



Wexford County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary Taylor, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 04, 2026, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, third floor of the Historic Courthouse, located at 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, MI 49601.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE
- D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- F. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION 1
 - 1. Michael Solomon – 25 Years
 - 2. Sharon Ellens – 20 Years
 - 3. Wendy Vredenburg – 20 Years
 - 4. Johanna Carey – 10 Years
 - 5. Robert Champion – 5 Years
- G. PRESENTATION AND REPORTS
- H. PUBLIC COMMENT
Designated for topics on the agenda only.
- I. CONSENT AGENDA
The purpose of the consent agenda is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one Commission motion without discussion. Any member of the Commission may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed therefrom and placed elsewhere for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If any item is not removed from the consent agenda, the action noted on the agenda is approved by motion of the Commission to adopt the consent agenda.
 - 1. Approval of the January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes 2
- J. AGENDA ITEMS
 - 1. Budget Amendments (*Finance 1/28/2026*) 6
 - 2. Resolution 26-07 Extending Appreciation for Ed Tharp’s Dedicated Service 7
- K. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
- L. CORRESPONDENCE
- M. PUBLIC COMMENT
Open for any public comments.
- N. LIAISON REPORT
- O. BOARD COMMENTS
- P. CHAIR COMMENTS
- Q. ADJOURN

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM

FOR MEETING DATE: February 4, 2026
FROM: Administration
SUBJECT: Employee Recognition

SUMMARY OF ITEM TO BE PRESENTED:

Wexford County would like to recognize employees for their service, per County Policy B.13-0, at 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years. The following employees should be recognized at the next Board of Commissioners' meeting for their service as follows:

EMPLOYEE NAME	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
Michael Solomon	Drain Commissioner	25 Years
Sharon Ellens	Register of Deeds	20 Years
Wendy Vredenburg	Dispatch	20 Years
Johanna Carey	Prosecutor's Office	10 Years
Robert Champion	Public Defenders' Office	5 Years

Michael Solomon began his employment with Wexford County when he was elected as the County Drain Commissioner in January 2001. Mr. Solomon continues to hold this position.

Sharon Ellens began her employment with Wexford County as a Deputy Register in the Register of Deeds Office on December 14, 2005, and continues to hold this position.

Wendy Vredenburg began her employment with Wexford County as a Dispatcher/Telecommunicator at Central Dispatch on December 22, 2005. On August 19, 2018, Ms. Vredenburg was promoted to Shift Supervisor and continues to hold this position.

Johanna Carey began her employment as a part-time Assistant Prosecutor with Wexford County in the Prosecutor's Office on January 04, 2016. On September 17, 2018, Ms. Carey was appointed as the Chief Attorney for the Wexford/Missaukee Public Defenders' Office. On November 16, 2020, Ms. Carey was appointed as the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Prosecutor's Office and on January 01, 2025, Ms. Carey was appointed as the Prosecuting Attorney and continues to hold this position.

Robert Champion began his employment with Wexford-Missaukee Public Defenders' Office as the Chief Public Defender on January 05, 2021, and continues to hold this position.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration Office recommends the full board present Certificates of Appreciation to Mr. Solomon, Ms. Ellens, Ms. Vredenburg, Ms. Carey and Mr. Champion at the Board of Commissioners meeting on February 04, 2026.

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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- *None*.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve the agenda.

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None*

Presentation and Reports- *None*

Public Comment-

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, requested a correction to the minutes where it said “alleged” assault. It was not alleged. He was assaulted.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of January 7, 2026
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Fox Motors Contract
MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nelson to approve the Fox Motor Agreement with Wexford County and Fox of Cadillac regarding snow removal and storage for the period of June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028, and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Administrator Porterfield informed the Board that this has been in place for years. The amount was just being increased from \$300 to \$1000.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. Kalkaska Agreements for Veterans Services

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Agreement between Kalkaska County and Wexford County for Veterans Services on an as-needed basis and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Administrator Porterfield explained that when the resignations came in, they had several people reach out to help the office. Kalkaska agreed to help on an as needed basis. While the new VSO is training and earning her accreditation, Kalkaska will be billing for our Veterans, and Wexford will reimburse Kalkaska when necessary.

Commissioner Bush asked if the Kalkaska officer would be traveling here. Administrator Porterfield explained that she would not. The information would be sent through an encrypted email from the office here.

Commissioner Theobald wanted to clarify if any of our veterans would have to travel to Kalkaska, and Mr. Porterfield explained they would not.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0

3. Wexford Missaukee Friend of the Court TKS Proposal

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Wexford Missaukee Friend of the Court TKS Proposal and agreement in the amount of a onetime fee of \$5,349.00 and a monthly fee of \$24.95 to add cameras and a panic button and authorize the board chair to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

4. Addendum to Interim Veterans Services Director Employment Agreement

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Addendum to the Interim Veterans Services Director Employment Agreement between Kent Myers, County of Wexford and Wexford County Veteran's Affairs Committee increasing the weekly hours to 29 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Mr. Porterfield explained that Kent was needing more hours in order to get everything completed.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield thanked Melanie and Kalkaska Board of Commissioners for reaching out to help. He was going to be meeting with Kent at Coffee Hour in Manton to

chat with some of our local veterans. He also attended a court security meeting to discuss some of the upcoming high profile cases.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the new VSO would be joining them at Coffee Hour. Mr. Porterfield explained that she would be doing some important paperwork.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, Michigan, let everyone know that InfoWars is still on the air. There are other good alternative media as well. He informed everyone that the World Economic Forum is meeting in Switzerland. The vision is the Great Reset and Agenda 2030. He thinks President Trump should declare the Insurrection Act in Minneapolis. There is no law and order. He's all about peacefully protesting and the first amendment. He encouraged everyone to watch InfoWars. Mr. Koshmider thanked the Board for their service, and he hopes they will sign his petition once he gets it going. Not on courthouse property though.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Baughan attended Wexford County Safe Schools where they talked about reunification. There is training on February 13th. He will be reaching out to local EMS to attend.

Comm Nyman attended a Northern Lakes Community Mental Health meeting. They feel they are on the right track to get their budget in line.

Comm Taylor attended a WexExpress meeting. They are still in need of more drivers, but they are seeing record turnout for riders.

Board Comments-

Comm Sogge told everyone to bundle up. It is very cold out there.

Comm Bengelink thanked Joe, Jami, and Gary for their work for our veterans.

Comm Theobald thanked everyone for voting her as vice chair again. She appreciated the bode of confidence.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:14 p.m.

All in favor.

Gary Taylor, Chairperson

Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk

DRAFT

**Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Amendments to the 2026 Budget Log**

BOC Meeting				
Date	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
A 2026-02-04	101-362-539.10	State Grant PA511	\$ (70.00)	
	101-362-702.03	Permanent Employees		\$5,207.00
	101-362-719.00	Social Security		\$254.00
	101-362-721.00	Health Insurance		\$304.00
	101-362-722.00	Workers Comp		\$44.00
	101-362-760.00	PA511 Alcohol Expense		\$ (3,609.00)
	101-362-800.02	PA511 Active Tether		\$ (2,270.00)
Total			\$ (70.00)	(\$70.00)
<i>Comment/Reasoning: Adjustments for Community Corrections Grant</i>				
B 2026-02-04	101-101-699.00	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ (302,221.00)	
	101-301-932.00	Vehicle Maintance Operation		\$ 302,221.00
Total			\$ (302,221.00)	\$302,221.00
<i>Comment/Reasoning: To help cover lease payments on police cars.</i>				

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the fourth day of February 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-07
EXTENDING APPRECIATION FOR
EDWIN THARP'S DEDICATED SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the Wexford County Board of Commissioners would like to personally thank Edwin Tharp for his commitment to Wexford County. For the past nine years Ed has worked with dedication and pride to meet the needs of Wexford County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ed began his career with Wexford County on September 19, 2016, as an Shelter Attendant with the Wexford County Animal Shelter; and

WHEREAS, on April 02, 2017, Ed was promoted to Animal Control Officer for Wexford County Animal Control; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2026, Ed will retire from his role at the Wexford County Animal Shelter; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners wishes you the best in your future endeavors and once again thanks you for your efforts for over the past nine years while you served Wexford County as a very dedicated and appreciated employee.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Gary Taylor, Chairman, Wexford County Board of Commissioners

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF WEXFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution 26-07 adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Wexford County at a regular meeting held on February 04, 2026, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Alaina Nyman, County Clerk

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