CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

September 4, 2025

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 4, 2025, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Lawrence provided the Invocation. Commissioner Barrera led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael called roll:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tom Langley, James Lawrence, Alan Northrop, Jeremiah Jones, Michael Grice, Samuel Barrera, Roseann Marchetti and RJ Lee.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chair Jones added a discussion on investigation findings under Unfinished Business.

Commissioner Barrera added the appointment of Vickie Hall to the Woodlands Board under Unfinished Business.

Commissioner Northrop removed resolution R-17-2025 from the consent agenda and asked that it be addressed under Unfinished Business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the September 4, 2025, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

M-118-2025

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to open the public hearing on the FY 26 Budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

There were no public comments.

M-119-2025

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to close the public hearing on the FY 26 Budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Hilary Hunt, Kai Gritter, Janice Zerbe and Kathy Fischer of the MSU Extension Office shared information on the current extension office as well as the relationship with the Cass County Fair Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, that the following items be voted on at one time by roll call vote and be considered as a consent agenda by the Board of Commissioners:

(M-120-2025) A motion to approve claims dated 08/01/2025 to 08/29/2025

(M-121-2025) To approve the August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

(M-122-2025) To approve the August 15, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

(M-123-2025) A motion to appoint Della Bundle to the Historical Commission for an unexpired term ending July 1, 2028

(M-124-2025) A motion to commence the review process of the Cass County Master Plan

(M-125-2025) A motion to approve budget adjustments

(M-126-2025) A motion to approve the Dowagiac MOU Contract for GIS Services for FY 26-28

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8): Commissioners Lee, Marchetti, Barrera, Grice, Jones, Northrop, Lawrence and Langley.

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Marchetti offered a committee report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim Administrator Rentfrow provided the Administrator's Report.

COUNTY PARTNERS

None.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael, Prosecutor Victor Fitz and Sheriff Clint Roach shared updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M-127-2025

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Barrera, to send the Classification and Compensation Study to the Salary Committee for further review. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-128-25

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to appoint Vickie Hall to the Woodlands Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION

Chair Jones noted that all board members had received the completed investigation from county legal counsel and then asked how the board wanted like to proceed.

Commissioner Northrop moved, seconded by Commissioner Barrera, to immediately terminate the employment of Patrick Jordan without severance pay pursuant to Section 3(A)(3) and (5) of his Employment Agreement.

- 3(A)(3) – The commission of an act which offends common decency or morality, or which brings discredit upon the County or the Board.
- 3(A)(5) – Intentional misconduct or grossly negligent conduct.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8):	Commissioners Barrera, Northrop, Grice, Lee, Marchetti, Lawrence, Langley and Jones.
No (0):	None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

R-17-2025

Commissioner Northrop moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to approve the following resolution:

FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

WHEREAS, the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (Public Act 2 of 1968) provides a system of unified procedures for the preparation and execution of budgets for units of local government;

WHEREAS, the County Administrator has prepared a recommended budget as required by Public Act 2;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to provide for the solvency of county fiscal operations by adopting an Appropriations Act as required by law; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, held a public hearing on the FY 2026 Budget on September 4, 2025, after proper notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cass County Board of Commissioners that this General Appropriations Act is adopted for October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026, and provides by departmental activity, the budgets as approved and amended by the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Appropriations Act reflects the application of $ 2,539,418 from the fund balance of the General Fund for a FY 2026 balanced budget;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the budgets of the Other Funds as attached;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget reflects a reasonable allocation of available resources to the various County departments, boards, and agencies, and allows for all mandated services, programs, and activities to be performed at or above reasonable, necessary, and serviceable levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every appropriation is subject to all County policies as well as the conditions set forth in this resolution and that any modification, addition, or deletion, of such amounts hereby adopted shall be done in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Commissioners;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners grants authority to appointed Boards and Commissions to manage their assigned budgets as adopted herein;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is understood that revenues and expenses may vary from those which are currently contemplated and may be changed from time to time by the Board of Commissioners during the 2026 fiscal years as deemed necessary. Consequently, there may be a need to increase or decrease various portions of the approved budget and/or impose a hiring freeze and/or impose reductions in force due to unforeseen financial changes; therefore, the Board of Commissioners reserves the right to impose a hiring freeze at any time;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those positions included in the budget and programs which are supported partially or in whole by grant, cost sharing, reimbursement, or other source of outside funding are only approved contingent upon the County receiving the budgeted revenues. Upon notification that budgeted funding of a position or program shall not be received, the Elected Official or Department Head shall immediately notify the County Administrator, and that position shall be immediately removed if funding is exhausted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator shall oversee the preparation and maintenance of accounts in every office to enforce this Act as adopted and that the Board of Commissioners permits the County Administrator to execute transfers between line items of departments so as to eliminate the necessity for budget amendments except between distinct departmental activities.

Commissioner Northrop moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to amend the budget to leave the county allocation to the Soil Conservation District at $86,000. Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll on the resolution as amended:

Yes (8): Commissioners Marchetti, Langley, Lawrence, Jones, Barrera, Northrop, Grice and Lee.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-17-2025 carried by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

R-18-2025

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ENTRY OF STATE-SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT CONCERNING ALLOCATION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the County of Cass has been directly impacted by the ongoing opioid epidemic, which has created significant challenges for local communities; and

WHEREAS, in response to these impacts, Cass County has taken legal action and participated in coordinated litigation efforts against certain opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers alleged to have contributed to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, settlements have been reached through negotiations between the settling entities, the State Attorneys General, and a Plaintiff Executive Committee–designated negotiating committee representing approximately 4,000 local governments nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the national settlement agreements and related bankruptcy resolutions provide for the allocation of settlement funds between participating states and their local subdivisions, including Cass County; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State–Subdivision Agreement specifies the method of allocation and requires that no less than 70% of all settlement proceeds be used exclusively for Opioid Remediation purposes, as defined by the settlement terms; and

WHEREAS, the amended Michigan State–Subdivision Agreement further requires that all participating subdivisions file annual reports beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 with the Michigan Department of Attorney General, detailing all settlement funds received, expenditures made, and allocations committed; and

WHEREAS, Cass County's participation in the State–Subdivision Agreement is necessary to receive its share of settlement and/or bankruptcy proceeds from current and future opioid-related litigation or settlements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the execution of the amended Michigan State–Subdivision Agreement governing the allocation of funds from all opioid litigation settlements and bankruptcy proceedings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners authorizes participation in and execution of any substantially similar state–subdivision agreements that govern the allocation of opioid litigation or bankruptcy proceeds obtained from any other settling entities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Administrator and/or Finance Director is hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents consistent with this resolution, subject to review and approval as to form by the County Attorney or by counsel retained for matters relating to opioid litigation.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8): Commissioners Northrop, Grice, Lee, Marchetti, Langley, Lawrence, Jones and Barrera.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-18-2025 carried by roll call vote.

R-19-25

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY OF PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS IN PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION AND ENTRY OF STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTRASTATE AGREEMENT CONCERNING ALLOCATION OF SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS

WHEREAS, the County of Cass filed a lawsuit to address the public nuisance that is the Opioid Epidemic, which named, among others, Purdue Pharma L.P. (Purdue) and several members of the Sackler family (Sackler Family Defendants);

WHEREAS, Purdue has presented a proposed Bankruptcy Plan, and the Sackler Family Defendants have entered into a Governmental Entity & Shareholder Direct Settlement Agreement (together, the "Purdue/Sackler Settlement") with the State Attorneys General and a Plaintiff Executive Committee-designated negotiating committee that represents approximately 4,000 local governments that have brought lawsuits similar to Cass County's lawsuit;

WHEREAS, the Purdue/Sackler Settlement will provide significant equitable and monetary relief, including an agreement that (a) the Sackler Family Defendants will pay $6.5 billion over the next 15 years in exchange for a release of claims against them and (b) the Purdue estate will contribute an amount of approximately $900 million. The bulk of these payments will be dedicated to funding abatement and prevention strategies associated with the opioids public nuisance;

WHEREAS, Cass County previously executed Participation Agreements for the Distributor and Janssen Settlements, as well as the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens Settlements, which have conferred and continue to confer valuable benefits;

WHEREAS, Cass County desires to enter into an allocation method which allocates settlement funds on a 50/50 basis to:
1. Participating Local Governments who have elected to participate in the Purdue/Sackler Settlement; and
2. the State of Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Cass County authorizes the execution of a Participation Agreement for the Purdue/Sackler Settlement, which is available at https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/. A specimen copy of the material terms of the participation agreement is attached as Exhibit A to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Cass County also authorizes the execution of a new Michigan State-Subdivision Agreement for Allocation of Opioid Settlement Agreements substantially similar to the proposed agreement attached as Exhibit B to this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED Cass County also authorizes the Weitz & Luxenberg law firm to vote on Cass County's behalf in favor of the Bankruptcy Plan for Purdue.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8):	Commissioners Langley, Lawrence, Jones, Barrera, Northrop, Grice, Lee and Marchetti.
No (0):	None.

Resolution R-19-25 carried by roll call vote.

R-20-25

Chair Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY OF PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS IN PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION AND ENTRY OF STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTRASTATE AGREEMENT CONCERNING ALLOCATION OF SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS

WHEREAS, the County of Cass filed a lawsuit to address the public nuisance that is the Opioid Epidemic;

WHEREAS, the following entities:

1. Alvogen Inc.
2. Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
3. Apotex Inc.
4. Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.
5. Indivior Inc.
6. Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc.
7. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc. and
8. Zydus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

("Settling Defendants") have negotiated proposed national settlement agreements ("Proposed Settlements") with the State Attorneys General, and a Plaintiff Executive Committee-designated negotiating committee that represents approximately 4,000 local governments that have brought lawsuits similar to Cass County's lawsuit;

WHEREAS, the Proposed Settlements contain significant equitable and monetary relief, including:

1. An agreement to pay (a) $18,680,162 in a single year by Alvogen Inc.; (b) $71,751,010 over ten years by Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; (c) $63,682,369 in a single year by Apotex Inc.; (d) $95,818,293 over one to four years by Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; (e) $38,022,450 over four years by Indivior Inc.; (f) $284,447,916 over nine years by Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc.; (g) $30,992,087 over one to four years by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; and (h) $14,859,220 in a single year by Zydus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The bulk of each of these payments will be dedicated to funding abatement and prevention strategies associated with the opioids public nuisance;
2. In addition to these abatement payments, several of the settlements allow states to receive free pharmaceutical products or cash in lieu of this product.
3. Additionally, seven of the companies (not including Indivior) are prohibited from promoting or marketing opioids and opioid products, making or selling any product that

contains more than 40 mg of oxycodone per pill, and are required to put in place a monitoring and reporting system for suspicious orders.

4. Indivior has agreed to not manufacture or sell opioid products for the next 10 years, but it will be able to continue marketing and selling medications to treat opioid use disorder.

WHEREAS, Cass County previously executed Participation Agreements for the Distributor and Janssen Settlements, as well as the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens Settlements, which have conferred and continue to confer valuable benefits;

WHEREAS, Cass County desires to enter into an allocation method which allocates settlement funds from the Settling Defendants on a 50/50 basis to:

1. Local Governments who have elected to participate in the settlements with the Settling Defendants; and
2. the State of Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Cass County authorizes the execution of Participation Agreements for the Master Settlement Agreements with: (1) Alvogen Inc.; (2) Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; (3) Apotex Inc.; (4) Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; (5) Indivior Inc.; (6) Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc.; (7) Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; and (8) Zydus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., each of which are listed and available to the public at https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/additional-settlements/. Specimen copies of the material terms of the participation agreements are attached in one combined PDF as Exhibit A to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Cass County also authorizes the execution of a new Michigan State-Subdivision Agreement for Allocation of Opioid Settlement Agreements substantially similar to the proposed agreement attached as Exhibit B to this resolution.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (8): Commissioners Lawrence, Jones, Barrera, Northrop, Grice, Lee, Marchetti and Langley.

No (0): None.

Resolution R-20-25 carried by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Barrera and Marchetti shared comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Approved: _____________

Date

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Chair Jeremiah Jones

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Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register