Michigan 48847

Dear Ben Chaffin:

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Site-Specific Review (SSR) 10053-20261-24

This letter is in response to your request for an SSR for a large quantity water withdrawal located in Section 10 of New Haven Township, Town 10N, Range 04W, Gratiot County. Under Part 327, Great Lakes Preservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), all new large quantity withdrawals are prohibited from causing an adverse resource impact (ARI) to the surface waters of the state.

EGLE examined all reasonably available information and determined that the withdrawal is **not likely** to cause an **ARI**, and you are hereby authorized to proceed with making the withdrawal. However, the withdrawal has been verified as a Zone C withdrawal in the Pine River watershed (ID 20999), which is classified as a warm stream. Please be advised that this determination is a presumption contingent upon the withdrawal conditions specified below and may be rebutted by a preponderance of evidence that the withdrawal has caused, or is causing, an ARI.

Based on information provided through the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool and staff discussions with you and your representative, the proposed withdrawal is registered with the following parameters:

Source:	Groundwater
Location	
Latitude:	43.2749°
Longitude:	-84.7677°
Capacity:	500 gallons per minute
Pumping Frequency:	Intermittent
Months:	June – August
Days per Week:	5
Hours per Day:	12
Depth to the Top of the Screen Interval:	20 feet

DEBORAH A. STABENOW BUILDING • 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30256 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7756
Michigan.gov/EGLE • 800-662-9278

The registration number is Reg. 10053-20261-24; a copy of the registration receipt is enclosed. Please be aware that you, or your well driller, should contact your local environmental health department to obtain all necessary authorizations or permits prior to installing the well. If the actual construction or operation characteristics for this withdrawal vary from what is registered, please contact Garrett Link, Groundwater and Geological Services Section (GGSS), Geologic Resources Management Division (GRMD), at 517-930-9760 or email to LinkG@Michigan.gov, to obtain approval to proceed pursuant to Subsection 32706b(5) of Part 327. This well must be constructed, and the withdrawal made operational by installing the pump within 18 months of the date on the registration receipt.

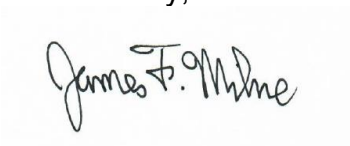
Subsection 32706c(7) of Part 327 states that the property owner receiving a Zone C withdrawal SSR determination may register the withdrawal and proceed to make the withdrawal *if* the property owner self-certifies that he or she is implementing applicable environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures. The full version of these water conservation measures specific to your sector are available for review on the Water Use Program Website in the Information Section under the heading, "Water Use Conservation Measures." EGLE has enclosed a summary form of these measures in checklist format labeled, "Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures."

Please complete and mail this form within 30 days of receipt of this letter to Hannah Arnett, EGLE-GRMD, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756, to self-certify reasonable conservation measures and finish the registration process. You will also need to self-certify that these measures are being followed when you submit your annual report to either EGLE or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) that is due on April 1, each year, pursuant to Sections 32707 and 32708 of the NREPA.

Per Subsection 32725(2) of Part 327, EGLE is required to notify all registrants, permit holders, and local government officials within the watershed about the registration of the withdrawal and their authority to establish a water users committee. Please be advised that this letter is provided as formal notification from EGLE. Any questions regarding the establishment of a water users committee should be directed to Hannah Arnett, Geologic Resources Management Division (GRMD), at 517-599-9767 or email to ArnettH2@Michigan.gov.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 517-285-3253 or by email at MilneJ@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



James F. Milne, Supervisor
Water Use Assessment Unit
Geologic Resources Management Division
517-285-3253

Enclosures
cc/encs: John McGee
cc: Gratiot County Drain Commissioner
Mid-Michigan Health Department (Gratiot County)
Gratiot County Clerk
Gratiot Conservation District
Arcada Township
Sumner Township
Newark Township
New Haven Township
Steve Bovee, Bovee Farms
Brion Ruehle
Abigail Eaton, MDARD
Jay Wesley, DNR
Jeff Pierce, EGLE
Laura Mathews, EGLE
Garrett Link, EGLE
Hannah Arnett, EGLE
Claire Rose, EGLE
Lena Pappas, EGLE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
GEOLOGIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

February 11, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Site-Specific Review Determination Letter Copy

Please note that you are receiving a copy of this Site-Specific Review (SSR) Determination Letter because the EGLE is required to notify you when an SSR determination has been made in your water management area.

Any questions regarding this SSR please feel to contact me by phone at 517-285-3253 or by email at MilneJ@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

James F. Milne

James F. Milne, Supervisor
Water Use Assessment Unit
Geologic Resources Management Division
517-285-3253

Enclosure

DEBORAH A. STABENOW BUILDING • 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30256 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7756
Michigan.gov/EGLE • 800-662-9278

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
GEOLOGIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

February 11, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Andrew Bebow
Bebow Farms
2410 E. Monroe Road
St. Louis, Michigan 48880

Dear Andrew Bebow:

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
Site-Specific Review (SSR) 10056-20261-26

This letter is in response to your request for an SSR of a proposed large quantity withdrawal located in Section 21 of Bethany Township, Town 12N, Range 02W, Gratiot County. Under Part 327, Great Lakes Preservation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, all new large quantity withdrawals are prohibited from causing an adverse resource impact (ARI) to the surface waters of the state.

EGLE examined all reasonably available information and determined that the withdrawal is **not likely** to cause an ARI, and you are hereby **authorized** to proceed with making the withdrawal. As a result of the SSR, the withdrawal was changed from a Zone C withdrawal to a Geology Pass withdrawal from the Tributary to Pine Creek watershed (ID 20836), which is classified as a warm stream. Please be advised that this determination is a presumption contingent upon the withdrawal conditions specified below and may be rebutted by a preponderance of evidence that the withdrawal has caused or is causing an ARI.

Based on information provided through the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool, the proposed withdrawal is registered with the following parameters:

Source:	Groundwater
Location	
Latitude:	43.4150°
Longitude:	-84.5677°
Capacity:	1,200 gallons per minute
Pumping Frequency:	Intermittent
Pumping Months:	June - August
Pumping Days:	6
Pumping Hours:	24
Well Casing Depth:	298 feet

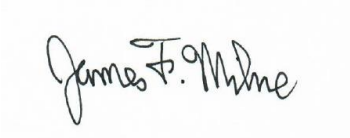
DEBORAH A. STABENOW BUILDING • 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30256 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7756
Michigan.gov/EGLE • 800-662-9278

The registration number is Reg. 10056-20261-26; a copy of the registration receipt is enclosed. Please be aware that you, or your contractor, should obtain all permits and authorizations required by other federal, state, and local regulations in addition to contacting your local environmental health department to obtain all necessary authorizations or permits prior to installing the irrigation well. You are advised to require your well driller to inform you of any potential alterations to the construction of your withdrawal (e.g., well depth, screened interval, pump installation, or location). If the actual construction or operation characteristics for this withdrawal vary from what is registered, please contact Claire Rose, Geologic Resources Management Division (GRMD), at 517-582-1174; RoseC18@Michigan.gov, to obtain approval to proceed pursuant to Subsection 32706b(5) of Part 327.

It is our understanding that the request made under SSR 10056-20261-26 is for replacement of an 800 gallons per minute (gpm) groundwater withdrawal registered under the State of Michigan as Reg. 5338-20188-3, under the well log number "29000004403" which was struck by lightning. This determination is contingent upon the removal of the existing 800 gpm pump. As such, please complete and return the enclosed "Water Withdrawal Deactivation Verification" form to Hannah Arnett, ArnettH2@Michigan.gov to validate your registration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 517-285-3253 or by email at MilneJ@Michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



James F. Milne, Supervisor
Water Use Assessment Unit
Geologic Resources Management Division
517-285-3253

Enclosure
cc/enc: Clayton Irani, Great Lakes Irrigation
cc: Gratiot County Drain Commissioner
Mid-Michigan Health Department (Gratiot County)
Gratiot County Clerk
Gratiot County Conservation District
Midland County Health Department
Midland County Drain Commissioner
Midland County Clerk
Midland County Conservation District
Wheeler Township

Porter Township
Jasper Township
Emerson Township
Bethany Township
City of St Louis
Village of Breckenridge
Abigail Eaton, MDARD
Jay Wesley, DNR
Laura Matthews, EGLE
Jeff Pierce, EGLE
Hannah Arnett, EGLE
Claire Rose, EGLE
Lena Papas, EGLE

Energy Resources to Support Fact-Based Data Center Conversations

From: Robert D. Balzer (robert.balzer@cmsenergy.com)

To: robert.balzer@cmsenergy.com

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 12:56 PM EST

Greetings Gratiot County Leaders,

With growing questions around data centers and large economic development projects, we wanted to provide helpful resources to educate your team and support your conversations with local leaders, community members, and partners.

The materials are designed to provide clear, fact-based information and practical tools you can reference when questions come up—whether related to electric rates, reliability, or how projects move through the process and more. Use the information hub link below to access documents, download, and share. We will continue to update resources as they become available so, please save the link.

Consumers Energy's Data Center Information Hub:
https://brandfolder.com/consumersenergy/data-center-information-hub [brandfolder.com].
Website: Michigan Growth | Consumers Energy

We welcome engagement and questions at any time. If it would be helpful, we're also happy to connect one-on-one or host a small educational session to walk through the materials and discuss what you're hearing locally. **Please don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to support you**.

Thanks, and I look forward to staying connected!

Bob Balzer
Community Affairs Manager
Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella & Midland Counties
1100 Washington St.
Midland, MI 48640
Direct: 517-256-7302
CMS Energy: World Class Performance Delivering Hometown Service

For more information regarding Consumers Energy's Clean Energy Plan, please visit:
www.ConsumersEnergy.com/change



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2025 8:00 A.M.
Alma Wright Opera House

PRESENT:
Steve Bakker, Brett Baublitz, Kevin Beeson, Joe Bowen, Marci Browne, Doug Bush, Kevin Collison, Curtis Dancer, Shana Dancer, Tim Dolehanty, Adam Geers, Kurt Giles, Brian Goward, Marita Hattem-Schiffman, Bill Henderson, Chelsea Holmes Matz, Carla Jensen, Josh Leppien, Greg Mapes, Gary Melow, Pam Munderloh, Dave Owens, Hannah Reeves, Aeric Ripley, Tim Schaub, Chuck Sherwin, Bob Studt, and Adam Vibber.

Staff Present: Jim Wheeler, Kasey Zehner, Bart Stoneman, and Shelly Brown.

ABSENT:
Garth Anderson, Bob Balzer, Karla Childers, Jamey Conn, Paul Hungerford, Chuck Seeley, and Sam Smith.

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Hattem-Schiffman called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

WELCOME NEW GGDI STAFF
Welcome new GGDI staff member, Bart Stoneman, Director of Community Development.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Company	Board Representative
Tim Dolehanty	Gratiot County	Gratiot County Administrator
Chuck Sherwin	MyMichigan Health	Healthcare

JIM WHEELER RETIREMENT
Congratulations to J. Wheeler, GGDI President on his retirement effective December 31st. J. Wheeler has been with GGDI as President for 10 years and was a long-time board member for many years prior to that. We wish J. Wheeler the best of luck in retirement!

CONSENT AGENDA
Approval of Consent Agenda – October 17, 2025 Minutes and Financial Reports through November 30, 2025
Motion by D. Owens, seconded by G. Mapes, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Isabella Bank Donation
Thank you, Isabella Bank, for your generous donation.

Consideration to elect Chuck Sherwin as Healthcare representative and move Marita Hattem-Schiffman to Member-at-Large
Motion by K. Collison, seconded by G. Melow, to elect Chuck Sherwin as Healthcare representative and move Marita Hattem-Schiffman to Member-at-Large. Motion carried.

Consideration to approve Resolution 2025-1 Authorizing and Removing Signing Authority on Bank Accounts
The resolution is to authorize signers K. Zehner, B. Stoneman, and S. Brown and remove J. Wheeler from accounts.
Motion by B. Goward, seconded by T. Schaub, to approve Resolution 2025-1 Authorizing and Removing Signing Authority on Bank Accounts. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
J. Wheeler handed meeting over to new President, K. Zehner.

GGDI Project Updates

Gratiot County Land Bank Authority

The Phase II ESA was completed on the Prospect Street demolition project and no issues were found. We are making final revisions to the RFP for demolition and once completed, we will have the land bank board approve the RFP in January.

Industrial Investment Awards

We will be honoring five companies with Industrial Investment Awards at the Good Morning Gratiot breakfast hosted by the Gratiot Area Chamber in January. The five companies receiving awards from GGDI include:
Alma Container Corporation – Installation of a solar array to offset production electric costs
Avalon & Tahoe, Mfg. – 2025 expansion
Capital Steel & Wire – Newly renovated building
DTE – Polaris and Pine River solar parks
Trinity Truck and Trailer – Completion of their new facility (where Doc's Storage previously was)

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Two potential projects applied for EGLE Site Assessment Grants. One project is moving forward in Ashley. Unfortunately, the second project could not get approval from the property owner to conduct the assessments. We are working with the business to see if there are any other solutions or buildings that would fit their needs. The EGLE Site Assessment Grant is a great program that provides funding for Phase I and II ESAs, as well as BEAs.

Shults Equipment

We have been working with Shults Equipment on the purchase of a lot in the South Ithaca Industrial Park (SIIP). Currently working on getting a survey done and deed drawn up. Shults Equipment will be a nice addition to the SIIP, as they have some supplier relationships in the park, and the lot is the sole remaining one on the west side of the park. We will be working with the County after this sale to set prices and market the remaining lots in the park.

County Permits Assistance

While this discussion has occurred for some time, we are working in partnership with Gratiot County in seeking alternative solutions for permits within Gratiot County. Currently, our building permits are completed within the County by Tony Miller, who does an excellent job. Our other permits (electrical, plumbing, and mechanical) are being done by the state, but the turnaround time is significant and guidelines differ among inspectors. We are hoping to work within our region to find a solution to better serve Gratiot County businesses and residents.

Going Pro

Integrity Services Field Solutions was the only recipient of Going Pro dollars in Gratiot County for this grant period. We are hearing from companies that these dollars are becoming increasingly difficult to apply for and be awarded. This year, the program's budget was cut at the state level by 50% so awards were even more difficult to receive. These dollars are important to help train the workforce with industry-recognized credentials; this training stays with the individual and can be used at any future place of employment.

Regional Update

Childcare

We are working as part of the East-Central Michigan Childcare Coalition to improve overall access to childcare in our County. This includes looking at zoning policies that may be limiting for childcare centers, increasing awareness of the overall need for childcare, and strengthening the talent pipeline for childcare providers. We are currently helping to promote the Michigan ECE Wage Initiative, which is a grant program offering stipends of $300/month (full-time) or $200/month (part-time) for licensed child-care programs in our region. We have sent communications to all licensed providers in our County, and the application period ends December 22nd. It is a competitive grant so not all who apply

will be selected.

Housing
We are also meeting monthly with the Region G Housing Partnership which seeks to increase housing units by 29,000 in our eight-county region in the next decade. Right now, we are looking into what the hindrances to development have been to course correct. This includes available incentives, zoning regulations, etc. We will be participating in a regional housing summit in February.

Talent
Regional Talent Website
The Great Lakes Bay Region has been working on developing a website and relocation guide with the goal of recruiting talent to our area over the last several months. We recently met with two website developers and expect work on the website to begin in the new year. This website will highlight the quality of life of the region overall with county-specific pages pointing interested people to employment opportunities, living spaces, entertainment options, etc.

40 Under 40
Last month, we honored ten Gratiot County recipients of the Mid-Michigan Region's 40 Under 40. This is part of our talent recruitment and attraction efforts, as we seek to recognize those who have chosen to live/work in Gratiot County and contribute positively to the community. This initiative is a partnership with GGDI, Middle Michigan Development Corporation, and GYPN. Recipients included: Kaitlyn DeBolt, Brittney Fries, Hailey Gilbert, Nathan Horsley, Russ Kamyszek, Dr. David Kramp, Kelsey Mapes, Jonathan Rayburn, Emma Rohde, and Chelsea Sherlock.

Employment
For September 2025, Gratiot County had an unemployment rate of 4.6% and ranked 41/83 counties. This was an improvement of 1.3% over the month and was stable over the year. Michigan had a rate of 4.6%, and the federal rate was 4.3%.

Master Plan Update
The final steps to approval were sent out this week for eight of the 23 units. This includes Alma, Ithaca, St. Louis, Breckenridge, Arcada, Pine River, North Shade, and Gratiot County. Due to meeting less often, we are still waiting to hold the public comment period for the remaining 15 units but expect to have that start in January, last through March and final approval in April or May.

Michigan Ready Sites Grant - Alma Hoffman Road
We are still moving forward with the MEDC Michigan Ready Sites marketing grant. Our site will qualify for bronze designation, which should give us access to further grant dollars to complete studies and activities on the site to prepare it for development, such as a mock site layout, estimates on moving utilities, etc. Funding for this program is in question though due to MEDC budget cuts.

ROUNDTABLE:
Members shared updates from their organizations.

ADJOURN:
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:
Shelly Brown, Finance Officer

Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2025

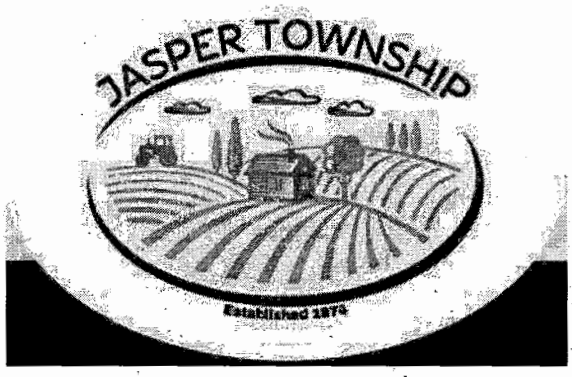
	GGDI	BROWNFIELD	SALF	TOTAL GGDI	RLF	TOTAL
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Bank Accounts	**$191,603.26**	**$2,962.30**	**$864,985.38**	**$1,059,550.94**	**$1,470,394.35**	**$2,529,945.29**
Accounts Receivable						
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	2,449.16	350.84	0.00	2,800.00	0.00	$2,800.00
Total Accounts Receivable	**$2,449.16**	**$350.84**	**$0.00**	**$2,800.00**	**$0.00**	**$2,800.00**
Other Current Assets						
Accrued Interest Receivable			0.00	0.00	1,681.29	$1,681.29
Loans receivable					**55,655.22**	**$55,655.22**
Notes receivable			**248,843.40**	**248,843.40**		**$248,843.40**
Total Other Current Assets	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$248,843.40**	**$248,843.40**	**$57,336.51**	**$306,179.91**
Total Current Assets	**$194,052.42**	**$3,313.14**	**$1,113,828.78**	**$1,311,194.34**	**$1,527,730.86**	**$2,838,925.20**
Fixed Assets						
Building	**52,070.66**			**52,070.66**		**$52,070.66**
Furniture & Fixtures	**0.00**			**0.00**		**$0.00**
Intangible Assets	**0.00**			**0.00**		**$0.00**
Land	3,000.00			3,000.00		$3,000.00
Right of use-Equipment	**10,896.00**			**10,896.00**		**$10,896.00**
Total Fixed Assets	**$65,966.66**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$65,966.66**	**$0.00**	**$65,966.66**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$260,019.08**	**$3,313.14**	**$1,113,828.78**	**$1,377,161.00**	**$1,527,730.86**	**$2,904,891.86**
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts Payable	**$2,304.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$2,304.00**	**$0.00**	**$2,304.00**
Credit Cards	**$2,588.81**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$2,588.81**	**$0.00**	**$2,588.81**
Other Current Liabilities						
Accrued PTO	21,344.56			21,344.56		$21,344.56
Payroll Liabilities	**14,266.69**			**14,266.69**		**$14,266.69**
Total Other Current Liabilities	**$35,611.25**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$35,611.25**	**$0.00**	**$35,611.25**
Total Current Liabilities	**$40,504.06**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$40,504.06**	**$0.00**	**$40,504.06**
Long-Term Liabilities						
Copier Lease	10,374.94			10,374.94		$10,374.94
Total Long-Term Liabilities	**$10,374.94**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$10,374.94**	**$0.00**	**$10,374.94**
Total Liabilities	**$50,879.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$50,879.00**	**$0.00**	**$50,879.00**
Equity						
Designated Funds-Land Improvement/Acquisition Costs			600,000.00	600,000.00		$600,000.00
Opening Balance Equity	237,300.67	2,426.73	33,297.06	273,024.46	1,404,708.87	$1,677,733.33
Retained Earnings	114,041.26	577.54	474,234.69	588,853.49	115,646.93	$704,500.42
Net Revenue	-142,432.66	417.36	7,547.03	-134,468.27	9,713.72	$ -124,754.55
Total Equity	**$208,909.27**	**$3,421.63**	**$1,115,078.78**	**$1,327,409.68**	**$1,530,069.52**	**$2,857,479.20**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$259,788.27**	**$3,421.63**	**$1,115,078.78**	**$1,378,288.68**	**$1,530,069.52**	**$2,908,358.20**

Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.

Statement of Activity

October - December, 2025

	GGDI	BROWNFIELD	SALF	TOTAL GGDI	RLF	TOTAL
Revenue						
Public support						$0.00
Donations	8,000.00			8,000.00		$8,000.00
Total Public support	**8,000.00**			**8,000.00**		**$8,000.00**
Revenues						$0.00
Brownfield Redevelopment	66.52			66.52		$66.52
Interest	**474.14**		**7,547.03**	**8,021.17**	**9,825.19**	**$17,846.36**
Total Revenues	**540.66**		**7,547.03**	**8,087.69**	**9,825.19**	**$17,912.88**
Transfer In	5.00	417.36		422.36	12,000.00	$12,422.36
Total Revenue	**$8,545.66**	**$417.36**	**$7,547.03**	**$16,510.05**	**$21,825.19**	**$38,335.24**
GROSS PROFIT	**$8,545.66**	**$417.36**	**$7,547.03**	**$16,510.05**	**$21,825.19**	**$38,335.24**
Expenditures						
Communications	898.51			898.51		$898.51
Contracted Services	**1,823.25**			**1,823.25**		**$1,823.25**
Dues, Membership & Subscriptions	2,363.73			2,363.73		$2,363.73
Insurance	**4,352.00**			**4,352.00**		**$4,352.00**
Interest	72.31			72.31		$72.31
Meetings	1,927.39			1,927.39		$1,927.39
Miscellaneous	**1,020.50**			**1,020.50**	**111.47**	**$1,131.97**
Promotion and Advertising	8,304.87			8,304.87		$8,304.87
Property Tax Assessment	2.65			2.65		$2.65
Repairs, Maintenance, and Upgrades	**3,368.65**			**3,368.65**		**$3,368.65**
Supplies, Office	297.32			297.32		$297.32
Transfer Out	422.36			422.36	12,000.00	$12,422.36
Transportation	3,900.00			3,900.00		$3,900.00
Utilities	340.01			340.01		$340.01
Wages & Benefits	**121,884.77**			**121,884.77**		**$121,884.77**
Total Expenditures	**$150,978.32**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$150,978.32**	**$12,111.47**	**$163,089.79**
NET OPERATING REVENUE	**$ -142,432.66**	**$417.36**	**$7,547.03**	**$ -134,468.27**	**$9,713.72**	**$ -124,754.55**
NET REVENUE	**$ -142,432.66**	**$417.36**	**$7,547.03**	**$ -134,468.27**	**$9,713.72**	**$ -124,754.55**



FILED
FEB 06 2026
29th CIRCUIT
GRATIOT COUNTY

February 2, 2026

RE: Jasper Township Master Plan

TO: Adjacent Local Units of Government

This notice is to inform you that the Jasper Township Planning Commission is preparing to update the existing Master Plan.

This is in accordance with Section 39 of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, MCL 125.3839. This notice is to inform the neighboring local governments, planning entities and public utilities of Jasper Township's intent to amend our master plan. Jasper Township's Planning Commission welcomes your comments on the proposed updated plan.

According to the Act, you have 63 days to provide comments on the proposed plan to the Jasper Township Planning Commission. Any comments should be submitted to the attention of the Township Planning Commission, by mail to 5595 W Kent Road, St. Louis, MI 48880.

A Public Hearing will be held April 6, 2026 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at the Jasper Township Hall.

Jasper Township Planning Commission

MICHIGAN COUNTIES
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

April 27-29, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton - Lansing

AGENDA
MAC Track
April 27-29, 2026

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY		
DATE	**TIME**	**EVENT**
4/27/2026	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**Premier Partner Booth Setup**
4/27/2026	11:30 AM	**Registration Desk Opens | Welcome Snacks**
4/27/2026	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	**POD 1: Ensuring Your County Websites are ADA-compliant** Speakers: Stephan Welke & Nick Brousseau, Michigan Department of Treasury The Michigan Department of Treasury explain the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II regulations requiring state and local governments to meet access standards for digital content (WCAG 2.1 Level AA). County leaders will learn what the rules mean for public-facing websites, documents, forms and applications, including key compliance deadlines based on jurisdiction size. The session also will highlight Treasury's submission requirements.
4/27/2026	1:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors
4/27/2026	2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	**POD 2: Navigating the Financial Landscape** **Sponsored Session by:** Rehmann EMPOWER YOUR PURPOSE In 2026, counties face an evolving landscape of legislative and policy changes from revenue sharing modifications to gas tax updates that directly influence budgeting, service delivery, and long term planning. Understanding these changes and their practical implications is increasingly complex as mandates expand and resources remain constrained. This session provides a clear, practical overview of strategies county leaders can utilize to navigate fiscal compliance, budgetary planning and the operational impacts of emerging federal and state legislation. Attendees will gain insights that support informed decision making amid ongoing changes.
4/27/2026	2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors

MONDAY		
4/27/2026	3:00 PM - 3:45 PM	**POD 3: Dangers in Your Landfill** Speaker: Heidi Sanborn, National Action Stewardship Council Landfills house far more than you may think. The executive director of National Action Stewardship Council will discuss how end-of-life products and problem materials drive landfill costs and safety risks for local governments. She'll discuss product-stewardship/EPR solutions that reduce disposal burdens on local governments and taxpayers.
4/27/2026	4:00 PM	Hotel Check-in
4/27/2026	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	**MAC Board Meeting**
4/27/2026	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	**Buffet Dinner & Reception | Premier Partners Vendor Showcase**
TUESDAY		
DATE	**TIME**	**EVENT**
4/28/2026	7:30 AM	**Registration Desk Opens**
4/28/2026	7:30 AM - 8:15 AM	**Breakfast**
4/28/2026	8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	**POD 4 - Associations at Work: Updates from MAC and the National Association of Counties**
4/28/2026	9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors
4/28/2026	9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	**POD 5: Managing Your County Workforce through Generational Shifts** **Sponsored Session By:** ACRISURE® Michigan counties are navigating persistent staffing shortages, retirements and succession planning challenges at a time when operational demands continue to grow. This session explores how simplifying and unifying core functions can reduce administrative strain, support continuity as roles turn over and help counties do more with the teams they have today. We'll share practical perspectives on operational design, risk management and workforce support — offering county leaders ideas for building resilience, preserving institutional knowledge, and creating sustainable operations for the next generation of public service employees.
4/28/2026	10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors

TUESDAY		
DATE	**TIME**	**EVENT**
4/28/2026	10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	**POD 6: What's Going on with Energy Policy?** This presentation will: • Explore Michigan's growing energy demands and what they mean for reliability, infrastructure and costs across the state. • Examine how the Trump administration's energy priorities could shape the Midwest energy landscape and influence Michigan communities. • Focus on how counties can anticipate impacts, plan for change and position themselves to protect residents while supporting economic growth.
4/28/2026	11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors
4/28/2026	11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	**POD 7: Property Taxes** Speaker: Jared Walczak, Tax Foundation
4/28/2026	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	**Lunch | CAA Awards Presentation**
4/28/2026	1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	**POD 8: Remarks from Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer** Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, now in the final year of her second term, has been invited to deliver remarks to the conference on her 2026 policy priorities.
4/28/2026	2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors
4/28/2026	2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	**POD 9: Big? Beautiful? What Does Federal Spending Legislation Mean for Michigan?** Speaker: Bob Schneider, Citizens Research Council of Michigan Learn how the federal "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" could affect the state budget, especially local revenue sharing and other state programs counties depend on like Medicaid, mental health services, child welfare and public health. This presentation will focus on how counties might feel these impacts — through reduced funding and more people needing help through local services.
4/28/2026	3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors
4/28/2026	3:15 PM - 4:00 PM	**POD 10: The Politics of 2026** The "Baldly Bipartisan" team of John Sellek and Adrian Hemond will give their entertaining and insightful analysis of what's going to happen as voters select a new governor, a new U.S. senator and a new Legislature.
4/28/2026	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	**Legislative Reception**

TUESDAY		
4/28/2026	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	**President's Hospitality Suite**
WEDNESDAY		
DATE	**TIME**	**EVENT**
4/29/2026	8:00 AM	**Registration Desk Opens**
4/29/2026	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	**Legislative Awards Breakfast**
4/29/2026	9:00 AM - 9:45 AM	**POD 11: Legislative Roundtable** Key legislative leaders will join moderator Kyle Melinn of MIRS News Service for a lively discussion of what will – and won't – happen in Lansing in 2026.
4/29/2026	9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Networking Break with Premier Partner Vendors
4/29/2026	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Premier Partner Booth Teardown
4/29/2026	10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	**POD 12: An Update on Opioid Settlement Funding and Spending in Michigan** Speaker: Matt Walker, Michigan Department of Attorney General Conference participants will receive an update on opioid settlement funds, including funds received and spending to date across jurisdictions. The Michigan Department of Attorney General will review key spending trends from 2023–2025, with many communities' prioritizing prevention, treatment, recovery, and data-informed strategies to address local needs. The presentation will highlight the role of county leadership in ensuring funds are used effectively and in alignment with Exhibit E. This session will also focus on the new Michigan-specific reporting requirements, outlining what local governments must track and report to maintain compliance and promote transparency.
4/29/2026	10:45 AM	**Conference Concludes | Hotel Checkout**

MICHIGAN COUNTIES
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

April 27-29, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton - Lansing

Thank You, Premier Partners!

ACRISURE · AMERICAN FIDELITY · Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan · CoPro+ · ENBRIDGE · Gallagher · KARHU CYBER · MCWCF · Nationwide · Rehmann

Notice of Distribution of Gratiot Countywide Master Plan
(remaining units)

Date: February 4, 2026

To: Neighboring jurisdictions' planning commissions; Gratiot County Planning Commission; East Michigan Council of Governments; public utility companies; railroad companies; public transportation agencies; school boards; downtown development authorities; Gratiot County Road Commission; Michigan Department of Transportation; or other entities with an interest in Gratiot County.

From: Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. (administrator of the Gratiot Countywide Master Plan, on behalf of the Planning Commissions and Legislative Bodies of the following: the Villages of Ashley and Perrinton, the Townships of Bethany, Elba, Emerson, Fulton, Hamilton, Lafayette, Newark, New Haven, North Star, Seville, Sumner, Washington, and Wheeler)

This notice is to inform you a draft of the Gratiot Countywide Master Plan is officially being distributed and the 63-day public review period will begin on February 9, 2026.

In accordance with Section 41 of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, MCL 125.3841(2)(e), a copy of the proposed Gratiot Countywide Master Plan is being distributed to your organization as required in MCL 125.3841(2)(e). The Draft Gratiot Countywide Master Plan is available free of charge on: https://gogrowgratiot.org/

Note: This is the same plan you received previous notification for on behalf of Gratiot County, City of Alma, City of St. Louis, Village of Breckenridge, Arcada Township, North Shade Township, and Pine River Township. This notice is for the balance of municipal units within Gratiot County.

If you would like a physical copy of the document, please contact Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. at info@gratiot.org or (989) 875-2083.

Comments can be submitted in digital format to info@gratiot.org or in writing to 136 S. Main St., Ithaca, MI 48847.

Sincerely,

Kasey Zehner, Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. (administrator of the Gratiot Countywide Master Plan)

On behalf of the Planning Commissions of the Villages of Ashley and Perrinton, the Townships of Bethany, Elba, Emerson, Fulton, Hamilton, Lafayette, Newark, New Haven, North Star, Seville, Sumner, Washington, and Wheeler.

Under MCL 125.3841(2)(f), each public utility company and railroad company owning or operating a public utility or railroad within the local unit of government, and any government entity that registers its name and address for this purpose with the secretary of the planning commission, shall reimburse the Gratiot Countywide Steering Committee for any copying and postage costs incurred in receiving a hard copy of the Countywide Master Plan or final Countywide Master Plan to be adopted.

Ithaca, Michigan

January 7, 2026

The Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Gratiot met in their office in the City of Ithaca on the above date. The meeting was called to order by the Finance Director/Clerk at 8:00AM.

Present: Commissioners Federspiel, Hessbrook and Wilson

Absent: None

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes of the last regular meeting were approved as mailed.

In accordance with statutes relating thereto for the election of a Chairman of the Board, Commissioner Federspiel nominated **Derek Hessbrook for Chairman for year 2026**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with statutes relating thereto for the election of a Vice-Chairman of the Board, Commissioner Hessbrook nominated **Wesley Federspiel for Vice-Chairman for year 2026**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with statutes relating thereto for the election of a Member of the Board, Commissioner Federspiel nominated **John Wilson for Member for year 2026**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hessbrook. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Federspiel moved that **Mark Craft be appointed as Engineer/Manager and County Highway Engineer for 2026 and Alison Hamp be named as Finance Director/Clerk for the year 2026.** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Federspiel, seconded by Commissioner Wilson that the **Road Commission's regular board meetings be held as noted below:**

February 11th	2:00pm	Wednesday
March 12th	8:00am	Thursday
April 23rd	8:00am	Thursday
May 28th	8:00am	Thursday
June 25th	8:00am	Thursday
July 9th	8:00am	Thursday

August 13th	8:00am	Thursday
September 24th	8:00am	Thursday
October 22nd	8:00am	Thursday
November 12th	8:00am	Thursday
December 17th	8:00am	Thursday

The above dates are subject to change. Motion carried unanimously.

The following payments were presented:

Accounts Payable # 6	$122,660.23
Accounts Payable # 7	227,336.66
Payroll #26	86,434.83
Payroll # 1	79,966.56
Totaling	$566,398.28

It was moved by Commissioner Federspiel, seconded by Commissioner Wilson that the above bills be approved and checks drawn for same. Motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Statement was reviewed with the Commission.

After reviewing the **Regular Maintenance Agreements** that have been ongoing for many years, it was moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Federspiel that the Road Commission renew the contracts as in previous years. Motion carried unanimously.

Gravel Resurfacing Bids, which were publicly opened and read as advertised on January 6, 2026, were reviewed. Bids for 22A Gravel were received from Hubscher & Son, Stoneco of Michigan and L & D Carey Sons Trucking. Bids for 23A Gravel were received from Fisher Transportation, Hubscher & Son, L & D Carey, Stoneco of Michigan and Vestaburg Sand & Gravel. Bids for 22A and 23A Limestone were received from Fisher Transportation. It was moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Federspiel that all bids be accepted and the Manager be authorized to purchase material from the source most beneficial to the Road Commission based on price, location and availability. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Federspiel moved that the **Annual Township Meetings be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 10th and 11th.** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Federspiel that the Road Commission **advertise for Seasonal and Bituminous Bids** until Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 10:00am. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Federspiel moved that the Road Commission enter into an agreement with the MI Department of State Police to provide **Weighmaster services for Gratiot County for 2026.** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hessbrook moved that the Gratiot County Road Commission (GCRC) authorize the Chairman and Finance Director/Clerk to sign the **2024-2027 GCRC Transportation Asset Management Plan** certifying that the GCRC has developed an asset management plan for the road, bridge, culvert and traffic assets under its jurisdiction meeting the minimum requirements of Public Act 325. Motion carried unanimously.

YEAS: Commissioner Hessbrook, Federspiel and Wilson

NAYS: None

The Finance Director/Clerk reviewed the **September 30, 2025 Annual Report** with the Commission. It was moved by Commissioner Federspiel, seconded by Commissioner Wilson that the report be approved as presented and that the signature of the Chairman and Finance Director/Clerk be authorized on the report. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent of Operations, Matt Bupp, reviewed his report with the Commission. After further discussion it was moved by Commissioner Federspiel and seconded by Commissioner Wilson that equipment # 1700 and equipment # 1710 be sold on Ranger Bid. Motion carried unanimously.

Clean & Neat LLC revoked their janitorial bid for the janitorial services for the Ithaca garage. It was moved by Commissioner Federspiel and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to award the bid to the second bidder, Q.C. Cleaning. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer/Manager Craft reviewed his report with the Commission.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37am.

Alison Hamp

Finance Director/Clerk

Chairman

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DATA CENTERS/BATTERY STORAGE FACILIITES

RESOLUTION 01-2026

WHEREAS, data centers/battery storage facilities are large-scale industrial facilities that require substantial amounts of land, electricity, and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the growth of data center/battery storage facility development across the United States has placed increasing strain on local electrical grids, water supplies, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of data centers/battery storage facilities may negatively impact nearby residential communities through noise pollution, visual impacts, environmental degradation, and reduced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, data centers/battery storage facilities may conflict with the County's comprehensive plan, zoning ordinances, and long-term land use priorities; and

WHEREAS, the siting of data centers/battery storage facilities may limit future economic development opportunities by consuming land and utility capacity that could otherwise support more diverse, employment-generating uses; and

WHEREAS, residents of St. Joseph County have expressed significant concern regarding the cumulative impacts of data center/battery storage facility development on the environment, infrastructure, and community; and

WHEREAS, if local control is preempted, a county, township, city, or village would be unable to determine requirements for construction, operation, use, or maintenance of a data center/battery storage facility; and

WHEREAS, if a county already has a data center/battery storage facility policy, practice, regulation, rule, or ordinance on record, it may be null and void; and

WHEREAS, all other types of energy facilities, while regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission, must adhere to local zoning,

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the St. Joseph Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the Michigan Legislators, in their respective Bodies, along with the Governor, expedite quickly action to repeal PA 233 and PA 235.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that if subsequent legislation is considered relative to data centers/battery storage facilities and futuristic "Green Energy" programs that proper inclusion of Michigan townships, cities, and villages be included in the planning and construction to ensure

the safety of the Environment and appropriate measures be included to ensure proper restoration of the ecosystem.

AND FINALLY, that the appropriate Michigan Department be authorized to ensure restoration compliance upon the abandonment of the property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners on this 20 th day of January 2026.

Gina Everson

Gina Everson, St. Joseph County Clerk/Register

Commissioner Jared Hoffmaster, Chairman

Commissioner Luis Rosado, Vice - Chairman

Commissioner Rusty Baker

Commissioner Terrance Conklin

Commissioner Ken Malone

Commissioner Rick Shaffer

Commissioner Christina Yunker

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROCURE PROPERTY FOR ANIMAL SHELTER USE

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-364
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHEREAS Gratiot County operates an animal control shelter in compliance with the Pet Shops, Dog Pounds, and Animal Shelters Act of 1969 (MCL 287.331 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS the building and land that comprise the Gratiot County Animal Control Shelter is subject to a rental agreement with the City of Ithaca; and

WHEREAS the City of Ithaca recently expressed interest in selling the animal control shelter facility to Gratiot County; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners wishes to pursue the City's offer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator to negotiate for the purchase of the animal control shelter property at a cost most advantageous to the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator to enter contracts as necessary for inspections and environmental assessment, subject to review by the County Attorney

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is authorized to make contingent offers on the animal control shelter property, subject to final approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A COMMISSIONER PURCHASES POLICY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-365
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHERAS Michigan statute reserves authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county to the Board of Commissioners (MCL 46.11(m)); and

WHEREAS all decisions of the Board of Commissioners must occur at a lawfully held meeting and are subject to concurrence of a majority of members (MCL 46.3(2) and MCL 15.263(2)); and

WHERAS the acquisition of goods or services, and the incurring of a financial obligation for these goods or services, requires approval of a majority of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners wishes to establish a policy to reinforce statutory rules to prohibit purchases by individuals acting in their capacity as a commissioner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached Commissioner Purchases policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that previously adopted policies and past practices that conflict with this policy are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall have immediate effect.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____

Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT PROCEDURES POLICY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-366
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHERAS Michigan statute reserves authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county to the Board of Commissioners (MCL 46.11(m)); and

WHERAS duties and powers of the Chairperson include execution of contracts (MCL 46.3(5) and Rules of Organization (2.1.1.3)); and

WHERAS all records and accounts of the Board of Commissioners, including contracts, must be deposited with the County Clerk (MCL 46.5); and

WHEREAS the County enters into many contractual agreements each year with federal, state and local governments, private vendors and other agencies; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners desires to establish procedures and guidelines for execution and processing of contractual agreements so that standardized practices may be followed by each department.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached contract procedures policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that previous policies and past practices that conflict with this policy are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall have immediate effect.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND GRANTS POLICY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-367
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHEREAS the Michigan County Boards of Commissioners Act reserves to the Board authority to direct and provide for the raising of money necessary to defray the expenses and charges of the county, and the authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the County (MCL 46.11); and

WHEREAS Gratiot County government occasionally receives gifts and grants from other government agencies, public and private organizations, and individual citizens in support of general or specific causes; and

WHEREAS the Board seeks to establish a policy to set forth procedures for acceptance of gifts and grants offered in any form of donation, contribution, bequest, or endowment made to the County regardless of value.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached Acceptance of Gifts and Grants Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy supersedes all previous policies and/or past practices regarding acceptance of gifts and grants which are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall have immediate effect.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____

Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT FOR AN AUDIT OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-368
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHEREAS leadership changes in the past year led to a fresh review of internal financial controls and accounting practices; and

WHEREAS it was determined that the County lacked detailed, written internal control procedures to guide accounting practices; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the special internal control audit is to ensure that operating procedures including all internal controls and accounting practices are being followed and that all expenditures of County funds are made in accordance with laws, regulations, and County policy; and

WHEREAS the County Administrator solicited and received proposals for an audit of internal controls and accounting practices per a Request for Proposals – Project No. 01-26; and

WHEREAS 12 proposals meeting all necessary qualifications, specifications and requirements were received; and

WHEREAS, the accounting firm Maner Costerisan submitted the most responsive and responsible proposal for an audit of internal controls and accounting practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners accepts the proposal submitted by Maner Costerisan to perform an audit of internal controls and accounting practices at a total cost not to exceed $40,000.00 for work assigned consistent with the Request for Proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the County Administrator is authorized and directed to make necessary budget adjustments associated with this project, and the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign any necessary contracts/documents consistent with this resolution.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

Gratiot County Administrator
214 E. Center Street
Ithaca, MI 48847
(989) 875-5282 • *tdolehantyt@gratiotmi.com*

Internal Financial Controls Audit: Project No. 01-26
Bid Tabulation

The following firms provided responses to the internal financial controls RFP (Project No. 03-25) at the amounts indicated:

Firm	Amount	Response Date
Maner Costerisan Lansing, MI	$ 40,000.00	February 3, 2026; 10:59 AM
Eide Bailly Minneapolis, MN	$ 45,800.00	February 3, 2026; 10:48 AM
65th North Group Las Vegas, NV	$ 47,135.00	February 2, 2026; 8:27 AM
Clifton Larson Allen Maumee, OH	$ 48,340.00	February 2, 2026; 3:01 PM
BDMP Assurance Portland, ME	$ 49,416.00	February 3, 2026; 8:20 AM
Baker Tilly Southfield, MI	$ 49,950.00	February 2, 2026; 11:06 AM
Rehmann Saginaw, MI	$ 56,375.00	February 3, 2026; 10:07 AM
Blue & Company Bingham Farms, MI	$ 56,750.00	February 2, 2026; 3:55 PM
Business & Financial Management Solutions Austin, TX	$ 78,291.20	February 3, 2026; 9:23 AM
Intrinz Fishers, IN	$ 86,400.00	February 3, 2026; 7:27 AM
Andrews Hooper Pavlik Midland, MI	$ 73,500.00 – $ 90,000.00	February 3, 2026; 10:20 AM
Plante Moran Southfield, MI	$ 98,000.00	February 3, 2026; 10:56 AM



PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE

FINANCIAL CONTROLS AUDIT

GRATIOT COUNTY

Submitted by:

Maner Costerisan

Lansing Location:
2425 E. Grand River Avenue, Suite 1
Lansing, Michigan 48912

Grand Rapids Location:
2851 Charlevoix Drive, Suite 330
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Date Submitted:

February 3, 2026

Cover Letter

TO

Gratiot County Board & Management
Gratiot County, MI

FROM

Bethany Verble
Senior Manager
Maner Costerisan
bverble@manercpa.com
517-999-5816

February 3, 2026

Gratiot County Management & Board Members,

Maner Costerisan is pleased to present this proposal to support Gratiot County in strengthening its operations and governance. Our work will include a financial controls audit, the development of prioritized recommendations, and engagement with staff and board members to ensure alignment around the established shared goals. This project provides an opportunity to reinforce sound practices, explore areas for improvement, and enhance collaboration among leadership. We commend the Board for considering these services which, while not required, offer great potential for enhancement at the organization.

We view this type of review as a best practice—one that all public entities should undertake periodically to ensure their systems remain responsive to community needs, adaptable to change, and fiscally sound over time.



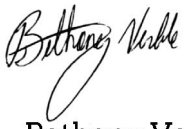
Our methodology follows a continuous improvement cycle—beginning with understanding and assessment, progressing through actionable recommendations, and culminating in implementation and monitoring to ensure that the organization is operating at its full potential.

Our goal is to help Gratiot County uncover time savings, reduce risk, and strengthen day-to-day operations. Our review will help identify tangible ways to save time, reduce manual processes, improve reporting to the Board, and ensure continued compliant practices.

Why We Believe We Are the Best Qualified

- Extensive Experience: With over 250 governmental clients, our team brings deep knowledge of municipal operations—combining experience as auditors, consultants, finance directors, and municipal managers. We go beyond planning documents to deliver customized, practical solutions built on data, resource alignment, and a clear understanding of daily realities.
- Expert Team: Our professionals bring hands-on experience in local government, governance best practices, financial planning, and risk management. Their background in facilitation, training, and strategic planning enables us to deliver thoughtful, well-rounded solutions.
- Tailored Approach: We are committed to delivering a comprehensive analysis that addresses the entirety of the project's scope without exception. Our approach is designed to critically evaluate the existing controls and processes, identify gaps provide actionable solutions.

We look forward to assisting Gratiot County with this important organizational review and are committed to helping the organization strengthen its systems and processes to support continued success and ensure that the organization remains vibrant, resilient, and well-positioned for the future.



Bethany Verble
Senior Manager

Approach and Methodology

This engagement provides Gratiot County with the opportunity to assess its current operations and financial practices, identify areas for improvement, and implement changes that strengthen organizational effectiveness and support long-term sustainability.

Throughout the project, our team will collaborate closely with leadership, maintain open lines of communication, and tailor recommendations that reflect Gratiot County's unique context and priorities. The following sections provide a detailed outline of the review process, areas of focus, and deliverables that will guide this work.

Our process follows a structured, step-by-step approach rooted in best practices for operational and financial review. It begins with building a clear understanding of the organization's current state, identifying key issues, and conducting a thorough assessment. From there, we develop prioritized recommendations, support implementation, and establish practices that allow for continued monitoring and refinement over time. This method ensures the work not only results in meaningful insights but also supports long-term success and accountability.

Review and Analysis of Current Processes & Procedures:

> We've had nothing but positive interactions with everyone we work with at Maner.
>
> – **Kelly Bales**, Greater Lapeer Transportation Authority

- Maner Costerisan will conduct a thorough review of Gratiot County's existing organizational and financial structures, with particular attention to alignment with statutory requirements, operational efficiency, and internal controls.
- Our review will be informed by review of current process documents, the general ledger, current technology utilized by the organization, and individual interviews with staff and board members.
- We will also:
  - Analyze disbursements, credit card transactions, and journal entries during the years of 2020 – 2025.
  - Analyze vendor selection, usage, and compensation during the years of 2020 – 2025.
  - Analyze the compensation and benefits during the years of 2020 – 2025.
  - Test of any above identified transactions.
- We will highlight any gaps in compliance or operational capacity and offer targeted, practical strategies to address them. Our customized priority matrices will ensure that the organization effectively implements all recommendations, reducing risk across the organization.
- The outcome will be a clear, evidence-based understanding of the organization's current processes and opportunities to strengthen controls and efficiencies. This work directly supports the organization's fiduciary responsibility to its residents and its obligation to steward public resources wisely.

Approach and Methodology

Communication and Reporting:

- Our findings and analyses will be communicated through clear, interpretable graphs, charts, and reports, ensuring accessibility to all Gratiot County residents and officials. This will include process maps for key processes, customized draft policies, and narrative recommendations, with proposed software options to implement, where applicable.
- We will provide a draft to management and the Board and meet with both to walk through each of the recommendations, answer questions, and ensure that the team feels confident implementing the recommended changes.
- Deliverables will include a comprehensive report of all of the items noted above and a presentation to the Board summarizing key findings and recommendations. A typical report includes the following:
    - Executive Summary
    - Internal Control & Efficiency Matrix to prioritize implementation (an example of which is included in the initial presentation).
    - Narrative and process maps which detail current processes and recommendations for improvement, as well as the benefit of the recommendation's implementation.
        - These recommendations vary from organization to organization, but often include accounts payable automation, reallocation of certain tasks to enhance internal controls, ways to leverage current software, etc. In instances where we identify the current software as being unable to support the long-term needs of the organization, we will also provide recommended software as part of the report.
    - Report on any transactions identified during analysis
    - Draft policies and procedures, which correspond to the recommendations. These may be policies the organization does not currently have, but we would recommend or may be proposed modifications to the current policies in place.

"The Maner team was very helpful as we were looking to streamline processes and move to an electronic format. The new system improved the recording of expenses, online posting of deposits, and journal entries. This made the process faster and significantly reduced paper flow."

-David Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Brighton Area Schools

Experience and Expertise

Maner Costerisan has more than a century of experience in looking toward the future. We've learned a lot over the last 100-plus years, growing from a small, local firm serving mid-Michigan in the early 1900s to one of Accounting Today's Top Regional Firms (2021 to 2025), employing nearly 200 team members.

Our growth and success are directly connected to our strong relationships with our clients. We listen to their problems and help solve them.

We begin every business relationship by immersing ourselves in your goals, obstacles, and opportunities. We understand where you are today and learn where you want to go tomorrow. This insight empowers us to develop creative, flexible, cost-effective solutions to get you there. Not some vague, one-size-fits-all plan, but a comprehensive, step-by-step blueprint for success. Designed to keep you compliant and turn today's potential into tomorrow's achievements.

Our history has focused on working with numbers and figures, but people and relationships have driven us to dive deeper into what matters most to our clients. Our mission is to enable others to reach their potential.

Every day, this is how we prove that "client first" is both our promise and our passion:

- Proactively using our industry experience and knowledge to stay on top of your ever-changing requirements and the latest legislative changes impacting your industry.
- We're a trusted advisor and sounding Board, delivering strategic solutions and hands-on guidance to help put you ahead of obstacles and the competition.
- Ensuring every client works exclusively with senior-level professionals experienced in your industry - giving you direct access to our partners and managers every step of the way.

Listening to your needs and challenges. Developing actionable solutions to help you get where you want to be.



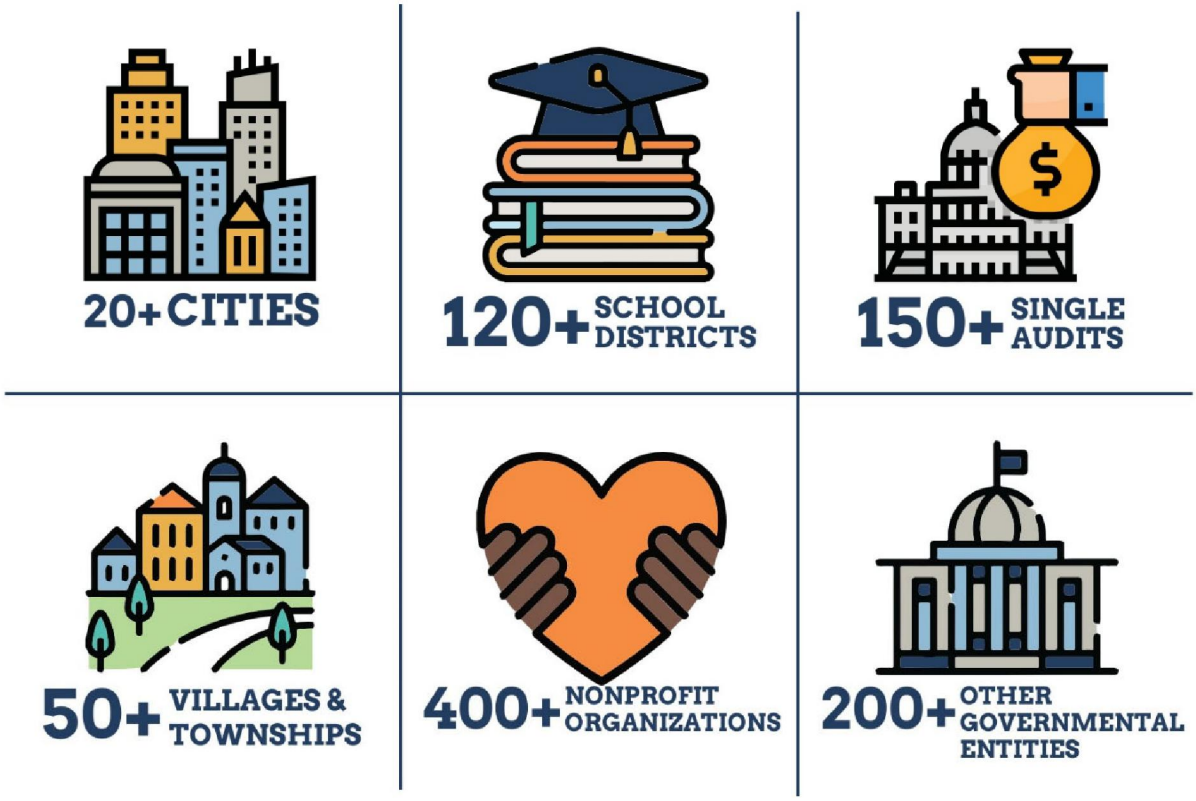




Experience and Expertise

With great power comes great scrutiny. Today, more is expected from local government entities like Gratiot County, so no one is more dedicated to offering smarter, cost-effective solutions than the experts at Maner Costerisan. We're deeply connected with organizations throughout Michigan and have hands-on experience working at every level. This experience empowers us to offer proactive solutions and facilitate strategic discussions with your stakeholders.

You've Earned the Community's Trust. We're Ready to Earn Yours.
The team at Maner Costerisan partners with our clients to help grow vibrant communities that are fiscally sustainable and have robust visions for the future. The complexity of actually turning that vision into reality cannot be overstated. Having the right partners can help ensure short and long-term success.



Timeline

Below is a suggested timeline for the project based on our experience with similar clients. As always, we'll work with you to create a timeline that works best for your team.

Discovery	March/April 2026
Assessment & Testing	April/May 2026
Reporting	June/July 2026

Experience and Expertise



Bethany Verble, CPA, CFE, CBPA
SENIOR MANAGER

About Bethany

Bethany is a senior manager in the Consulting division at Maner Costerisan. She joined the firm as an auditor, focused on governmental entities, and swiftly developed a passion for helping clients strengthen their internal controls and operations.

Bethany provides consulting and advisory services to clients of all industries. In this role, she helps organizations plan and achieve their goals. She also offers investigation services to organizations that have been victimized by or have suspicions of fraud, helping determine any losses and implementing controls to prevent loss and mitigate risk in the future.

Bethany is frequently asked to speak at state-wide conferences for organizations like the Michigan Township Association, the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association, and many others. She has also been a speaker at the national American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

> ***"My mission in life is to end each day with a sense of accomplishment. If you've learned even one thing, or helped one person that day, you've accomplished a lot!***

Certifications:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Michigan
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Certified Business Process Associate

Memberships:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)
- Lansing ACFE, Vice President
- Michigan Women in Finance, Secretary
- Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Treasurer

Experience and Expertise



Sarah Jennings CPA, CFE, CAE
PRINCIPAL, DIRECTOR

About Sarah

Sarah is a principal at Maner Costerisan and leads the firm's Consulting services division. With over 20 years of experience, Sarah is widely regarded as a visionary leader within the firm, always offering new ideas to help Maner better support its clients. In addition to her leadership role providing expert consulting services to Maner's clients, she spearheads the firm's nonprofit team, where she's able to align her work with her passion for advocacy and philanthropy. She also holds the distinction of being its first female board member.

Sarah's responsibilities encompass overseeing engagements that offer guidance and advisory services to client leadership and teams, with a focus on strategy and change management, financial analysis, projections, and workflow. Notably, her expertise lies in leveraging strategic planning to propel missions forward, instilling a framework for growth, and ensuring accountability for achieving the desired outcomes. In addition, Sarah conducts examinations for diverse organizations to identify and document the magnitude of loss attributable to fraud or abuse.

> ***"I see curiosity as a lifelong companion, constantly driving me to learn and find solutions. With a focus on strategic thinking, I approach challenges with a big-picture mindset, always seeking ways to help individuals and organizations grow along the way."***

Certifications:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Certified Association Executive (CAE)

Memberships:

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- Lansing Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- American Society of Association Executives
- Michigan Society of Association Executives
- Council of Michigan Foundations
- Michigan ATHENA
- McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation (Chair)
- McLaren Greater Lansing (Trustee)
- University of Olivet (Trustee)
- Michigan Accountancy Foundation (Trustee)

Investment Summary

Actual costs will be billed, with the total project cost of $40,000.

Our charges for these services are based on the level of team members necessary to perform the services. Billing rates for any additional services outside of the scope of this engagement would be billed at the standard hourly rate for the specific team members assigned. Should Gratiot County wish for us to assist in the implementation of any of the recommendations, we will provide a price estimate for that service to ensure that there are no surprises.

ROLE	HOURLY RATE
PRINCIPAL	$295-450
SENIOR MANAGER	$250-300
MANAGER	$200-250
ASSOCIATE	$150-200

We will provide progress notifications and update you if any challenges and/or issues arise during the engagement that would modify this fee. You may also be billed for travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, word processing, postage, etc. The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered monthly as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, you will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination. If for any reason we are unable to complete our engagement, we will not issue a report as a result of this engagement.

Our policy is to perform services in the most efficient manner possible, thus reducing hours and creating as little disruption to your routine as possible. We will work efficiently and effectively to accomplish all the duties requested. This investment of funds is a recommendation we have for all public entities, as it ensures that the funds entrusted to Gratiot County are used in the most efficient manner.

I have been working with the two over the past 2 years. Both are excellent in answering questions and offering solutions to shortfalls in controls. They bring a lot of knowledge and experience to the discussions and when they are not sure of the answer they ask others within the team. It has been a wonderful experience to get to know both of them.

Nonprofit Controller
(Client asked to not have the organization name included for privacy)

Additional Service Capabilities

Maner Costerisan's dedicated Government team delivers an unprecedented level of support where you need it most. You'll get guidance from partner-level staff, along with hands-on help proven to lower costs and elevate performance. When every dollar matters, trust Maner to get the job done.

Accounting & Outsourced Solutions

From day-to-day accounting support to filling a CFO role, we can supplement your dedicated accounting staff with a team of experts. It's the proven way to lower costs and minimize disruptions to daily operations - all while staying compliant and implementing data-driven financial strategies that can secure a bright future for your municipality.

Technology

When every resource is precious, the right technology makes all the difference. Our experts can help you customize, implement and maintain technology that streamlines your accounting, improves communication across departments and delivers actionable financial analytics for better decision-making - all while upholding the highest level of security.

Consulting

Whether you're looking to fund a special project or could use strategic support to strengthen your municipality's fiscal and operational structure, any size government can now benefit from Maner's consulting expertise. Our team of experts helps navigate the complexities of local government and offers guidance to help make positive operational and financial decisions that will help your community be vibrant and more resilient.

Audit & Assurance

When you work for the public, financial transparency and accuracy are essential. We'll complete an independent review of financial statements and provide a detailed report that confirms the reliability of your data - protecting you and the trust of the people you serve.



References

Ogemaw County – Internal Control Review

Emmett Township – Internal Control Review

Bath Charter Township – Internal Control Review

*Contact information provided upon request

License to Practice in Michigan

Maner Costerisan is properly licensed in the State of Michigan.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

Q654048

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
CPA FIRM LICENSE

MANER-COSTERISAN & ELLIS PC
2425 E GRAND RIVER AVENUE SUITE 1
LANSING, MI 48912-3291

LICENSE NO.
1102000737

EXPIRATION DATE
07/31/2025

23167040601

THIS DOCUMENT IS DULY ISSUED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Peer Review Report

RPB CPAs
A century of new ideas

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

July 31, 2023

To the Principals of Maner Costerisan PC
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Maner Costerisan PC (the firm) in effect for the year ended March 31, 2023. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a system review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported on in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing and complying with a system of quality control to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported on in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of and compliance with the firm's system of quality control based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; and audits of employee benefit plans.

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Maner Costerisan PC in effect for the year ended March 31, 2023, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. Maner Costerisan PC has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP

Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP

Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP
1233 N. Mayfair Road Suite #302 • Milwaukee, WI 53226-3255 • 414-271-7800
www.rpb.biz

Certificate of Liability Insurance

ACORD

CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY): 1/30/2023

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Professional Concepts Insurance Agency, Inc. 1127 South Old US Highway 23 Brighton MI 48114-9861	CONTACT NAME: Certs@PCIAonline.com PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): (800) 969-4041 FAX (A/C, No): (800) 969-4081 E-MAIL ADDRESS: Certs@PCIAonline.com
INSURED Maner, Costerisan & Ellis PC, DBA: Maner Costerisan 2425 E. Grand River Avenue Suite 1 Lansing MI 48912-3291	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE — NAIC # INSURER A: CAMICO Mutual Insurance Co. — 36340 INSURER B: INSURER C: INSURER D: INSURER E: INSURER F:

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** 23-24 PL **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS	
	COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY CLAIMS-MADE OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: POLICY PRO-JECT LOC OTHER:						EACH OCCURRENCE DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) MED EXP (Any one person) PERSONAL & ADV INJURY GENERAL AGGREGATE PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG	$ $ $ $ $ $
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY ANY AUTO ALL OWNED AUTOS SCHEDULED AUTOS HIRED AUTOS NON-OWNED AUTOS						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) BODILY INJURY (Per person) BODILY INJURY (Per accident) PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident)	$ $ $ $
	UMBRELLA LIAB OCCUR EXCESS LIAB CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION $						EACH OCCURRENCE AGGREGATE	$ $
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) Y/N N/A If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below						PER STATUTE OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	$ $ $
A	Professional Liability			MIB202480-02	1/1/2023	1/1/2024	Per Claim Ann Aggregate	$ 5,000,000 $ 5,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

For Informational Purposes Only

CANCELLATION

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Mike Cosgrove/SUNNY

© 1988-2014 ACORD CORPORATION. All rights reserved.

ACORD 25 (2014/01)
INS025 (201401)

The ACORD name and logo are registered marks of ACORD

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PURCHASING PROCEDURES POLICY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-369
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHERAS Michigan statute reserves authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county to the Board of Commissioners (MCL 46.11(m)); and

WHEREAS the Board reviewed a draft Purchasing Policy that establishes procurement rules, bidding policies, and other procedures that apply to the purchase of all types of goods, materials, supplies, works and services required by the County; and

WHEREAS the draft Purchasing Policy addresses circumstances in which competitive and/or public bidding is required; and

WHEREAS the draft Purchasing Policy provides a balance between central management of purchasing and flexibility for the operating departments.

WHEREAS the Board wishes to adopt standard rules for procurement for all purchases made on behalf of the County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners approves the attached Purchasing Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that previously adopted policies and past practices that conflict with this policy are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall have immediate effect.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS POLICY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-370
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHERAS Michigan statute reserves authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county to the Board of Commissioners (MCL 46.11(m)); and

WHEREAS the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners identified the need to establish a policy for settlement of claims, litigation and separation agreements; and

WHEREAS the need for a policy outlining the authority for settlement and responsibility for reporting, was discussed in conjunction with pending settlement offers; and

WHEREAS the policy would establish respective authority of the Board of Commissioners and the County Administrator; and

WHEREAS the policy would establish the requirements for approval and reporting of settlements and separation agreements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached policy for Settlement of Claims, Litigation and Separation Agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that previously adopted policies and past practices that conflict with this policy are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall have immediate effect.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY POLICY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-371
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHERAS Michigan statute reserves authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county to the Board of Commissioners (MCL 46.11(m)); and

WHERAS the Michigan Social Security Number Privacy Act requires adoption of a privacy policy to assure confidentiality (MCL 445.81, *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners desires to fully protect the confidentiality of Social Security Numbers to the most practicable extent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached contract procedures policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy supersedes all previous policies and/or past practices to assure protection of Social Security Numbers which are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall have immediate effect.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____

Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 GRATIOT COUNTY BUDGET

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-372
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHEREAS on March 5, 2013, the Board of Commissioners and Sheriff entered into an Agreement with the City of Ithaca to provide dedicated law enforcement services to the City; and

WHEREAS on September 16, 2025, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 25-342 to approve general appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 which included an allocation of $545,500.00 for Ithaca Sheriff Road Patrol as general fund activity number 303; and

WHEREAS, at the discretion of the Sheriff, the dedicated law enforcement services agreement was allowed to expire on December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act requires that local units of government maintain a balanced budget and periodically adjust the budget to reflect revised revenue and expenditure levels (MCL 141.437); and

WHEREAS expiration of the Agreement has made it is necessary to adjust the budget to accurately reflect updated revenue and expenditure projections; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners wishes to adjust the Ithaca Sheriff Road Patrol budget to reflect the expiration of the Agreement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the Ithaca Sheriff Road Patrol budget, general fund activity 303, to reflect expiration of the dedicated law enforcement services Agreement, as indicated in the attached Appendix A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approved Position Allocation List is amended by removing four full-time equivalent Road Patrol Officer positions formerly assigned to the City of Ithaca in general fund activity number 303, as indicated in the attached Appendix C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approved Position Allocation List is amended to reassign one 0.5 full-time equivalent Lieutenant position from general fund activity number 303 to the County Sheriff budget, general fund activity number 301, as indicated in the attached Appendix C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Sheriff budget, general fund activity 301, is hereby amended to include an additional 0.5 full-time equivalent Lieutenant position as indicated in the attached Appendix B.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is directed to make all necessary budget amendments consistent with this resolution.

Appendix A

Adjustments to FY 2026 General Fund
Activity 303: Ithaca Sheriff Road Patrol

GL Number	Description	Approved Budget	Proposed Adjustment	Amended Budget
Revenues				
101-303-676.000	Reimbursement From City of Ithaca	545,500.00	-423,399.55	122,100.45
Expenditures				
101-303-703.000	Salaries and Wages	339,130.00	-250,756.82	88,373.18
101-303-704.000	Overtime Wages	10,000.00	-4,145.60	5,854.40
101-303-705.000	Temporary Employee Wages	10,000.00	-6,954.88	3,045.12
101-303-706.000	Holiday Pay	24,000.00	-23,654.64	345.36
101-303-712.000	Long-Term Disability	1,520.00	-1,235.91	284.09
101-303-715.000	Social Security	21,700.00	-15,894.56	5,805.44
101-303-715.010	Medicare	4,920.00	-3,562.26	1,357.74
101-303-716.000	Hospitalization	67,880.00	-49,909.30	17,970.70
101-303-716.001	MERS HCSP Contribution	1,350.00	-1,165.36	184.64
101-303-717.000	Life Insurance	1,120.00	-776.04	343.96
101-303-718.001	Retirement - Defined Contribution	14,400.00	-8,914.98	5,485.02
101-303-719.000	Worker's Compensation	8,340.00	-6,262.58	2,077.42
101-303-721.000	Dental/Optical	4,080.00	-2,847.18	1,232.82
101-303-731.000	Firearms & Accessories	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
101-303-746.001	Uniform Cleaning	500.00	-500.00	0.00
101-303-746.002	Uniforms	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
101-303-750.000	Gas and Oil	12,000.00	-12,000.00	0.00
101-303-831.000	Indirect Costs	12,060.00	-9,045.00	3,015.00
101-303-935.000	Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.00
101-303-935.010	Radio Repair	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
101-303-957.000	Training	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00
Total Expenditures		**545,500.00**	**-410,125.11**	**135,374.89**

Appendix B

Adjustments to FY 2026 General Fund
Activity 301: County Sheriff

GL Number	Description	Approved Budget	Proposed Adjustment	Amended Budget
Expenditures				
101-301-702.000	Department Heads Salary	107,520.00		107,520.00
101-301-702.001	Undersheriff Salary	96,010.00		96,010.00
101-301-703.000	Salaries & Wages	1,088,200.00	65,000.00	1,153,200.00
101-301-704.000	Overtime Wages	35,000.00		35,000.00
101-301-705.000	Temporary Employee Wages	2,000.00		2,000.00
101-301-705.003	Bailiffs Salary	178,200.00		178,200.00
101-301-705.020	Court Security Personnel	117,950.00		117,950.00
101-301-706.000	Holiday Pay	81,830.00		81,830.00
101-301-707.000	Sick/Misc Pay	13,100.00		13,100.00
101-301-712.000	Long-Term Disability	7,720.00		7,720.00
101-301-715.000	Social Security	103,510.00	2,300.00	105,810.00
101-301-715.010	Medicare	23,450.00	550.00	24,000.00
101-301-716.000	Hospitalization	315,710.00	18,000.00	333,710.00
101-301-716.001	MERS HCSP Contribution	16,000.00	275.00	16,275.00
101-301-717.000	Life Insurance	5,380.00	150.00	5,530.00
101-301-718.000	Retirement - Defined Benefit Current	22,920.00		22,920.00
101-301-718.001	Retirement - Defined Contribution	71,330.00	3,300.00	74,630.00
101-301-719.000	Worker's Compensation	33,130.00	850.00	33,980.00
101-301-721.000	Dental/Optical	21,800.00	1,400.00	23,200.00
101-301-727.010	Office Supplies	13,000.00		13,000.00
101-301-727.025	Office Machine Lease and Maintenance	13,000.00		13,000.00
101-301-727.031	Supplies - K-9	5,000.00		5,000.00
101-301-727.060	Tasers	10,000.00		10,000.00
101-301-731.000	Firearms and Accessories	5,000.00		5,000.00
101-301-746.001	Uniform Cleaning	3,500.00		3,500.00
101-301-746.002	Uniforms	22,000.00		22,000.00
101-301-750.000	Gas & Oil	70,000.00		70,000.00
101-301-813.003	Health Service - Employees	2,000.00		2,000.00
101-301-815.000	Memberships and Subscriptions	2,000.00		2,000.00
101-301-816.000	Mei Fees	12,000.00		12,000.00
101-301-818.000	Contractual Services	4,000.00		4,000.00
101-301-818.090	Computer Connectivity	4,000.00		4,000.00
101-301-850.000	Telephone	2,500.00		2,500.00
101-301-860.000	Travel	1,500.00		1,500.00
101-301-935.000	Vehicle Repair and Maintenance	45,000.00		45,000.00
101-301-935.010	Radio Repair	2,500.00		2,500.00
101-301-940.010	LEIN Machine Rental	5,000.00		5,000.00
101-301-955.000	Community Foundation Grant Exp	6,000.00		6,000.00
101-301-957.000	Training	70,000.00		70,000.00
101-301-957.002	Continuing Professional Education	5,000.00		5,000.00
101-301-957.302	Training - PA 302	9,000.00		9,000.00
Total Expenditures		**2,652,760.00**	**91,825.00**	**2,744,585.00**

Appendix C

Adjustments to FY 2026 General Fund
Staffing Position Allocation List

303 - Ithaca Sheriff Road Patrol

Position	Approved FTE	Proposed Adjustment	Amended FTE*
Road Lieutenant	0.5	-0.5	0.0
Road Patrol Officer	4.0	-4.0	0.0
Total FTEs	**4.5**	**-4.5**	**0.0**

300 – County Sheriff

Position	Approved FTE	Proposed Adjustment	Amended FTE*
Sheriff	1.0		1.0
Undersheriff	1.0		1.0
Road Lieutenant	0.5	0.5	1.0
Detective	2.0		2.0
Road Patrol Officer	14.0		14.0
Administrative Assistant	1.0		1.0
Security Bailiff	4.5		4.5
Crossing Guard	0.5	___	0.5
Total FTEs	**24.5**	**0.5**	**25.0**

* Amended FTE effective January 1, 2026

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

MEMORANDUM

RYAN C. C. VILLET
Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

JASON EVANS
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

214 East Center Street
Ithaca, Michigan 48847

Phone: (989) 875.5236
Fax: (989) 875.5298

LAURA M. BEVER
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

To: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

From: Laura M. Bever
Prosecuting Attorney

Subject: Request for Authorization

Date: February 12, 2026

1. Authorization to Hire Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (APA) up to Step 5

I am requesting Board authorization to offer a potential APA candidate a starting salary up to **Step 5** on our current scale.

The candidate in question is well-known to our office, court staff, and the judiciary. He brings an exceptional level of expertise, including:

- **20 years** of experience as a defense attorney.
- **4 years** of experience as a prosecuting attorney.

This hire will bring our office back to full staffing (4 attorneys). Over the last 36 months, we have operated with only 3 attorneys for 25 of those months. Filling this vacancy with an experienced practitioner is essential to maintaining our recent workflow and technology updates. This salary request is commensurate with the candidate's extensive legal background.

2. Authorization for Staff Reclassification

As part of our ongoing office transformation, we successfully reduced our support staff from 5 FTEs to 4. This transition was discussed with the Board in December 2024. Having fully implemented our new technology and redesigned workflows, the final stage of this reorganization is to align staff roles with these new responsibilities.

In coordination with Administration and Human Resources, I am requesting the **reclassification of three (3) positions**. These changes reflect the increased technical proficiency and specialized responsibilities required in our modernized environment. Detailed materials regarding these specific changes have been provided to you by Human Resources.

Closing

I will be present at the upcoming Board Meeting to answer any questions. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me via the office, email, or my cell phone.

Thank you for your continued support as we finalize this reorganization.

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECLASSIFICATION OF POSITIONS WITHIN THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-373
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHEREAS during the past few years the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has experienced a continuing increase in the demand for services and technical advancements; and

WHEREAS a reclassification review was conducted at the request of the Prosecuting Attorney to consider minimum knowledge, skill, and education requirements of the Senior Legal Secretary, Family Support Coordinator, Legal Secretary/Digital Evidence Clerk, and Transition Clerk positions; and

WHERAS Michigan statute reserves authority to establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county to the Board of Commissioners (MCL 46.11(m)); and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Board to appoint representatives, agents, and employees of the County as it deems necessary to carry out any of the powers and duties under the laws of the State (MCL 46.13a); and

WHEREAS the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act requires that local units of government maintain a balanced budget and periodically adjust the budget to reflect revised revenue and expenditure levels (MCL 141.437).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following position reclassifications and associated job descriptions attached to this resolution:

Current Prosecuting Attorney FTE

Position	Pay Grade
Prosecuting Attorney	N/A
Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	N/A
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (3)	N/A
Crime Victim/Witness Coordinator	5
Senior Legal Secretary	5
Family Support Coordinator	4
Legal Secretary/Digital Evidence Clerk	4
Transition Assistant	4

Proposed Prosecuting Attorney FTE

Position	Pay Grade
Prosecuting Attorney	N/A
Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	N/A
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (3)	N/A
Felony Clerk- Office Manager- LEIN Supervisor	9
Misdemeanor Clerk- Deputy LEIN TAC	8
Crime Victim/Witness Coordinator	5
Juvenile Clerk- Mental Health- Family Support Coord	5

Total annual wage difference: $ 37,024.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these reclassifications shall be effective on October 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that County Administrator is authorized and directed to make all necessary budget adjustments and to amend the Staffing Position Allocation List consistent with this resolution.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____
Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

	Gratiot County	Department: Prosecutor		
	Felony Clerk- Office Manager- LEIN Supervisor			
	Effective Date: 1/6/26 Revised: Approved By:	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Hourly	Grade: 9	Page 1 of 3

Job Title: Felony Clerk- Office Manager- LEIN Supervisor
Reports To: Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Positions Supervised:

Minimum Qualifications – An equivalent combination of education, training and experience will be considered.

Education:	Associate Degree in Office Management, Paralegal Studies or Computer Operations
Experience:	8 years of previous experience
Certifications & Licensing:	LEIN Certified with Security Awareness Training, Certified Operator for Michigan State Police Criminal History Records

Felony Clerk- Office Manager- LEIN Supervisor Job Summary

Ensure the smooth execution of essential functions and operations of the Prosecutor's office. Operate Karpel case management sytem. Serve as trainer for Karpel case management system. Serve as LEIN Terminal Agency Coordinator and trainer. Postion requires superior organizational skills, in-depth knowledge of operations of Prosecutors office and its interactions with the Courts and law enforcment departments and ability to supervisse and train employees.

Major Duties:

- **Office Managment**
  - Maintain and control the Prosecutor's office docket, training schedule and interactions with the defense attorneys, MDIC, Courts, and law enforcement agencies.

- **Training and Development**
  - Perform training with all members of office staff and attorneys regarding operation of Karpel case management system.

- **LEIN**
  - Serve as LEIN Terminal Agency Coordinator.
  - Oversee training of staff related to LEIN operations and procedures.
  - Monitor and ensure the proper use of LEIN in the workplace.
  - Maintain records for compliance with LEIN requirements.

- **Docket and Case Management**
  - Coordinates docket for attorneys in office.
  - Imports and processes all felony cases, including readying cases for review by attorneys, ensuring all necessary documents are received from law enforcement agencies and processing (filing with Court and law enforcement agencies) all reviewed files.
  - Works with Courts, defense attorneys and law enforcement agencies to set dates for trials, motion hearings and other required hearings in a timely manner, as set out in Court Rule or statute.

- **Coverage and Compliance**
  - Assists in other job duties to cover required areas when employees are absent.
  - Assists with assigning attorneys to case, in coordination with the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

DRAFT

- **Confidentiality and Discretion**
  - Exercises significant discretion and adhere to strict disclosure and confidential restrictions.
  - Ensures sensitive case information is always protected.

- **Stakeholder Communications**
  - Addresses questions and concerns from parties, victims, families, witnesses, and the public regarding cases and office operations.
  - Serves as secondary point of contact for Courts and law enforcement agencies.

Contribute to the team effort by performing other related duties as assigned.

Success Framework. The following list of knowledge, skills, and abilities have been identified by our team as building blocks towards efficiency and effectiveness in this role.

- Records Management: Familiarity with records management, including compiling information, maintaining confidentiality, and processing requests.
- Database Systems: Proficiency in using database systems.
- Communication: Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, for coordinating with county personnel and the public.
- Detail-Oriented: Exceptional attention to detail when preparing pleadings, financial invoices, managing records, and ensuring data accuracy.
- Technical Proficiency: Proficiency in operating various office equipment, including computers, fax machines, copy machines, postage machines, calculators, and multi-line phones.
- Independence: Ability to work with considerable independence while ensuring compliance with established procedures and regulations.
- Problem-Solving: Ability to define a problem, determine the cause of the problem, identify and select alternatives for a solution, and implement a solution.
- Customer Service: Dedication to providing excellent customer service to the public, including responding to inquiries through email, telephone, and in-person interactions.
- Coordination: Ability to coordinate tasks effectively.

Guides, Tools, and Equipment commonly associated with the performance of the functions of this job.

Equipment: Karpel Case Management, Microsoft Office, Scanner, Printer, Facsimile, Telephone, Online Databases

Work Environment or atmospheric conditions commonly associated with the performance of the functions of this job.

- Routine exposure to disturbing information and images that have the ability to cause emotional distress and/or trauma.

Physical Abilities. The physical demands described below are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

- Work requires the ability to sit, walk for extended periods of time.
- Work requires the ability to talk, hear, listen, and comprehend.

DRAFT

- Work requires visual acuity of 20 feet or more, visual acuity of 20 inches or less, three dimensional vision, precise hand/eye coordination, the ability to identify and distinguish colors
- Must be able to lift up to 5 pounds.

**Gratiot County offers reasonable accommodation in the hiring and employment process for individuals with disabilities. If you need assistance to accommodate a disability, you may request accommodation at any time.*

SIGNATURE / APPROVAL:
I have read this job description and fully understand the requirements and expectations set forth therein. I hereby accept the Legal Secretary – Digital Evidence and Discovery Technician and agree to perform the identified essential functions and expectations in a safe manner and in accordance with Gratiot County's established Personnel Policies and Procedures.

Employee	***Date***
Department Head/Elected Official	***Date***
Human Resources/Administration	***Date***

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by individuals assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of personnel so classified in this position.

DRAFT

	Gratiot County	Department: Prosecutor		
	Misdemeanor Clerk/ Deputy LEIN TAC			
	Effective Date: 1/6/26 Revised: Approved By:	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Hourly	Grade: 8	Page 1 of 3

Job Title: Misdemeanor Clerk/ Deputy LEIN TAC
Reports To: Felony Clerk/Office Manager/LEIN Supervisor
Positions Supervised:

Minimum Qualifications – An equivalent combination of education, training and experience will be considered.

Education:	High School Diploma or equivalent
Experience:	2 years of previous experience
Certifications & Licensing:	LEIN Cerifification with Security Awareness Training

Misdemeanor Clerk/Deputy LIEN TAC Job Summary

Operate Karpel case management system. Serve as LEIN Deputy Terminal Agency Coordinator. The position requires knowledge of operations of Prosecutor's office and it's interactions with Courts and law enforcement deparrmtnes. Strict compliance with confidentiality requirements of office is expected.

Major Duties:

- **LEIN**
  - Serve as LEIN Deputy Terminal Agency Coordinator.
  - Monitor and ensure the proper use of LEIN in the workplace.
  - Maintain current certification pursuant to Michigan State Police requirements

- **Docket and Case Management**
  - Coordinates docket for attorneys assigned to misdemeanor docket in office.
  - Imports and processes all misdemeanor cases, including readying cases for review by attorneys, ensuring all necessary documents are received from law enforcement agencies and processing (filing with Court and law enforcement agencies) all reviewed files.
  - Works with Courts, defense attorneys and law enforcement agencies to set dates for trials, motion hearings and other required hearings in a timely manner, as set out in Court Rule or statute.

- **Coverage and Compliance**
  - Assists in other job duties to cover required areas when employees are absent.

- **Confidentiality and Discretion**
  - Exercises significant discretion and adhere to strict disclosure and confidential restrictions.
  - Ensures sensitive case information is always protected.

- **Stakeholder Communications**
  - Addresses questions and concerns from parties, victims, families, witnesses, and the public regarding cases and office operations.
  - Serves as secondary point of contact for Courts and law enforcement agencies.

Contribute to the team effort by performing other related duties as assigned.

DRAFT

Success Framework. The following list of knowledge, skills, and abilities have been identified by our team as building blocks towards efficiency and effectiveness in this role.

- Records Management: Familiarity with records management, including compiling information, maintaining confidentiality, and processing requests.
- Database Systems: Proficiency in using database systems.
- Communication: Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, for coordinating with county personnel and the public.
- Detail-Oriented: Exceptional attention to detail when preparing pleadings, financial invoices, managing records, and ensuring data accuracy.
- Technical Proficiency: Proficiency in operating various office equipment, including computers, fax machines, copy machines, postage machines, calculators, and multi-line phones.
- Independence: Ability to work with considerable independence while ensuring compliance with established procedures and regulations.
- Problem-Solving: Ability to define a problem, determine the cause of the problem, identify and select alternatives for a solution, and implement a solution.
- Customer Service: Dedication to providing excellent customer service to the public, including responding to inquiries through email, telephone, and in-person interactions.
- Coordination: Ability to coordinate tasks effectively.

Guides, Tools, and Equipment commonly associated with the performance of the functions of this job.

Equipment: Karpel Case Management, Microsoft Office, Scanner, Printer, Facsimile, Telephone, Online Databases

Work Environment or atmospheric conditions commonly associated with the performance of the functions of this job.

- Routine exposure to disturbing information and images that have the ability to cause emotional distress and/or trauma.

Physical Abilities. The physical demands described below are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

- Work requires the ability to sit, walk for extended periods of time.
- Work requires the ability to talk, hear, listen, and comprehend.
- Work requires visual acuity of 20 feet or more, visual acuity of 20 inches or less, three dimensional vision, precise hand/eye coordination, the ability to identify and distinguish colors
- Must be able to lift up to 5 pounds.

**Gratiot County offers reasonable accommodation in the hiring and employment process for individuals with disabilities. If you need assistance to accommodate a disability, you may request accommodation at any time.*

SIGNATURE / APPROVAL:

I have read this job description and fully understand the requirements and expectations set forth therein. I hereby accept the Legal Secretary – Digital Evidence and Discovery Technician and agree to perform the identified essential functions and expectations in a safe manner and in accordance with Gratiot County's established Personnel Policies and Procedures.

DRAFT

Employee	***Date***
Department Head/Elected Official	***Date***
Human Resources/Administration	***Date***

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by individuals assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of personnel so classified in this position.

DRAFT

	Gratiot County	Department: Prosecutor		
	Juvenile Clerk- Mental Health Clerk- Family Support Coordinator			
	Effective Date: 1/6/26 Revised: Approved By:	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Hourly	Grade: 5	Page 1 of 3

Job Title: Juvenile Clerk- Mental Health Clerk- Family Support Coordinator
Reports To: Felony Clerk/Office Manager/LEIN Supervisor
Positions Supervised:

Minimum Qualifications – An equivalent combination of education, training and experience will be considered.

Education: High School Diploma or equivalent
Experience: 2 years of previous experience
Certifications & Licensing:

Juvenile Clerk- Mental Health Clerk- Family Support Coordinator Job Summary

Operate Karpel case management system. The position requires knowledge of the opperations of Prosecutor's office and it's interactions with the Courts and law enforcement departments. Strict compliance with confidentiality requirements of office is expected.

Major Duties:

- **Support Services**
  - Assists Gratiot County residents in understanding and asserting their rights under the Paternity Act and Michigan Family Support Act, offering guidance and support
  - Ensure that all processing activities adhere to the relevant legal regulations, statutes, and local requirements.

- **Docket and Case Management**
  - Coordinates docket for attorneys assigned to juvenile and mental health dockets in office.
  - Imports and processes all juvenile and mental health cases, including readying cases for review by attorneys, ensuring all necessary documents are received from law enforcement agencies and processing (filing with Court and law enforcement agencies) all reviewed files.
  - Works with Courts, defense attorneys and law enforcement agencies to set dates for trials, motion hearings and other required hearings in a timely manner, as set out in Court Rule or statute.
  - Responsible for all documentation and case management related to child support and paternity cases, including filing, tracking and interviews.
  - Assists Felony Clerk and Misdemeanor Clerk with maintaining and closing files.

- **Mail Clerk**
  - Performs duties of mail clerk and send out mail and process incoming mail.

- **Payroll Administration**
  - Collect payroll information from employees on a weekly basis.
  - Maintain vacation, PTO, and training information as it relates to payroll.

- **Coverage and Compliance**
  - Assists in other job duties to cover required areas when employees are absent.

DRAFT

- **Confidentiality and Discretion**
  - Exercises significant discretion and adhere to strict disclosure and confidential restrictions.
  - Ensures sensitive case information is always protected.

- **Stakeholder Communications**
  - Addresses questions and concerns from parties, victims, families, witnesses, and the public regarding cases and office operations.
  - Serves as secondary point of contact for Courts and law enforcement agencies.

Contribute to the team effort by performing other related duties as assigned.

Success Framework. The following list of knowledge, skills, and abilities have been identified by our team as building blocks towards efficiency and effectiveness in this role.

- Records Management: Familiarity with records management, including compiling information, maintaining confidentiality, and processing requests.
- Database Systems: Proficiency in using database systems.
- Communication: Strong communication skills, both verbal and written, for coordinating with county personnel and the public.
- Detail-Oriented: Exceptional attention to detail when preparing pleadings, financial invoices, managing records, and ensuring data accuracy.
- Technical Proficiency: Proficiency in operating various office equipment, including computers, fax machines, copy machines, postage machines, calculators, and multi-line phones.
- Independence: Ability to work with considerable independence while ensuring compliance with established procedures and regulations.
- Problem-Solving: Ability to define a problem, determine the cause of the problem, identify and select alternatives for a solution, and implement a solution.
- Customer Service: Dedication to providing excellent customer service to the public, including responding to inquiries through email, telephone, and in-person interactions.
- Coordination: Ability to coordinate tasks effectively.

Guides, Tools, and Equipment commonly associated with the performance of the functions of this job.

Equipment: Karpel Case Management, Microsoft Office, Scanner, Printer, Facsimile, Telephone, Online Databases

Work Environment or atmospheric conditions commonly associated with the performance of the functions of this job.

- Routine exposure to disturbing information and images that have the ability to cause emotional distress and/or trauma.

Physical Abilities. The physical demands described below are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

- Work requires the ability to sit, walk for extended periods of time.
- Work requires the ability to talk, hear, listen, and comprehend.

DRAFT

- Work requires visual acuity of 20 feet or more, visual acuity of 20 inches or less, three dimensional vision, precise hand/eye coordination, the ability to identify and distinguish colors
- Must be able to lift up to 5 pounds.

**Gratiot County offers reasonable accommodation in the hiring and employment process for individuals with disabilities. If you need assistance to accommodate a disability, you may request accommodation at any time.*

SIGNATURE / APPROVAL:
I have read this job description and fully understand the requirements and expectations set forth therein. I hereby accept the Legal Secretary – Digital Evidence and Discovery Technician and agree to perform the identified essential functions and expectations in a safe manner and in accordance with Gratiot County's established Personnel Policies and Procedures.

Employee	***Date***
Department Head/Elected Official	***Date***
Human Resources/Administration	***Date***

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by individuals assigned to this job. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of personnel so classified in this position.

DRAFT

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR PINE RIVER RESTORATION SERVICES

RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-374
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

WHEREAS the Pine River and its tributaries are an important environmental and recreational asset to Gration County; and

WHEREAS ongoing restoration efforts help to sustain this important waterway for public enjoyment and future generations; and

WHEREAS the Healthy Pine River organization has a record of success with restoration activities over several years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an agreement with Healthy Pine River for river and tributary restoration services at a total cost not to exceed $2,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign any documents consistent with this resolution, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner_____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS:_____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 17th day of February 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

_____

Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk

Date: **February 9, 2026**

To: **Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, C/O Commissioner George Bailey**

From: **Chuck Sandro, Healthy Pine River**

Re: **Invoice for Gratiot County of $2,500 for contribution/contract between Healthy Pine River & Gratiot County for services rendered**

Healthy Pine River (HPR) is once again seeking annual support from the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners. HPR continues to be the only organization totally dedicated to the restoration of the Pine River and its tributaries. I welcome an opportunity to share with the county commissioners what HPR is doing throughout the year to restore our river and watershed. Please let me know a convenient time to present to the Board of Commissioners.

This past year HPR services include: summer water testing of the Pine River throughout the county and watershed; septic assistance to our rural communities and residents who live on/near the Pine River; sediment testing and characterization; community reporting, collaboration, and conversations; outreach to our townships and organizations; and hosting monthly meetings to inform citizens.

This funding request is important in helping HPR continue its mission of working to restore the Pine River and its tributaries to a healthy state by providing part-time employment to interns and liaisons for water testing, septic assistance, grant writing, farming engagement, and research.

HPR has worked closely with the rural communities of Riverdale, Sumner, and Elm Hall in providing septic assistance to over 300 households and is collaborating with the cities of St. Louis and Alma on specific projects to assist with challenges both communities face regarding their water bodies.

_____ _____ _____ _____

Gratiot County Representative date Healthy Pine River, Chair date

HPR's 2025 Annual Report to Members & Friends

HPR writes an annual report each year to provide an account of what has transpired over the course of the year in working to improve the Pine River. We hope you find the 2025 Annual Report informative.

Thank You! - to our HPR members and "Friends of the Pine River" for making 2025 a year filled with excellent initiatives in trying to restore the Pine River to a healthier state. Our priorities and projects were supported by your giving to HPR through your dues and donations that allowed us to truly fund projects that are helping our river, our residents and communities along our river.

2025 EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant Award – HPR co-authored a two year nearly $300,000 grant with the City of Alma and GEI Engineering to conduct a "Feasibility Study" on what can be done with the ongoing degradation of the Mill Pond (backwater behind the State Street Dam). The backwater for the past two decades has experienced many issues including: shallowing from sediment flowing downstream from the Pine River; has become home to heavy vegetation growth and algal blooms during many months of the year; and through annual water testing has been found to be highly contaminated with excessive nutrients (nitrogen/phosphorous) and E.coli (bacteria from animal/human feces).

The impact of this ongoing degradation is significant as it has greatly reduced water recreation due to human health issues; negatively impacted park usage due to unsightliness; rendered city property on/near the river as unsellable; and has negatively impacted home/property values of those residents living near the river.

The "Feasibility Study" is to seek out what options exist to restore the Mill Pond, or seek other alternatives that might be favorable for recreation and park usage, protecting property values, and encouraging development along the river. A significant component of the grant will be informing and engaging the community through several conversations as to the grant findings and discussing what options are most favorable for the city and its residents.



Satellite Image of the Alma Mill Pond.

Wolverine Pipeline Oil Spill – HPR hosted two membership meetings in January and March of 2025 regarding the Wolverine Pipeline Oil Spill that occurred in Arcada Township. The pipeline puncture and leak occurred in a pipe buried below the surface of a county drainage ditch. It is believed that the damage to the pipe was from an excavator working in that area. Representatives of EGLE, Wolverine Pipeline, and the Gratiot drain commissioner attended the HPR meetings and provided explanations as to what may have happened regarding the pipeline leak, the quantity of oil released, and efforts to recapture the oil from spill. EGLE has signed off on the project asserting that the pipe replacement and cleanup were done properly and effectively.

2025 Summer Water Testing Program – HPR contributed $8,900 towards Alma College's efforts to conduct ongoing water testing throughout the watershed this past summer. Results of the water testing continue to show that the Pine River is still heavily contaminated however there was some improvement in specific areas particularly in the Lumberjack Park/Riverdale area.

Specific testing sites were selected to help determine the ever-increasing contamination in the St. Louis impoundment area specifically dealing with increased water vegetation and algal blooms. The college, HPR, and the Gratiot drain commissioner believe they may have located the reason for the increased contamination particularly occurring in Sugar Creek. It is hoped further investigation will continue to identify the location and reduce the contaminants.

Water testing information can be found here: https://www.healthypineriver.org/information-and-education/.

Septic Outreach – HPR has continued its septic outreach efforts to our rural communities and residents residing on/near the Pine River and its tributaries.

Residents of Riverdale, Elm Hall, Elwell, and Sumner have been assisted by our HPR septic liaison, Mikie VanHorn and her efforts at providing information regarding appropriate septic practices to nearly 400 residential homes in Gratiot County. Mikie has been working closely with the Mid Michigan District Health Department and the Gratiot Drain Commissioner, Bernie Barnes.

Education Outreach – This past year HPR sponsored a youth science team to compete in the "Pitch-er This!" competition sponsored by United Way of Greater Central Michigan. Our "Pine River Protectors" team led by retired middle school teacher Sara Miller, and comprised of Reagan Falor, Allison Sandro, Ainsley Falor, and Ella Johnson gave their "pitch" to judges regarding the importance of restoring the Pine River to a healthier state. Our girls team placed second in the competition and were awarded the full scholarship of $5,000 for their efforts.



With the scholarship HPR will continue to develop education curriculum for Alma HS/MS students along with 4th/5th grade students visiting Forest Hills Nature Area.

https://unitedwaygcm.org/success-stories/pitch-er-this-celebrates-10-years

Farming Community Engagement – HPR is once again engaging our farming community and county farm agencies in trying to better understand how best to reduce livestock contamination in our river and tributaries. HPR is working to support farmer efforts to have a sustainable and productive business as agriculture makes up a significant portion of our Gratiot economy. HPR has adopted a "WE" attitude that all parties should be interested and engaged in trying to restore the Pine River to a healthy state that positively impacts our future generations. Farmers have been long-standing "stewards" of our lands and we hope to honor and acknowledge that as we work together to improve our environment.

LEAPS & HPR Collaboration – HPR continues to sponsor the Alma College "Leaders for Environmental Protection and Sustainability" chapter and this past year collaborated on projects that involved Earth Day, spring cleanup at Forest Hills Nature Area, and assisting the Community Garden in preparing for a new growing season. Working jointly with these environmental studies students has enriched HPR's efforts at reaching out to our younger generations and learning what role they hope to play in improving our environment. *(source: www.instagram.com/almacollegeleaps/)*



LEAPS volunteering at the Gratiot Community Garden

Vista Volunteers – HPR wants to give a special thank you to our two Ameri-Corp Vista Volunteers Maria Kolb and Zoe Palmer who were very active in HPR projects regarding; Pitch-er This!, Earth Day, grant assistance, fund raising, and HPR monthly meetings. Zoe has moved on to be a MSU Resident Hall Director, while Maria has entered graduate school oversees in the Czech Republic.

HPR's Advocacy – HPR has continued to stay active and supportive of water and environmental issues by maintaining annual memberships in the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce; Michigan Environmental Council (state level), and River Network (national level).

Communication Efforts – HPR is once again working to find effective ways of communicating with our members and public. We are working to upgrade our website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube social media accounts, and will continue to provide our quarterly newsletter for fall, winter, spring, and summer. Please let us know if there are areas we can improve communicate with you at healthypineriver@gmail.com.

HPR Board & Leadership – HPR has added four new members to our HPR board of directors including: Sara Miller (retired educator), Joshua Leppien (St. Louis Assistant City Manager, Dave Ringle, Alma Director of Public Services, and Dr. Ben Peterson, Advancement at Alma College.

Brittany Sommerville with a new career position has moved from HPR part-time director to HPR treasurer, and Dr. Peterson will co-chair HPR with Chuck Sandro. HPR is actively seeking out a part-time director in leading HPR.

HPR Monthly Membership Meetings – Each meeting HPR hosts is about learning and how to work towards a healthy Pine River, Upper Pine River Watershed, and our local environment. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have a program topic or speaker that we would benefit from. We hope you will join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Alma Public Library.

2024-25 HPR Priorities

With Action Efforts

Basis for 2025-26 Discussion

Annual Water Testing – to continue to understand the contamination/pollution levels in the Pine River and Upper Pine River Watershed.

- HPR has funded the 2025 Summer Water Testing by Alma College including; Supplies, Interns, etc.
- This past year Alma College created a 20 year summary of summer water testing that can be found on the HPR website.

Outreach – to continue to inform and educate our communities, townships, county leaders, residents, recreationalists, and students regarding the issues facing the Pine River, our watershed, and the impact on our communities and citizens.

- Municipalities Outreach – met w/cities of Alma, St. Louis & County Commissioners to provide annual updates on the state of the Pine River and Upper Pine River Watershed
- Provided Septic Smart program to township representatives and residents
- Working with Alma Public Schools Curriculum Council – working towards HS/MS presentations to begin the fall of 2025.
- Working with RESD and Forest Hills Nature Center to develop curriculum for the Pine River and Upper Pine River Watershed for 4th and 5th graders taking field trips to FHNA.
- Engaging businesses, organizations, and individuals through a Before Hours Breakfast Event as a part of our "Friends of the Pine River" fund raising campaign regarding the state of the Pine River and Upper Pine River Watershed
- Host a monthly meeting for our HPR members, LEAPS students, and our public always providing relevant program that is related to the Pine River and the Upper Pine River Watershed.

Septic Engagement – continue our liaison work with our rural communities and residents on/near the Pine River in understanding proper septic practices and available services.

- The HPR Septic Liaison has met with over 300 households in the rural communities of Sumner, Riverdale, Elm Hall, and Elwell to date.
- This past spring our septic liaison began working with Elwell, along with residents on/near county drains and tributaries.
- Hosted for township officials and residents a Septic Smart program in collaboration with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department.

Farming Engagement – continue our efforts to engage our farming community and farm agencies in understanding and assisting with Pine River and watershed issues.

- Currently working to re-establish our Farm Engagement Committee (FEC) with farmers and farm agencies (FB & Michigan Ag. Council)

- Meeting with Farm Agencies for involvement include; Michigan State University Extension office, Gratiot County Conservation District, Natural Resources Services Commission, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Funding for the Dam/River channel Feasibility Study – locating funding to move forward with a dam/river channel feasibility study to assist the City of Alma and Alma residents in understanding options available for the restoration of the river channel/impoundment.

- Have been awarded the 2025 EGLE Dam Risk Reduction grant for conducting a "feasibility study" as to the viable options the City of Alma has regarding the restoration of the Mill Pond and river channel, or the removal of the State Street Dam due to ongoing degradation.
- HPR will be working with the City of Alma, GEI Consulting and numerous other stakeholder groups in overseeing this project/grant.

Sustainability – finding funding support for HPR that provides the opportunities to continued work on projects and priorities.

- Developed new 2025 Membership Drive and Friends of the Pine River fund raising campaign for improved funding. Collectively the two campaigns brought in over $25,000.
- Continue to seek and write grants pertaining to our river and watershed at the regional, state, and federal level.
- Earned a 2024 Gratiot County Community Foundation that helped fund our sustainability efforts.
- Earned a 2025 EGLE Dam Risk Recovery grant for $296,000 to conduct a Dam/Impoundment Feasibility Study over a two-year period. The grant begins the Fall of 2025.

Continuing Alma College LEAPS Collaboration – continue to grow our working relationship the Alma College Leaders for Environmental Awareness, Protection, and Sustainability.

- Earth Day Collaboration just took place on April 7th where HPR provided metal collection support with our recycling partner Padnos. HPR provided a cookout for the roughly 50 Alma College volunteers involved in our metal recycling, community garden, and Forest Hills Nature Area clean-up. Money earned from the recycling project will go towards LEAP scholarships for deserving students.
- HPR participated and presented at two LEAPS grant writing workshops to benefit Alma College students interested in future grant writing.
- HPR has placed a LEAPS representative on our HPR board.
- HPR leadership meets regularly with LEAPS & Vista Volunteers to discuss and plan projects.
- HPR has funded LEAPS student research projects that involve topics related to our river and watershed.

Advocacy – working to support initiatives and direction that is healthy for our environment and waterways.

- HPR is an annual member of the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce and works closely with Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.
- HPR belongs to the Michigan Environmental Council and nationally to the River Network and supports their lobbying efforts regarding water related issues.
- Attended the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce legislative breakfast in August of 2025 and spoke to Michigan representative Jerry Nyer.