Wexford County

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Brian Potter, Chair

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Finance and Appropriations Committee of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on **Wednesday, August 12, 2026, beginning at 12:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners' Room, third floor of the Historic Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER
B. ROLL CALL
C. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
E. APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 1
F. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Designated for topics on the agenda only.
G. AGENDA ITEMS
1. Approval of the Claims *(Clerk's Office)*
H. CORRESPONDENCE
I. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS
J. PUBLIC COMMENTS
K. COMMITTEE COMMENTS
L. CHAIR COMMENTS
M. ADJOURN

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with physical limitations that may tend to restrict access to or participation in this meeting should contact the County Administrator's office (231-779-9453) at least twelve (12) hours prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

WEXFORD COUNTY
FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2026

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Potter at 12:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Room, 3rd Floor, Historic Courthouse, 437 E. Division St. Cadillac, Michigan.

Members Present:	Brian Potter, Sandy Bengelink, Mark Nyman, Gary Taylor
Members Absent:	None.
Also Present:	Jami Bigger, Deputy Administrator & HR Director; Lt. Micheal McDaniel; Kristi Nottingham, County Treasurer; Alaina Nyman, County Clerk; Joe Porterfield, County Administrator/Equalization Director; Amber Simonton, Probate Court Bookkeeper/Financial Officer; Megan Swanberg, Executive Assistant; Sandy Watson, Juvenile Probation Office

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
G.5. Child Care Fund – Probate Court/28th Circuit Court Family Division
G.6. Proposal AAS26-018 New Aiphone System Purchase Order Request – Courthouse
G.7. Social Worker Wage Increase – Wexford County Sheriff's Office

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Bengelink to approve the agenda, as amended. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Nyman to approve the July 09, 2026, regular meeting minutes. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

AGENDA ITEMS
G.1. Approval of Claims
A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Nyman to approve paying the claims in the amount of $296,758.43. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

G.2. Revenue & Expense Report
Mr. Porterfield stated everything looks good. Except the contracted attorney fees are higher than normal, which is expected and will likely continue until the ongoing high-profile case is completed.

G.3. Networks Northwest 2027 Budget Request
A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Nyman to forward a recommendation to the full board to approve the Networks Northwest 2027 Budget Request in the amount of $5,519.76.

Comm. Taylor stated that this is a renewal, and Mr. Porterfield informed the committee that the amount is slightly lower than last year.

A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

G.4. Transport Van Purchase/Lease Request Discussion
A motion was made by Comm. Bengelink and supported by Comm. Nyman to forward a recommendation to the full board to approve the purchase of a transport van from Lunghamer Ford

in the amount of $91,547.00 including the standard service contract consisting of 36,000-mile or 36-month factory bumper-to-bumper warranty and a 60,000-mile or 6-month powertrain warranty.

Comm. Potter asked whether purchasing the vehicle would be a better option than leasing it. Lt. McDaniel stated that purchasing would provide greater long-term value. He explained that the extended warranty included with the purchase offers more comprehensive coverage, allowing the van to remain in service for additional years with proper maintenance. He noted that with the very low amount of miles that will be put on this vehicle, purchasing is a better option than leasing.
Comm. Bengelink asked what would happen to the old van. Lt. McDaniel responded that it would either be sold to another jail in need of the vehicle or, if that was not feasible, the transport cage would be removed and sold separately.

A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

G.5. Child Care Fund – Probate Court/28th Circuit Court Family Division
A motion was made by Comm. Bengelink and supported by Comm. Nyman to forward a recommendation to the full board to approve the Child Care Fund for Probate Court/28th Circuit Court Family Division. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

G.6. Proposal AAS26-018 New Aiphone System Purchase Order Request – Courthouse
A motion was made by Comm. Nyman and supported by Comm. Bengelink to forward a recommendation to the full board to approve Proposal AAS26-018 New Aiphone System Purchase Order Request for the Courthouse.

Comm. Potter stated that this is needed because the phone system connecting the holding cells, the courts, and the attorney meeting rooms was identified as an issue during a state audit.

A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

G.7. Social Work Wage Increase – Wexford County Sheriff Office
A motion was made by Comm. Nyman and supported by Comm. Taylor to forward a recommendation to the full board to approve increasing the Jail Social Worker Wage from $61,200.00 to $80,000.00 per year.

Comm. Potter asked whether this would help attract more qualified applicants for the position. Lt. McDaniel stated that he believed it would as this increase would be more comparable to similar positions in surrounding areas. He also explained that additional funding would come from the inmate commissary fund.

A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE
None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS
Mr. Porterfield turned the floor over to Lt. McDaniel to provide an overview of the inmate tablet program. Lt. McDaniel explained that each inmate will be issued a tablet. The tablets offer a variety of functions, including educational classes, access to religious scripture, medical and counseling programs, educational resources, PG-rated movies, and video visitation. He also noted that video calls are monitored, and inmates will receive up to three warnings for violations before the call is terminated.
Comm. Bengelink asked how long inmates would have access to the tablets each day. Lt. McDaniel stated that the tablets will be available from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Comm. Bengelink also asked whether tablet activity could be tracked and monitored. Lt. McDaniel responded that the system retains records for up to five years, if needed. Safeguards are in place to prevent inappropriate

use.

Mr. Porterfield asked whether an inmate who damages a tablet would be issued a replacement. Lt. McDaniel stated that possession of a tablet is a privilege, and inmates who intentionally damage their tablet may lose that privilege and not receive another one in addition to being charged criminally.

Comm. Nyman asked whether Lt. McDaniel anticipated any future issues with the inmate tablet program. Lt. McDaniel responded that he did not. He stated that he met with the company on five separate occasions before deciding to move forward with the tablet program. He also explained that he thoroughly researched the tablets and headphones, noting that the headphones are designed to break easily for safety and security purposes.

Comm. Bengelink asked how many tablets the company provided. Lt. McDaniel stated that the jail received 120 tablets at no cost to the county.

Mr. Porterfield asked whether the tablet program would generate revenue. Lt. McDaniel responded that yes the program will generate revenue over time. He also noted that the tablets will make it easier for inmates to meet and communicate with their attorneys.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS
None.

CHAIR COMMENTS
None.

ADJOURN
A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Bengelink to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 p.m. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed.

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Brian Potter, Chair Megan Swanberg, Recording Secretary