

**CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

January 9, 2025

The Cass County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2025, in Commission Chambers.

Clerk/Register Monica McMichael 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Election of Chair for a One-Year Term

Clerk/Register McMichael opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Board of Commissioners, a one-year term:

Commissioner Grice nominated Commissioner Marchetti.
Commissioner Barrera nominated Commissioner Jones.
Commissioner Langley nominated Commissioner Lawrence.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to close nominations. Motion carried by voice vote.

Clerk/Register McMichael instructed commissioners to cast their vote via secret ballot. After collecting the voted slips, Clerk/Register McMichael read the votes as follows:

Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.
Commissioner Jones received three votes.
Commissioner Lawrence received three votes.

Commissioners voted a second time with the following results:

Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.
Commissioner Jones received three votes.

Commissioner Lawrence received three votes.

Upon request, Clerk/Register McMichael declared a five-minute recess at 5:14 p.m.

The meeting re-convened at 5:20 p.m.

Clerk/Register McMichael announced that, despite the fact that the board had historically cast their vote for Chair via secret ballot, the law required a majority vote of the board to authorize the voting method.

Commissioner Grice moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to elect a Chair by secret ballot. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commissioners voted a third time with the following results:

Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.

Commissioner Jones received three votes.

Commissioner Lawrence received three votes.

Commissioners chose to caucus in groups no larger than four at 5:24 p.m.

The meeting returned to regular session at 5:59 p.m.

Commissioners cast their vote by secret ballot with the following results:

Commissioner Jones received four votes.

Commissioner Lawrence received two votes.

Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.

Clerk/Register McMichael announced that the election of Chair required a majority vote, or five of eight votes. With four votes, Commissioner Jones was not elected Chair.

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Grice, to re-open nominations. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commissioner Lee nominated Commissioner Barrera.

Commissioner Langley nominated Commissioner Lawrence.

Commissioner Barrera nominated Commissioner Jones.

Commissioner Grice nominated Commissioner Marchetti.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to close the floor for nominations. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commissioners voted with the following results:

Commissioner Barrera received two votes.
Commissioner Jones received two votes.
Commissioner Lawrence received two votes.
Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to conduct the vote for Chair by an open roll call vote.

Clerk/Register McMichael called roll:

Yes (3): Commissioners Lee, Langley and Barrera.

No (5): Commissioners Grice, Marchetti, Northrop, Lawrence and Jones.

The motion failed by roll call vote.

Commissioners voted by secret ballot with the following results:

Commissioner Barrera received two votes.
Commissioner Jones received two votes.
Commissioner Lawrence received two votes.
Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.

Commissioner Lawrence withdrew his name from consideration. Commissioner Barrera withdrew his name from consideration.

Commissioners again cast a secret ballot.

Commissioner Jones received six votes.
Commissioner Marchetti received two votes.

Commissioner Jones was elected Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners.
Clerk/Register McMichael turned the meeting over to Chair Jones.

Election of Vice-Chair for a One-Year Term

Chair Jones opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, a one-year term.

Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Lawrence.
Commissioner Grice nominated Commissioner Marchetti.
Commissioner Lee nominated Commissioner Barrera.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to close the floor for nominations. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Commissioner Grice:	Commissioner Marchetti
Commissioner Marchetti:	Commissioner Marchetti
Commissioner Langley:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Northrop:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Lawrence:	Commissioner Lawrence
Chair Jones:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Barrera:	Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Lee:	Commissioner Lawrence

Commissioner Lawrence was elected Vice-Chair for a one-year term.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Marchetti requested the Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health appointment be removed from the Consent Agenda and appear under New Business.

Commissioner Barrera requested that M-6-2025 be removed from the Consent Agenda and appear under New Business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the January 9, 2025, Cass County Board of Commissioner's Agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

RECOGNITIONS

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chair 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-3-2025) A motion to approve Claims dated 12/01/2024 through 12/31/2024

(M-4-2025) A motion to approve Special Meeting Minutes dated December 13, 2024

(M-5-2025) A motion to approve Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes dated December 19, 2024

(M-7-2025) A motion to approve Opioid Settlement Requests from the Cass County Problem-Solving Courts and Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network

(M-8-2025) A motion to approve the Marcellus Township Police Services Contract

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

The Consent Agenda carried by roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners Jones, Barrera and Marchetti offered committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim Administrator Jennifer Rentfrow provided a written Administrator's Report in the board packet.

COUNTY PARTNERS

Mercedes Schirrippa, Executive Director of the Cass County Medical Care Facility, introduced herself.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Prosecutor Fitz, Sheriff Roach and Judge Bealor shared updates.

NEW BUSINESS

M-9-2025

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Northrop, to approve the 2025 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Northrop, to amend the calendar to the following:

REGULAR MEETINGS

January 9
February 6
March 6
April 10
May 1
June 5
July 10
August 14
September 4
October 2
November 6
December 4

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

January 23
February 20
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19
July 17
August 14
September 18
October 16
November 20
December 18

Motion to amend carried by voice vote. Motion M-9-2025 as amended carried by voice vote.

M-11-2025

Commissioner Lawrence moved, seconded by Commissioner Northrop, to approve the purchase of a new K-9 Vehicle and the Necessary Budget Adjustment through the CCDET Fund. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

M-12-2025

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to appoint Priscilla Gatties to the Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health. Discussion followed.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (5) : Commissioners Northrop, Lawrence, Lee, Grice and Marchetti.

No (3): Commissioners Jones, Barrera and Langley.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

M-6-2025

Commissioner Marchetti moved, seconded by Commissioner Northrop, to approve the following Appointments to Board and Commissions:

Kinexus Board – Anna Murphy and Arlandar Washington
Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield – Joyce Locke and Lori Whitmyer
Board of Public Works - James Dodd and Joe Silvia
Parks & Recreation Commission – Joyce Locke and Annie File
Materials Management Planning Committee – Kim Haneberg and Donovan Kelley

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Barrera moved, seconded by Commissioner Langley, to amend the motion to remove the appointment of Joyce Locke and Lori Whitmyer to the Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Board. Motion to amend carried by voice vote.

Motion M-6-2025 as amended carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment occurred.

CLOSED SESSION

M-10-2025

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Barrera, to enter Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) and to include Clerk/Register McMichael, Treasurer Anderson, Interim Administrator/Finance Director Rentfrow, Attorney Nic Spiegel, and any other person as designated by the Board Chair.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call roll:

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

No (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote. The meeting moved to Closed Session at 6:42 p.m.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:02 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchetti, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Approved: _____
Date

Chair Jeremiah Jones

Monica McMichael, Clerk/Register