

AGENDA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

111 S. Michigan Ave., Rm. 200, Saginaw, MI 48602

Members: Jack Tany – Chairman, Gerald Little, Tracey Slodowski, Christopher Boyd, Michael Webster
Others: County Clerk, Administrator, Civil Counsel, Finance Director, Personnel Director, Board Staff

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (***December 4, 2024 Minutes – Attached***)
- IV. Public Comment
 - *Speakers limited to 3 minutes*
- V. Agenda
 1. To consider a proposed resolution in support of filling the vacant 35th District Senate Seat following the departure of Kristen McDonald Rivet who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (*Attached*)
 2. Any other matters to come before the committee
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DRAFT

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.
111 S. Michigan Ave., Rm. 200, Saginaw, MI 48602

Present: Christopher Boyd – Chairman, Gerald Little, Jack Tany, Michael Webster, Denny Harris
Others: Mary Catherine Hannah, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Rich Spitzer, Lisa Coney, Kelly Suppes, Jaime Ceja, Darcie Totten, Brian Wendling, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Jonathan Webb, Katharine Tessin, Kevin Murphy, William Stanuszek, Isaac Blackmon, Connie Reppuhn, Kitty Packard, Anna McGrath, Nicole Lee, Alethea Taylor, Amaya Bradley, Shalana Bradley, Gregory Willis, Whitney Brodus, Judi Lincoln, Angela Miller, Angela Bradley, Candis Thomas, Ceylon Williams Bettis, Marlana Cork, Terry Pruitt, Brandell Adams, Ralph Martin, Chris Pryor, Nahcia Powell, Marcia Thomas, Alexis Thomas, Joyce Harvin, Suzy Koepplinger, Renee Sharkey, Catherine Hicks and ABC12 News, and others

- I. Call to Order ---**Chairman Boyd at 4:34 p.m.**
- II. Welcome
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (**October 28, 2024 Minutes**)
---**Moved by Tany, seconded by Harris, to approve. Motion carried.**
---**Moved by Webster, seconded by Tany, to suspend board rules and allow Commissioner Krafft to sit at the board table as an Ex officio member of the Executive Committee. Motion carried.**
 - Public Comment (*Speakers limited to 3 minutes*)
 - Shalana Bradley, mother of Amaya Bradley, gave honor to her daughter as she is the first Black American and youngest person to hold the position of Saginaw Township Trustee. She voiced her displeasure with Commissioner Spitzer’s “slanderous” comment and the way it has destroyed Amaya’s good name. Shalana spoke of how proud she and many people are of Amaya and how Commissioner Spitzer’s Facebook post affected them at a time that should have been celebratory. Shalana shared that Amaya graduated with honors from Great Lakes Bay College and that Amaya cared for her during her struggle with breast cancer. Ms. Bradley asked if Richard Spitzer, Saginaw County Commissioner, represents Saginaw County and if he is the “face of your brand?”
 - Ralph Martin, father of a daughter, requested that the commissioners not accept Commissioner Spitzer’s behavior as normal and stated that downgrading newly elected officials should not be allowed. Mr. Martin said that he doesn’t want future potential candidates to be discouraged. He stated that both women (Amaya Bradley, Saginaw Township Trustee and Amaya Bradley, whose pictures were inappropriately referenced in Commissioner Spitzer’s Facebook post) are victims as they were wronged by an individual in power.
 - Chris Prior, Victorious Believer’s Minister, spoke of the joy of Amaya Bradley, her mom Shalana, and her three brothers (2 in college) and spoke highly of the family. He expressed the significance of the power of voting and the influence that leaders’ words and actions have and acknowledging the weight of the influence Amaya has on young people, they are encouraged by her. He said that he prayed for Commissioner Spitzer’s conscience and wanted him to understand the damage he’s done. He thanked the commissioners for what they do for the county.

IV. Agenda

1. To consider available options to the Board of Commissioners regarding a social media post made by Commissioner Spitzer directed at another elected official

---Discussion was held. Chairman Boyd stated that all commissioners had been contacted about Commissioner Spitzer's Facebook post. He announced this committee will discuss their ability to remove/recall Commissioner Spitzer, educate the public about what options are available and discuss all known options. He asked Civil Counsel, Dave Gilbert, to speak about any laws that would apply to this incident and County Administrator, Hannah, to discuss options pertaining to ethical considerations. Attorney Gilbert stated that according to MCL 46.11 neither the chairman nor the board are authorized to remove Commissioner Spitzer from office. There are no clearly applicable laws pertaining to this situation. He cannot be removed except by order of the Governor and due to commissioners' terms being increased to 4 years, a recall cannot happen until January 26, 2025. Commissioner Little asked if Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) could be a resource. Administrator Hannah said that they have no additional authority, but they could advise. Administrator Hannah discussed Unacceptable Practices Policy 6.1.10 in that it only applies to employees and not elected officials. Commissioner Webster discussed the Mission and Value Statements and that commissioners, as leaders, should be held to higher standards than employees. Administrator Hannah advised that some counties have Code of Conduct contracts that elected officials have signed. Chairman Boyd read Grand Traverse County's Rules of Ethics and Professional Conduct. It was determined that Commissioner Spitzer's offense does not qualify as cyberbullying. According to MCL Section 750.411x the message or statement must be intended to place a person in fear of bodily harm or death and express an intent to commit violence against the person and be posted with the intent to communicate a threat or with knowledge that it will be viewed as a threat. Cyberbullying does not apply in this instance. Commissioner Harris inquired about what other counties have done. Administrator Hannah advised a censure by resolution as well as removal from committees has been done in the past. Robert's Rules of Order addresses a motion of censure as acceptable parliamentary procedure. The Rules Committee may discuss and review the option of adding elected officials to County Policies. Vice-Chair Tany advised that two boards have asked for Commissioner Spitzer's removal. The commissioners spoke about the last 14 days being chaos and never receiving an apology from Commissioner Spitzer for the disruption to their lives that this incident has caused. Commissioner Webster mentioned the effort commissioners have put into improving Saginaw County's reputation and the "stain" this incident has put on the county. Commissioner Krafft does not want to be viewed in the same regard as Commissioner Spitzer an aging, white, Republican male. He urged commissioners to take steps toward Commissioner Spitzer's resignation. Commissioner Little spoke of the relationship he and Commissioner Spitzer built and the difference between who he initially presented himself to be compared to how his actions have shown him to actually be.

---Motion by Little to approve the proposed Resolution of Censure with language to be adopted at the full Board, seconded by Tany. Motion carried.

---Motion by Webster to remove committee assignments from Richard Spitzer effective 12/10/24 if approved by the Board, seconded by Little. Motion carried.

2. Any other matters to come before the committee - None

V. Miscellaneous - None

VI. Adjournment

---Moved by Harris, seconded by Tany, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Boyd, Committee Chair

Suzy Koeplinger, Committee Clerk

**SAGINAW COUNTY
RESOLUTION 2025 - 1**



**Resolution In Support of
Filling Vacant 35th District Senate Seat**

Christopher S. Boyd, Jack B. Tany, Lisa R. Coney, Denny M. Harris, John L. Kaczynski,
Gerald D. Little, Sheldon Matthews, Mark S. Piotrowski, Tracey L. Slodowski,
Richard A. Spitzer, Michael A. Webster

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Saginaw, State of Michigan, held at Saginaw, Michigan, on the 18th day of February 2025.

PRESENT: Christopher S. Boyd, Jack B. Tany, Lisa R. Coney, Denny M. Harris,
John L. Kaczynski, Gerald D. Little, Sheldon Matthews, Mark S. Piotrowski,
Tracey L. Slodowski, Richard A. Spitzer and Michael A. Webster

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner ____ and seconded by Commissioner ____:

WHEREAS, The Saginaw Bay Region, home to more than 375,000 residents, serves as a key center for economic growth and agricultural innovation in Michigan. Bay County, with a population exceeding 100,000, hosts a diverse business landscape that contributes to the region's economic vitality. Similarly, Midland County, home to approximately 83,500 residents, is a hub for engineers, researchers, and innovators, boasting industry-leading Fortune 100 companies. Saginaw County, with nearly 190,000 residents, has attracted over \$8.5 billion in investments under the leadership of Saginaw Future Inc., driving the expansion of nearly 900 businesses; and

WHEREAS, Beyond its economic strength, the Saginaw Bay Region is a major agricultural powerhouse, playing a vital role in sustaining Michigan's food supply. Its fertile soil and proximity to Saginaw Bay create optimal farming conditions, making it a leading producer of sugar beets, dry beans, corn, soybeans, and wheat. The region also supports major agribusinesses, reinforcing the need for strong legislative representation to address the challenges facing its farming communities; and

WHEREAS, Without an elected State Senator, our communities lack a dedicated advocate to advance critical local priorities, including modernizing aging infrastructure and housing, attracting new businesses, supporting workforce retention, and expanding access to reliable childcare for hardworking families. Their leadership is essential in navigating complex policy issues and ensuring the region's interests are effectively represented at the state level; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Midland Business Alliance, and Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce have strongly endorsed a special election, emphasizing the need for timely and effective representation. We join them in urgently taking swift action to ensure the residents and businesses of the 35th District are not left without a voice in Lansing; and

WHEREAS, We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and your continued commitment to the people of Michigan. Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to your prompt consideration of this request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED On behalf of the Boards of Commissioners for Bay, Midland, and Saginaw Counties, we respectfully urge you to call a special election to fill the vacant 35th District State Senate seat following the departure of Bay County’s own Kristen McDonald Rivet, who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

After discussion, the vote was:

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF SAGINAW)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Saginaw, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of proceedings taken at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of said County, held on the 18th day of February, 2025, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Public Act 270 of 2010, Public Acts of Michigan, as amended.

Vanessa Guerra, Saginaw County Clerk