

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, September 16, 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, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, Jason Baughan and Brian Potter.

Absent- Michael Bush.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda- *None.*

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None.*

Presentation and Reports-

Eric Karbowski, MSU Extension Director, provided the Board with their 2025 annual report. He thanked the administrators and the Board for their help during the millage renewal process.

Mr. Karbowksi brought up Nikki Schultz to highlight some of their programs. Ms. Schultz noted that she had been down on the farm with several 8th grade students where they were able to learn about things like artificial insemination, feeding, and milking. This was the second year they were able to do it, and it seems to be a success.

Ms. Schultz also pointed out that they have Manufacturers Day on October 6th for local 9th grade students, and there will be a Brownfield Brainstorm in Lake City on September 23rd. Developer Day will also be returning on October 13th.

Mr. Karbowksi highlighted that they still also have their pest management specialists in office. Erin Lizotte is able to identify most types of bugs, and he encouraged everyone to find out what kind of spider they may have in their homes.

Mr. Karbowski also encouraged everyone to check out their other programs like Master Gardener and Food Preservation programs.

Public Comment- *None*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the September 2, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

All in Favor.

Agenda Items

1. Public Defender FY27 Compensation Proposal

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Theobald that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners adopt the FY27 Public Defender attorney wage scale consisting of APD I, APD II, APD III/Senior, and Chief Public Defender classifications with Start through Year 5 steps; authorize the initial annual placements of Robert Champion at \$145,000, Geoff Harrison at \$108,000, Rob Haertel at \$95,000, and Connor Shantz at \$85,000, effective October 1, 2026, or the first payroll period of the FY27 MIDC grant, as administratively appropriate; and authorize the County Administrator and Human Resources Department to complete the necessary payroll and budget actions using the FY27 MIDC-funded indigent-defense budget.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

2. MSUE FY27 Agreement Extension Services

MOTION by Comm Nelson, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Agreement for Extension Services between Wexford County and Michigan State University Extension in the total annual amount of \$212,514 and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

3. Budget Amendment

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to waive the competitive bidding requirements of policy D-1.0, section I.1.a. and approve the budget amendment in the amount of 17,000 for the Register of Deeds dated August 28, 2026.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

4. Advanced Mechanical Estimate-DHD #10 Furnace & AC Replacement

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the estimate from Advanced Mechanical & Electrical Services, LLC in the amount of \$12,488.15 to replace the furnace and air conditioning unit at the health department and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

5. Shipyard Solar Letter

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Baughan to direct Administrator Porterfield to send a response to the letter from Shipyard Solar, LLC. on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

6. L-4029 Report

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nyman to approve the L-4029 Report authorize the Clerk and board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

7. Resolution 26-22 2026 Winter Millage

MOTION by Comm Baughan and seconded by Comm Theobald to approve Resolution 26-22 2026 Winter Millage for Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Roll Call: Motion passed 8-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield highlighted that several members of the Board went to the MAC conference. He noted that he sent out instructions for entering budget numbers. With the change of the software, there were some struggles, but department heads are starting to enter numbers.

Mr. Porterfield noted that there is an upcoming Opioid Committee Meeting on Friday and a Building Committee the following week.

There was a temporary change for no bags being allowed into the building, due to the hearings on some high profile cases.

The new roof at the Wex will start being installed on October 1st. There were some leaks, and they are trying to determine if it was the roof or some of the units leaking.

Correspondence- None.

Public Comments-

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, is disappointed in the justice system. He failed at the jury trial, and the Defendant was found not guilty on both counts. He still believes in the justice system though. Mr. Koshmider noted that gas prices are going up. Alexjoneslive.com reports that Costco is starting to ration oil. He picked up a jug of oil at Wal-Mart for \$27, and he is willing to sell it for \$30.

Liaison Reports-

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Commissioner Theobald noted the LDFA meeting had been canceled. She attended a Salvation Army meeting. They are looking at options for a new building. They are open to different opinions. Project Christmas is also gearing up. She attended a DHHS meeting also, where they discussed the new work requirements going into effect 10/1. She also attended a CAMA meeting at Akwel.

Comm Potter attended a Clam Lake DDA meeting. They received a \$500,000 grant for water hookups.

Board Comments-

Commissioner Baughan noted it was good to have Mark back.

Commissioner Potter was also happy to have Mark back.

Commissioner Sogge was also happy to see Mark back.

Commissioner Nelson noted that this weekend there would be the World Championship Fish Decoy Farming Show out in Cadillac West. There is also a Fireman Memorial in Roscommon. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Nyman thanked everyone for the well wishes and help received with things he cannot do right now. He is very thankful to have everyone.

Commissioner Bengelink is glad to have Mark back.

Commissioner Theobald is so glad to have Mark back.

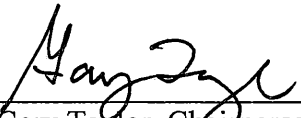
Chairman's Comments-

Chair Taylor is also glad to have Commissioner Nyman back. He thanked everyone for attending.

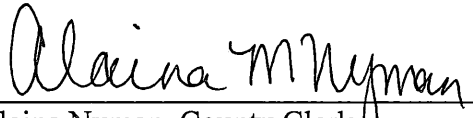
Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Potter to adjourn at 4:22 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina Nyman, County Clerk