

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Taylor.

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Aaron Sogge, Jason Nelson, Mark Nyman, Sandy Bengelink, Michael Bush, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, Jason Baughan, and Brian Potter.

Absent- *None*.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Add: J.7. Waiver of Conflict and Consent to Representation Regarding Kalkaska County Services to Wexford County Veterans Services Office

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the agenda, as amended.

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None*

Presentation and Reports-

Eric Karbowski, MSU Extension, brought Nikki Schultz, Alliance for Economic Success, with him to present to the Board some of their highlights from the year. Ms. Schultz noted in September and October they hold a busy workforce initiative. They have Agricultural Day for the 8th graders in the local schools, and Manufacturing Day for the 9th graders in the area.

She also highlighted their Mock it Then Rock It program, as well as their Career Expo in the spring. She did note that they also had a Developer Day, where Brownfield Authorities were inquired about.

Eric Karbowski presented the Board with the MSU Extension 2024 Annual Report. They are currently searching for a 4-H Coordinator, and it is a growing program. They will be having a community garden at the Manton and Cadillac Libraries. They also have programs for food preservation stemming off of the gardener program.

Public Comment-*None*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of October 15, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. FY26 MOA-MSUE

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve the Agreement for Extension Services between Wexford County and Michigan State University Extension for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, and authorize the chair to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. FY 2026 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Program Grant Agreement

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Program Grant Agreement for the period of October 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, and authorize the chair to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously

3. FY 2025-2026 Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Law Enforcement Program Grant Agreement

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Law Enforcement Program Grant Agreement for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and authorize the chair to sign.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

4. Revision to Policy B-14.2 Longevity Pay

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the amendment to Policy B-14.2 Longevity Pay.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

5. Motorhome Bid Approval

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to award the bid for 2010 motorhome in the amount of \$60,000 to Brian Smith.

Commissioner Theobald questioned if this was the original donor. It was explained that it was not.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

6. MMRMA Renewal 2026

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Coverage Proposal for the total annual contributions in the amount of \$366,097.00 from January 01, 2026, through January 01, 2027, and authorize the Administrator to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

7. Waiver of Conflict and Consent to Representation Regarding Kalkaska County Services to Wexford County Veterans Services Office

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the Waiver of Conflict and Consent to Representation Regarding Kalkaska County Services to Wexford County Veterans Services Office and authorize the chair to sign.

Administrator Porterfield explained that there is currently no one in the Veteran's Office. Kalkaska County had reached out to offer to help some of our veterans. We share the same attorney, so a waiver needed to be done before an agreement could be handled.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield explained to the Board that the Veteran's Office is currently closed. There had been an ongoing issue with the office and a contracted counselor, who has a large following. The Veteran's Committee voted to extend the contract with this counselor. In September, they thought everything was fine. In October, the grant parameters changed and these services couldn't be paid for through the grant.

Following the change in the grant, the counselor sent an email that the officers did not agree with, and they have since resigned. The Committee did hold a special meeting to vote to pay for services through the millage, however, they did not renew the contract with the counselor.

In the interim, Phil Babcock, who is the VSO for the Legion, will hold office hours on Monday. The Kalkaska Officer did reach out to offer services to help out. Gary will also be in the office to help hand out emergency needs items, and Joe will from his office.

Mr. Porterfield did note that the positions have been posted, and interviews will begin to take place. It will likely be June before anyone is certified to handle claims though.

He also noted that EGLE did place a test well at the fair. One test did show the presence of PFAS. Many tests were clean. That water is not used for drinking. The fair is on the Haring municipal water.

Commissioner Bengelink asked how long it would take to get a VSO accredited. Mr. Porterfield explained that the next class isn't until April, but dates have not been disclosed yet.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments-

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, Michigan, informed the Board of an ongoing criminal case where he was assaulted while attending a concert. A woman screamed at him, he began recording, and she hit the phone out of his hand. Her boyfriend then did the same thing. Sgt. Quiggin with the Wexford County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Bengelink attended a Library Meeting. The financial director, Jane Walker, has retired. The new director, Lisa Eash, will do a great job.

Comm Theobald attended a Health Department meeting. Funding for WIC goes through the 24th. She attended the Leadership Counsel where they too discussed the SNAP benefits issue. She also highlighted that applications for Project Christmas are being accepted, and they are searching for volunteers for red kettle.

Comm Taylor attended the Veteran's Committee meeting.

Board Comments-

Comm Potter agreed with Nikki that we need to move forward with the Brownfield Authority.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk