

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, August 5, 2026

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

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

Absent- None.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Add: G.2. Representative John Roth

Add: J.8. Quote for New Customer Connection to Cedar Creek Water System

Remove: J.3. Jail Transport Van Purchase

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- Heather Stilson – 10 years

Heather Stilson 28th Circuit Court 10-Years

Heather Stilson began her employment with the Wexford County Sheriff's Office on August 1, 2016, as a part-time Secretary. On January 8, 2018, she transferred to the full-time position of Administrative Assistant with the Sheriff's Office. On December 2, 2025, Heather accepted a transfer to the full-time position of 28th Circuit Court Assistant Administrator/ADR Clerk, and she currently holds this position.

Presentation and Reports

Mr. Will Love, manager at Rehmann came to give the FY2025 Financial Audit Review. Mr. Love started by explaining that he was the manager of our team. That he worked on-site and remotely during the audit. The audit end date was December 31, 2025. There are three major funds and multiple sub-funds that are included in the audit. Mr. Love went over some upcoming changes in accounting standards and regulations that may change the audit process. Will went over different parts of the report and explained the differences between the different funds, such as the General Fund and what is included as well as some of the smaller funds, such as the delinquent tax fund and how they show in the report.

There was one easy correction that needed to be made due to a loan payment being paid during the 2025 calendar year but recorded in the 2026 calendar year. Item 2025-001 was considered the only material weakness. The correction was made and going forward both paying and recording will happen in the same calendar year. Once the correction was made the amounts were able to be recordable. There were no instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting* August 5, 2026

reported. No deficiencies were found in control compliance that was considered to be a material weakness. It was a clean audit.

Representative John Roth came to the meeting, as the House of Representatives is on a break, to keep the community updated with some things happening in the State. Starting with the budget, which was about \$800,000.00 short. Rep Roth stated that out of the 148 legislators only 18 are from North of Clair. Most are from big cities, and he is hoping the State will understand that we are all not from big cities. Regarding the roads, there is a lawsuit pertaining to the marijuana tax, so it is not developing what they had thought. There were housing bills that had people on edge, but nothing has been done with those since before summer break. Data centers and solar panels were mandated a couple of years ago. The MPFC public service commission doesn't seem to be pushing any of those. A lot of departments are waiting for the new administration in January. Rep Roth mentioned early voting, that he is proposing changes to see if the cost vs reward can become a bit more balanced. Mr. Roth ended with stating that he does want to hear from the public.

Public Comment- *None*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the July 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Comm Theobald seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in Favor.

Agenda Items

1. Approval of the FY2025 Financial Audit

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Wexford County fiscal year 2025 financial statements and independent audit.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. Networks Northwest FY2027 Budget Request

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nyman to approve the Networks Northwest fiscal year 2027 budget request in the amount of \$5,519.76.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. Jail Transport Van Purchase - Removed

4. FY26-27 Child Care Fund Budget

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve the fiscal 2026-2027 Child Care Fund Budget and authorize the Chairman and Administrator to sign the County Child Care Budget Summary on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

5. Proposal AAS26-018 New Aiphone System Purchase Order Request - Courthouse
MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nyman to approve Proposal AAS26-018 for the District Court Attorney/Inmate phone solution in the amount of \$5,485.00 and authorize the Administrator to sign the proposal on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

6. Social Worker Wage Increase – Wexford County Sheriff’s Office
MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Nelson to approve increasing the Jail Social Worker annual wage from \$61,200 to \$80,000 utilizing Jail Commissary funds to cover the \$18,800 difference this year and each year going forward.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-1, with Commissioner Theobald voting against the motion.

7. Dispatch Unit LOA for Supervisor Time Correction
MOTION by Comm Bengelink and seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Letter of Agreement correcting Article 13, Hours of Work, in the Police Officers Association of Michigan 9-1-1 Central Dispatch Unit contract and authorize the Chairman and 9-1-1 Director to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

8. Quote for New Customer Connection to Cedar Creek Water System
MOTION by Comm Theobald and seconded by Comm Nelson to approve the quote from Matts Underground Utility Construction for a new hookup to the Cedar Creek Water System on E. 22 Road in the amount of \$12,350.00 and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator’s Report-

Administrator Porterfield stated that the Blueberry Festival went great. He has also received multiple people reaching out and complimenting the Veterans Expo. Joe would like to thank Alaina’s office and Jami for the work they did on the audit. Admin Porterfield will be attending a meeting regarding the Hodenpyl Dam sale. He understands the Commissioners and residents’ concerns about the possible loss of that property and how it would affect our County.

Correspondence- None.

Public Comments-

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, would like the record to reflect the proper spelling of his last name as Koshmider. Previously spelled Koschmider. Don also stated that the County and Townships are doing good. He is concerned with foreign interference in our elections. Isreal is paying off our politicians, except for Perry Johnson, he didn't take any money. John James received \$268,550.00 and over 15 million was spent to get Thomas Massey out of office. He believes Benson belongs in cuffs. Don believes elections should be same day, in person voting, like your grandpa used to do it.

Liaison Reports-

Commissioner Bengelink attended the Cadillac/Wexford Library meeting. This summer was the 2nd Gather to Grow food distribution program through Feeding America. As of July 10th they have served 209 meals to residents in Cadillac, 114 meals to residents in Manton and 99 meals to residents in Mesick. The Tustin library was able to provide 48 meals. The meals are for anyone 18 and under as well as adults with disabilities, up to the age of 26. They receive shelf-stable meals throughout the summer. Residents do not need to show proof of income.

Commissioner Bush attended the Materials Management meeting and will forward the information to the other commissioners when he receives it.

Commissioner Theobald attended the DHHS meeting and will forward the minutes, through email, to the other commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor attended the Fair Board meeting. The fair starts on August 17th.

Board Comments-

Commissioner Bush attended the Veterans Expo. He stated that Carrie and Kent did a nice job out there. There was a nice flow of traffic, and it seemed as though everybody that had a booth was very accommodating to everyone.

Commissioner Potter would like to give a shoutout to our Administrators, the Clerk, and Treasurer. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to get it the way it is.

Chairman's Comments-

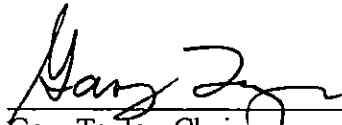
Chair Taylor thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

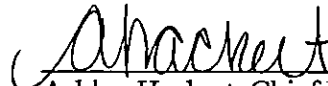
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

All in favor.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting* August 5, 2026



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Ashley Hackert, Chief Deputy County Clerk