

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**July 2, 2026**

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 2, 2026, in Commission Chambers.

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chair Jones provided the Invocation. Commissioner Northrop 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 R.J. Lee.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the July 2, 2026, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)**

None.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**R-29-2026**

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

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JULY AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH IN  
CASS COUNTY**

WHEREAS parks and recreation are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Cass County; and,

WHEREAS parks and recreation promote health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and,

WHEREAS parks and recreation promote time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing well-being and helping some to alleviate illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer's; and,

WHEREAS parks and recreation encourages physical activities by providing space for fishing, hiking, biking, disc golf, and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and,

WHEREAS parks and recreation programming and education activities, such as out-of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, help our kids learn and grow; and,

WHEREAS parks and recreation increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and,

WHEREAS parks and recreation are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our communities; and,

WHEREAS our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and,

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and,

WHEREAS the County of Cass recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month in Cass County and call upon the citizens of Cass County to explore and appreciate the natural beauty and recreational opportunities available throughout our county's parks.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-29-2026 carried by roll call vote.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, 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-102-2026) A motion to approve the June 18, 2026 meeting minutes

(M-103-2026) A motion to approve claims dated 6/1/2026 to 6/26/2026

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Marchetti offered a committee report.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The June 2026 Administrator's Report was included in the board packet.

## **COUNTY PARTNERS**

MSU Extension 4-H Agent Hilary Hunt shared an update.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael and Circuit Court Administrator Sarah Mathews provided updates.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**R-30-2026**

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

### **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF CASS COUNTY SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (LAKES AREA SEWER AUTHORITY SECTION – EXTENSION NO. 2) BOND CONTRACT AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO**

WHEREAS, a proposed Cass County Sewage Disposal System (Lakes Area Sewer Authority Section – Extension No. 2) Bond Contract (the “Bond Contract”) by and between the County of Cass, Michigan, (“Cass County”) acting by and through its Board of Public Works (the “Board of Public Works”) pursuant to Act 185 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1957, as amended (“Act 185”), the County of Van Buren, Michigan, acting by and through its Board of Public Works pursuant to Act 185 (“Van Buren County”), the Township of Porter, a general law township located in Van Buren County (the “Township” or “Porter”), and the Lakes Area Sewer Authority, a public corporation (the “Authority”) established under the provisions of Act 233 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1955, as amended, has been presented to and considered by this County Board of Commissioners in the form on file with the County Clerk Register; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Contract includes a description of System Extension No. 2, District Extension No. 2 and the Project (as said terms are defined in the Bond Contract), and estimates of cost and provides for the acquisition, construction, and financing of the Project by Cass County pursuant to Act 185; and

WHEREAS, the Township, the Authority, and Cass County previously anticipated applying to the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Agency (“Rural Development”) for loan and/or grant assistance to pay all or a portion of the cost of the Project; and

WHEREAS, because of the urgent need for the Project and to promote the health and welfare of the residents of this Township this Township has concluded that the Project can be provided and financed most economically and efficiently by Cass County through the exercise of the powers conferred by Act 185 without the assistance of Rural Development; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Contract provides for the issuance of bonds in one or more series by Cass County to defray all or part of the cost of the Project, said bonds to be limited tax full faith and credit general obligations of Cass County if approved by a three-fifths majority of the members-elect of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, secured by the Bond Contract and the full faith credit limited tax general obligation of the Township thereunder to pay to Cass County amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds when due and to pay such fees and other expenses as may be incurred on account of said bonds; and

WHEREAS, a description of the Project to be acquired, constructed and financed by Cass County to serve the Township is set forth in Exhibit A to the Bond Contract; and

WHEREAS, an estimate of cost of the Project is set forth in Exhibit B to the Bond Contract; and

WHEREAS, the estimated period of usefulness of the Project is set forth in Exhibit C to the Bond Contract; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township will advance a portion of the cost of the Project prior to issuance of the bonds, such advance to be reimbursed, without interest, to the Township from proceeds of the County's bonds upon the issuance thereof; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations on Income Tax (the "Reimbursement Regulations") specifies conditions under which a reimbursement allocation may be treated as an expenditure of financing proceeds, and the County intends by this resolution to qualify monies advanced by the Township to the Project for reimbursement from proceeds of the bonds in accordance with the requirements of the Reimbursement Regulations.

WHEREAS, in order to finance the acquisition and construction of the Project and to issue the bonds of Cass County to finance the acquisition and construction of the Project, and to provide for the operation and maintenance of System Extension No. 2 and the use thereof to serve residents and customers of the Township, it is necessary that Cass County, Van Buren County, the Township and the Authority enter into the Bond Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Board of Public Works has reviewed and approved the description, estimate of cost and the estimated period of usefulness of the Project and the Bond Contract, and has recommended that this County Board of Commissioners adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Cass County Board of Commissioners, by a majority vote of its members-elect, hereby approves the description of the Project (as defined in the Bond Contract) and the areas to be served by System Extension No. 2, the estimate of cost of the Project, the estimated period of usefulness of the Project, and the Bond Contract.
2. The Chairman and Secretary of the Cass County Board of Public Works are authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Bond Contract for and on behalf of Cass County in the form approved by this Resolution together with such additions and deletions as said officers deem to be appropriate and in the best interests of Cass County (in such number of counterparts as may be desirable).
3. The Cass County bonds provided for by the Bond Contract shall be issued with such terms as shall be established by separate authorizing resolution subsequently approved by the Cass County Board of Commissioners.
4. The Bond Contract, as presented to the Cass County Board of Commissioners on this date, shall be kept on file at the office of the Chairman of the Cass County Board of Public Works for public inspection, together with a certified copy of this resolution.
5. As set forth in and in accordance with the Township's resolution approving the Bond Contract, it is reasonably expected that the Township has advanced, or will advance, funds for the Project prior to issuance of the bonds, including items exempt from the Reimbursement Regulations, from monies on hand in the Township's general fund in the estimated amount of \$500,000.
6. The County hereby declares its official intent, and reasonable expectation, to reimburse all or a portion of the amounts so advanced by the Township for the Project from the proceeds of the bonds in accordance with the Reimbursement Regulations.
7. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Resolution R-30-2026 carried by roll call vote.

**M-104-2026**

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to approve a budget adjustment for the Historical Commission. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-105-2026**

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to approve a 5-year renewal option for audit services with Yeo & Yeo. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

**M-106-2026**

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to create the Temporary Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (Hourly Pay) classification to provide temporary prosecutorial support as needed, with compensation established at an hourly rate not to exceed the County's current court appointed attorney rate. The pay will range from \$75 to \$125. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Northrop moved, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, to send the item to the Salary Committee. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (4): Commissioners Lawrence, Northrop, Grice and Lee.

No (4): Commissioners Langley, Jones, Barrera and Marchetti.

The motion to send the item to the Salary Committee failed by roll call vote.

Discussion continued on the original motion.

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to amend the motion to add the language "not to exceed one year." Discussion followed. Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll on the amended motion:

To create the Temporary Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (Hourly Pay) classification to provide temporary prosecutorial support as needed, with compensation established at an hourly rate not to exceed the County's current court appointed attorney rate and not to exceed one year.

Yes (6): Commissioners Jones, Barrera, Grice, Lee, Marchetti and Langley.

No (2): Commissioners Lawrence and Northrop.

Amended motion M-106-2026 carried by roll call vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment occurred.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Jeremiah Jones

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register