

## WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting \* Wednesday, February 4, 2026

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

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

Absent- Aaron Sogge and Jason Baughan.

Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-**

Add: Professional Services Agreement for an Independent Contract for Prosecutor Office-  
*Removed*

Delete: Employee Recognition Robert Champion (moved to BOC meeting 2/18/2026).

### **Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the agenda, as amended.

All in Favor.

### **Employee Recognition-**

Michael Solomon was unable to attend the meeting to receive his award for 25 years of service.

Sharon Ellens was presented with an award for 20 years of service with the County.

Wendy Vredenburg was also presented with an award for her 20 years of service.

Johanna Carey was present to receive her certificate for 10 years of service.

### **Presentation and Reports- None**

### **Public Comment-**

Art Stevens, Cadillac, addressed the Board to compliment Joe Porterfield on his phenomenal leadership to the County. He relates to the citizens of the county. He denies pushes for raises because it doesn't fit the budget. He also complimented the Board Chair for his leadership as well. The long-term employees are because of the strong leadership the county has.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in favor.

**Agenda Items**

- Budget Amendments

**MOTION** by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the budget amendments for State Grant PA511 and Lease Payments on police cars.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners Amendments to the 2026 Budget Log					
	BOC Meeting Date	Acct	Acct Description	Revenue	Expense
A          B	2026-02-04	101-362-539.10	State Grant PA511	(\$ 70.00)	
		101-362-702.03	Permanent Employees Social		\$5,207.00
		101-362-719.00	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 PA511		\$
		101-362-800.02	Active Tether		(3,609.00)
					\$
					(2,270.00)
		<b>Total</b>			(\$ 70.00)
	<i>Comment/Reasoning: Adjustments for Community Corrections Grant</i>				
	2026-02-04	101-101-699.00	Appropriated Fund	(\$ 302,221.00)	
			Balance		
		101-301-932.00	Vehicle Maintance Operation		\$
		<i>oning: To help</i>	<i>ease payments on police cars.</i>		302,221.00
		<i>cover</i>			\$302,221.00
	<b>Total</b>			(\$ 302,221.00)	
	<i>Comment/Reas</i>				

**Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.**

2. Resolution 26-07 Extending Appreciation for Ed Tharp's Dedicated Service  
**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nelson to approve the Resolution 26-07 Extending Appreciation for Ed Tharp's Dedicated Service and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Mr. Tharp was present to receive his award for his dedicated service to the county.

**Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0**

**Administrator's Report-**

Administrator Porterfield thanked the employees for their years of dedication to the county. He noted that the contract was removed because of insurance reasons. It will be coming back before the Board at some point in the near future. Johanna is currently working long hours, and the position is needed.

Mr. Porterfield also highlighted that things are starting to slow down at the Sheriff's Department, so we should see a decrease in overtime hours.

**Correspondence- None.**

**Public Comments**

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, Michigan, is frustrated with the wheels of justice. He is backing off on the recall petition he previously discussed. He was able to read the police report, and it was full of lies. He understands the position of the prosecutor now. Mr. Koshmider was upset he missed the forum at the library about misinformation and disinformation. He hopes to make the future ones. He encouraged everyone to watch InfoWars.

**Liaison Reports-**

Comm Theobald will be sending an email with her updates.

Comm Potter attended a Road Commission meeting. There is a salt shortage statewide that they are facing. They did test out a pre-treatment before the last storm that seemed to work out well.

Comm Nyman thanked the employees for their dedication.

**Board Comments-**

Comm Theobald thanked the employees for their dedication to the county. She also noted Ed will be missed at Animal Control.

Comm Potter thanked the Cadillac News for the forum they put on.

Comm Nelson thanked Wendy for her 20 years of service in a stressful job.

Comm Nyman also thanked Johanna for the work she does. It is not an easy job.

Comm Bengelink thanked Art for his kind words. They serve on a great board, and they are very lucky to have Joe. He gives his honest take on things.

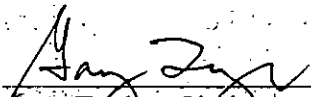
**Chairman's Comments-**

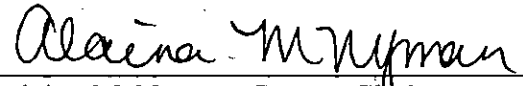
Chair Taylor noted that they will get the additional prosecutor going. He also thanked everyone for attending.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:17 p.m.

All in favor.

  
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Gary Taylor, Chairperson

  
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Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk