The regular meeting of the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Jon Block at 1:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, in the Board of Commissioners' Chambers at 60 W. Sanilac Avenue, Sandusky, Michigan. The prayer was given by Commissioner Heberling, and the pledge was led by Commissioner Moody. Roll call was taken. Members present: Jon Block, Roger Ballard, Gary Heberling, Bill Sarkella, Christine Lee, Evans Ehardt, John Moody. Quorum present. Administrator / Controller, Nathan Roskey also present.

Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda:
Additions: FA-201-25(A) & FA-014-26(A)

Adoption of Agenda:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BALLARD AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEE THAT WE ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HEBERLING AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOODY THAT WE APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2026, AS PRINTED.
Motion carried.

Correspondences, Petitions and Introductions:

1. Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of DTE Electric Customers of DTE Electric Company, Case No. U-22168

2. Minutes from the Sanilac County Community Mental Health Authority Minutes meeting held on August 25, 2026.

3. Minutes from the Sanilac County Department of Health & Human Services Minutes meeting held on August 24, 2026.

4. Notice of Intent to Construct Solar Energy Facility – Fremont Township, Sanilac County – Mitten State Solar Energy Facility

Commissioner Reports:

- Commissioner Ballard:
  - Lamotte Twp.
  - Argyle Twp.
  - Marlette Twp.
- Commissioner Heberling:
  - Moore Twp.
  - Watertown Twp.

Unofficial

- Commissioner Sarkella:
  - Village of Port Sanilac
  - Sanilac Twp.
  - Washington Twp.
  - Bridgehampton Twp.
- Commissioner Lee:
  - Flynn Twp.
  - Maple Valley Twp.
- Commissioner Block:
  - Village of Forestville
- Commissioner Ehardt: None
- Commissioner Moody:
  - Speaker Twp.

Administrator's Report:

Nathan Roskey, County Administrator/Controller provided a report to the Board on meetings attended and continued work on pending projects for the last two weeks.

Public Comments:

INTERVIEWS:

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APPOINT ALL
Frederick H. Buchner
Charles Cunningham

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD APPOINT ONE
Nancy L. Caringi

Appointment to Standing Committees:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER EHARDT AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEE THAT FREDERICK H. BUCHNER AND CHARLES CUNNINGHAM ARE HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM, EXPIRING 11/1/2030.
Motion carried.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MOODY AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEBERLING THAT NANCY L. CARINGI IS HEREBY APPOINTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM, EXPIRING 10/31/2029.
Motion carried.

Unofficial

County Commissioner Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees:

None.

County Commission Chair Appointments:

None.

General Resolutions:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BALLARD AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEBERLING THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTION HONORING MICHELE VANNORMAN FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS, Michele VanNorman is retiring from Sanilac County after more than 40 years of dedicated public service; and

WHEREAS, Michele began her career with Sanilac County on August 25, 1986, serving in the Register of Deeds Office; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 1988, she was promoted to Deputy Register of Deeds and on May 6, 1998 she was appointed Register of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, Michele has demonstrated extensive knowledge of county government and shared that knowledge with professionalism, character and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Michele's many years of dedicated service have significantly contributed to the effectiveness and continued improvement of Sanilac County government; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Michele Van Norman for her more than 40 years of devoted service to the citizens of Sanilac County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Michele VanNorman for continued health, happiness and fulfillment in her well-earned retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be presented to Michele VanNorman and entered into the official proceedings of the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of October, 2026.

Unofficial

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ballard, Heberling, Moody, Lee, Block, Sarkella, Ehardt No: None. Resolution Declared Adopted.

Keegan Bengel, Sanilac County Equalization Director, presented the 2026 Apportionment Report.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER EHARDT AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALLARD THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

2026 SANILAC COUNTY APPORTIONMENT REPORT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Section 31, Article 9 and Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 211.34, 211.34(d) and/or 211.24(e), the various financial officers for the townships, cities, villages, school districts and authorities have certified that the tax rates comply; and

WHEREAS, the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that the millages have been reduced, if necessary, and that the truth in taxation hearings have been held, if necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sanilac County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the spread of the following attached tax requests. Collection and distribution shall be in accordance with the provisions of the General Property Tax Act 1893 PA 206. Local unit treasurers shall distribute the State Education Tax collections to the County Treasurer pursuant to MCL 211.42.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Equalization Director is authorized to amend, as necessary.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Ehardt, Ballard, Sarkella, Moody, Block, Heberling, Lee. No: None. Resolution Declared Adopted.

Committee Reports:

- Commissioner Moody:
  - Policy Committee
- Commissioner Ehardt: None
- Commissioner Block:
  - Personnel Committee
- Commissioner Lee:
  - Council on Aging

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- Child Abuse Prevention
- CMH Trunk or Treat
- Health Department – discussion followed

- Commissioner Sarkella:
  - Michigan Association of Counties – 7th District
  - MAC ENRAT
  - Building & Grounds
- Commissioner Heberling:
  - Building & Grounds
  - Parks & Recreation
- Commissioner Ballard:
  - Drug Task Force – October 24th – Drug take back day.
  - Community Mental Health Committee
  - Public Education Commitee

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

FA-134-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALLARD THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY APPROVES THE PAYMENT OF CURRENT CLAIMS IDENTIFIED ON THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT DATED OCTOBER 13, 2026, FOR THE GENERAL BANK ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF $193,522.52.

Motion carried.

FA-135-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEE THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY APPROVES THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

2026 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

REVENUE:

Increase:	**101-000-687.004**	**Refunds/Rebates-Workers Comp**	**$25,826.00**
Decrease:	**101-000-400.001**	**Beginning Balance**	**$(14,312.91)**
Increase:	**101-000-628.008**	**Services Rendered-Const & Ld Use-Permit**	**$35,868.00**
Increase:	**101-000-628.024**	**Services Rendered-Insp-Squan**	**$6,835.53**
Increase:	**101-000-640.005**	**Register of Deeds-Escrow**	**$5,933.00**
Increase:	**101-000-665.003**	**Interest-C/D's & Investment**	**$1,147.81**
Increase:	**279-317-665.003**	**Interest-C/D's & Investment**	**$322.43**

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Increase:	**279-317-676.004**	**Reimbursements-US Marshall Wages**	**$4,487.00**
Increase:	**279-317-676.038**	**Reimbursements-US Marshall Mileage**	**$4,259.04**
Increase:	**279-317-400.001**	**Beginning Balance**	**$101,000.00**
Increase:	**662-334-699-279**	**Transfer In-US Marshall**	**$12,361.00**
Increase:	**210-651-412.000**	**Delinq Real, Pers, Bldg Lease Ld**	**$207.03**
Increase:	**211-446-412.000**	**Delinq Real, Pers, Bldg Lease Ld**	**$1,296.76**
Increase:	**211-446-665.003**	**Interest-C/D's & Investment**	**$15,148.33**
Decrease:	**288-596-507.000**	**Federal Grants**	**$(322,242.00)**
Increase:	**288-596-548.000**	**State Grants**	**$322,242.00**
Increase:	**291-671-665.003**	**Interest-C/D's & Investment**	**$6,211.35**
Increase:	**631-265-400.001**	**Beginning Balance**	**$9,854.57**
Increase:	**677-259-665.003**	**Interest-C/D's & Investment**	**$1,435.30**
Increase:	**677-259-676.016**	**Reimbursements-Cobra**	**$2,345.63**
Increase:	**677-259-687.000**	**Refunds/Rebates**	**$2,460.00**
Decrease:	**101-000-541.000**	**Probate Judge's Salary**	**$(42,948.81)**
EXPENSE:			
Increase:	**101-979-995.001**	**Transfer Out-Misc**	**$(11,513.09)**
Increase:	**101-442-801.053**	**Contractual-Eng Services-Squan**	**$(6,835.53)**
Increase:	**279-317-995.662**	**Transfer Out-Police Vehicle Fund**	**$(12,361.00)**
Decrease:	**279-317-702.011**	**Wages-FTE's-US Marshall**	**$3,292.53**
Increase:	**279-317-713.000**	**Overtime**	**$(75,000.00)**
Increase:	**279-317-709.000**	**FICA**	**$(5,000.00)**
Increase:	**279-317-717.000**	**Defined Benefit/Pension**	**$(15,000.00)**
Increase:	**279-317-718.000**	**Health Insurance Premiums**	**$(6,000.00)**
Increase:	**662-334-986.004**	**Misc Equipment-Police**	**$(12,361.00)**
Increase:	**210-651-996.001**	**Tax Dockets & Tribunal Refunds**	**$(210.94)**
Decrease:	**210-651-942.003**	**Appropriation-Med Control**	**$3.91**
Increase:	**211-446-955.000**	**Misc Expenses**	**$(15,377.43)**
Increase:	**211-446-996.001**	**Tax Dockets & Tribunal Refunds**	**$(1,067.66)**
Increase:	**291-671-955.000**	**Misc Expense**	**$(6,211.35)**
Increase:	**631-265-941.000**	**Contingency**	**$(9,854.57)**
Increase:	**677-259-718.001**	**Health Insurance Premiums-Cobra**	**$(184.30)**
Increase:	**677-259-718.000**	**Health Insurance Premiums**	**$(6,056.63)**

Motion carried.

FA-136-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEBERLING THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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HEREBY APPROVES THE PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND BANK ACCOUNT CHECKS CHARGED TO SEPTEMBER 2026, AS FOLLOWS:

ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND BANK ACCOUNT CHARGES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

$562,941.14	ACH PAYMENTS
$166,017.46	CHECKS
$728,958.60	TOTAL

Motion carried.

FA-137-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EHARDT THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY TREASURER TO POST & FILL THE CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER/ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERK POSITION AT A PAYGRADE 8, WITH IMMEDIATE APPROVAL.
Motion carried.

FA-138-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALLARD THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY APPROVES THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN HURON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE COUNTY OF SANILAC, FOR A ONE YEAR TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2027 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED $60,000, WITH FUNDING FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE BOARD CHAIRMAN SIGN THE NECESSARY AGREEMENT.
Motion carried.

FA-139-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOODY THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY AUTHORIZES AND AWARDS BERGER CHEVROLET, INC., OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN THE BID FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING TWO (2) 2026 CHEVROLET TAHOE 9C1 POLICE PACKAGE VEHICLES, TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE UNIFORM SERVICES DIVISION AT A COST OF $55,787 EACH, FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED $111,574, WITH FUNDING FROM THE POLICE VEHICLE FUND AND THE SECONDARY ROAD PATROL GRANT, FOR IMMEDIATE APPROVAL.
Discussion followed. Motion carried.

FA-140-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEBERLING THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY AUTHORIZES AND AWARDS THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE PURCHASE TWO (2) SETS OF VEHICLE EQUIPMENT TO OUTFIT TWO (2) 2026 CHEVROLET TAHOE POLICE PACKAGE VEHICLES TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE UNIFORM SERVICES DIVISION FROM ARROWHEAD

Unofficial

OUTFITTERS, INC., OF CLIO, MI, AT A COST OF $19,249 EACH, FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED $38.498, WITH FUNDING FROM UNFORM SERVICES VEHICLE EQUIPMENT.
Motion carried.

FA-141-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEE THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY APPROVES A THREE-YEAR INDEPENDENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SANILAC COUNTY AND WILLIAM STARBIRD M.D., EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027 TO DECEMBER 31, 2029, WITH FUNDING FROM THE MEDICAL EXAMINER BUDGET AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE BOARD CHAIRMAN SIGN THE NECESSARY DOCUMENT.
Motion carried.

FA-142-26 – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EHARDT THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY AUTHORIZES BAY COUNTY TREASURER, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $40,469.24, FOR THE PURPOSE OF TYLER TECHNOLOGIES/NEW WORLD INTERFACE STANDARD MAINTENANCE WITH FUNDING FROM THE IT BUDGET OF $15,469.24 AND $25,000 FROM THE 911 CENTRAL DISPATCH MILLAGE.
Motion carried.

FA-201-25(A) – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEBERLING THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ACCEPTS THE 2026 REMONUMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $71,665.00, FOR COMPLETION OF 50 CORNERS, ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING APPOINTEES:

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE, JOHN MILLETICS $4,364.75
GRANT ADMINISTRATOR, LESLIE HILGENDORF $2,866.25
SURVEYORS: JOHN MILLETICS, BEN TANK, AND CHARLES KOOB FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF $62,250.00
PEER GROUP MEMBERS: BEN TANK, CHARLES KOOB, AND ~~RUSS BROWN~~, *ANDREW NEWLAND* FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF $2,184.00
Discussion followed. Motion carried.

FA-014-26(A) – MOVED BY COMMISSIONER SARKELLA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BALLARD THAT THE SANILAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS, IN TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $71,665.00, FOR THE MONUMENTATION OF FIFTY (50) CORNERS IN 2026:

- **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE: JOHN MILLETICS IN THE AMOUNT OF $4,364.75;**
- **GRANT ADMINISTRATOR: LESLIE HILGENDORF IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,866.25**
- **SURVEYORS: JOHN MILLETICS, BEN TANK AND CHARLES KOOB FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $62,250.00;**

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- **PEER GROUP MEMBERS: BEN TANK, CHARLES KOOB & ~~RUSSELL BROWN~~, *ANDREW NEWLAND* FOR THE AMOUNT OF $2,184.00.**

FURTHER, AUTHORIZES THE BOARD CHAIRMAN SIGN THE NECESSARY AGREEMENT. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Marek Noworyta, a Delaware Township resident, expressed continued concerns regarding cats entering his property from a neighboring property and the resulting damage. Mr. Noworyta also addressed comments made by commissioners during individual conversations following the October 6, 2026, meeting, expressing his dissatisfaction with those comments. He then provided the Board with an overview of his professional career and military service.

Closed Session:

None.

Adjournment:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LEE AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EHARDT THAT WE ADJOURN AT 1:52 P.M. Motion carried.

_____ _____

Leslie Hilgendorf, County Clerk Jon Block, Chairman

Unofficial