



**SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
November 19, 2024 SESSION**


The November Session of the Board of Commissioners of Saginaw County, Michigan convened at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at the Saginaw County Courthouse, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602 with the Honorable Christopher S. Boyd in the Chair.

**PRESENT:** Christopher S. Boyd, Jack B. Tany, Denny M. Harris, Dennis H. Krafft, Gerald D. Little, Sheldon Matthews, Mark S. Piotrowski, Tracey L. Slodowski, Rich A. Spitzer, and Michael A. Webster - **10**

**ABSENT:** Lisa R. Coney - **1**

**TOTAL:** - **11**

**OTHERS:** Mary Catherine Hannah, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, John Kaczynski, Rachel Horton, Jennifer Broadfoot, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Jessica Sargent, Kevin Murphy, Darcie Totten, Dennis Borchard, Katharine Tessin, Ceylon Williams-Bettis, Allissa Specht, Abbe Balderstone, Suzy Koeplinger, Renee Sharkey, Catherine Hicks and others

 Commissioner Webster gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes of the October 15, 2024 Board Session and the October 28, 2024 Special Board Session were approved

**AUDIENCES**

- ❖ Commissioner Slodowski presented Abbe Balderstone, Animal Control Officer, with a Certificate of Recognition for winning the prestigious “Animal Control Officer of the Year” award from the Michigan Pet Alliance

**INITIATORY MOTIONS**

None

**LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

- Certificate of Recognition to the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame “Class of 2024” as it celebrates the induction of its 22<sup>nd</sup> class of outstanding athletes/teams:
  - Lou Dawkins
  - Heidi Hendrick
  - Freeland Girls Softball ('03, '05)
  - Tom Smallwood
  - Saginaw Gears (1980 – 1981)
  - Nick Pumford
  - John Musulin
  - Guy “Ike” Garber
- Certificate of Recognition to Abbe Balderstone, Saginaw County Animal Control Officer, for winning the prestigious “Animal Control Officer of the Year” award from the Michigan Pet Alliance

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Approved the Saginaw County Convention & Visitors Bureau FY 2025 Budget
- Approved new County Policy #414, "Use of County Grounds and Facilities"
- Approved vendor transactions for October 2024 in the amount of \$31,755,055.57
- Approved a Commission on Aging budget adjustment in the amount of \$3,450 for tree trimming/removal at the Eleanor Frank/Schust location
- Approved acceptance by the Health Department of FY 2025 MDHHS grant funding
- Approved use of \$39,242 in fund balance from Health Department Building and Grounds for emergency elevator repair
- Approved new Saginaw County Policy, "Gifts, Donations, and Memorials"
- Approved revised County Policy #351, "Travel"
- Approved MOUs (1) between the County of Saginaw, Saginaw County Sheriff, and Command Officers Association of Michigan and (2) between the County of Saginaw, Saginaw County Sheriff, and Police Officers Association of Michigan Unit 312 to continue the current high deductible health plan for the 2025 plan year
- Amendments to the 2024 Board Rules were laid on the table until the December 17<sup>th</sup> Board Session

## RESOLUTIONS

None

## PROCLAMATIONS

None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Boyd made the following appointment:

- ✓ Mosquito Abatement Commission, Rene DeSander was reappointed for a term to expire 1/1/28

## ELECTIONS

- ✓ HealthSource Saginaw, Ceylon Williams-Bettis and Karen Courneya were elected with terms to expire December 31, 2027
- ✓ Land Bank Authority, Lisa Coney, Dennis Browning, and David Adams were elected with terms to expire December 31, 2028
- ✓ Road Commission, Ed Wasmiller was reappointed with a term to expire December 31, 2030

## CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chairman Boyd announced that all commissioners received a letter in their mailbox from a gentleman in Bridgeport who communicated some ideas regarding waste management, crime prevention and public safety, economic development, housing, etc. Chairman Boyd would like committee chairs to review it with all standing committees in December.

## COMMISSIONER AUDIENCES

- ❖ Commissioner Slodowski continued the conversation from Budget Audit Committee and spoke of a desire to help local municipalities access grant money. She announced Thomas Township's Nature Center & Preserve trails are open, with free admission, and as you walk through you can see egrets.
- ❖ Commissioner Webster reported that the Saginaw County Youth Commissioners program is going well. Prior to the board meeting, their attention was held from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. listening to the County Administrator, Parks Director and others talk about Saginaw County and touring facilities.
- ❖ Commissioner Spitzer proposed getting involved in youth development by bringing education about government and elections to younger students in schools. He announced Saginaw Township's Tree Lighting at the Soccer Complex, also known as the "Winter Party on McCarty" will be on Friday, December 6, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. with live bands. On Saturday, December 7, 2024 there will be a pancake breakfast with Santa at 9:00 a.m., and from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. games and a coloring contest for kids, with the tree lighting at approximately 6:15 p.m. with fireworks to follow.
- ❖ Commissioner Krafft announced the Zehnder Park Ice Rink is open and encouraged everyone to drive through Frankenmuth to enjoy the lights and decorations. Mistletoe Magic at the Heritage Christmas Market is this Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Kern Pavilion.
- ❖ Chairman Boyd called on Brian Keenan-Lechel, Parks & Recreation Director, to announce the Holidays in the Heart of the City event this Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 5:45 p.m. at the Water Treatment Plant for the tree lighting. Other events include sleigh rides, a gingerbread house contest at the Andersen Enrichment Center, vendors, food, and more, culminating in Fireworks at 8:30 p.m. from Ojibway Island. The 47<sup>th</sup> annual P.R.I.D.E. Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 11:00 a.m. from downtown at the Dow Event Center and ending at Ojibway Island.
- ❖ Commissioner Piotrowski spoke of the recent MAC Legislative Update and the dispute over renewable energy siting rules (solar and wind). He gave highlights about the Lake State Railway on Washington Avenue that rebuilds locomotives, offers tours of the grounds, and the Christmas Train that will run from Saginaw to Bridgeport. He announced *Freeland Lights 2024*, with free light shows at Hayes Park in Tittabawassee Township December 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> nightly from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. *Winter Wonderland* in Thomas Township's Roberts Park, 455 S. Miller Rd., which offers hayrides, food trucks, craft area for kids, music and more, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with fireworks at the end of the event on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

### SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**CHRISTOPHER S. BOYD, CHAIRMAN**

**VANESSA GUERRA, COUNTY CLERK**

Prepared by: Suzy Koeplinger, Board Coordinator/Deputy Clerk