

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Wednesday, February 18, 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-

Add: F. Employee Recognition – Robert Champion

Delete: G. Medical Examiner Annual Report

Add: J9 Resolution 26-08

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition-

Robert Champion was present to receive his award for 5 years of service with the County.

Presentation and Reports- *None*

Public Comment- *None*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of February 4, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in favor.

Agenda Items

1. Resolution 26-09 MSUE Millage Renewal

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Nelson to approve Resolution 26-09 MSUE Millage Renewal proposal and certifying ballot language.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. MSUE 2026 Annual Workplan-Amendment #1

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Contract Amendment # 1 to the agreement for Extension Services provided by Michigan State University to Wexford County Annual Work Plan 2026 and authorize the chairman to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. MSUE 2026 Lease Agreement

MOTION by Comm Nelson, seconded by Comm Nyman to approve the two-year Lease Agreement between Wexford County and Michigan State University in the amount of \$30,400 annually and authorize the chairman to sign on behalf of the county.

Eric Karbowski passed out a flyer for an upcoming open house to come see their office space. He asked the Board to help spread the word.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Resolution 26-06 Support Repealing MCL 46.415(2)

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Resolution 26-06 Support of Repealing MCL 46.415 (2).

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

5. Special Part-Time Prosecutor Employment Agreement

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Special Part-time Prosecutor Employment Agreement for a period of one year, in the amount of \$40 per hour, not to exceed \$80,000 and authorize the chairman and Prosecuting Attorney to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

6. 911 Service Plan Update

MOTION by Comm Nelson, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve the updated 911 Service Plan and authorize the chairman to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

7. Telnet Services Phone System Proposal

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Telnet Service Phone Proposal in the monthly amount of \$4,005.26 and one-time fee of \$1,875.00 for a new phone system and authorize the chairman to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

8. Abilita Consulting Services Proposal

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Abilita Consulting Service Proposal with recommended changes from County legal for the new phone system and authorize the chairman to sign on behalf of the county.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

9. Resolution 26-08 Recognizing Gary Taylor

MOTION by Comm Bush, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 26-08 Recognizing Gary Taylor for his valued contribution to the Veterans Memorial Wall.

Comm Potter read the full resolution and presented Chair Taylor with a plaque honoring his work.

Comm Taylor thanked everyone for the recognition.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield mentioned that he tries to keep communication open, but he knew the Board Chair wouldn't add the recognition to the agenda. He joked that this one took some sneaking.

Mr. Porterfield informed the Board that the auditors will be on site the 3rd week of May, which comes about 3 weeks after the BS&A switch. There have been meetings with BS&A regarding the data uploads, as well as some on site training.

Mr. Porterfield noted that he is also busy gearing up for Board of Review.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, Michigan, was really bummed he missed the meeting at the library. He really hopes he can make the next one. He mentioned it matters what news you listen to. He encouraged everyone to watch InfoWars.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Theobald attended the Salvation Army meeting. They had a Safe from Harm training, and they are working at getting help with showers.

Comm Bengelink attended a Library meeting where they received the year end report for 2025. She highlighted that from 2022 to 2025 the libraries in our area have almost 30,000

more people that have walked into the door. She noted the Manton Library is working with the school to get the seniors online e-books. She also highlighted that the Manton Library has seen an increase of 28% in accounts.

Board Comments-

Comm Theobald thanked Gary for all the work he has done on the wall, and all of the work he does for the County. She knew he was chomping at the bit when it was added.

Comm Baughan echoed what Commissioner Theobald said. On behalf of the Baughan family, he appreciates the work put in.

Comm Potter commented that typically resolutions are not always meaningful, but this one was.

Comm Sogge echoed what the others said about Commissioner Taylor.

Comm Nyman also echoed what everyone else said about Commissioner Taylor, and he encouraged everyone to take the time to look at the wall and read the tributes.

Comm Bengelink echoed all the other sentiments and noted that Gary does a great job.

Comm Bush thanked everyone for keeping that surprise quiet. The wall means a great deal to him because his uncle is on it.

Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor noted that the wall was a labor of love and an honor to be involved with. He thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk