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**SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 20, 2026 SESSION**

The January Session of the Board of Commissioners of Saginaw County, Michigan convened at 5:04 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at the Saginaw County Courthouse, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602 with the Honorable Jack B. Tany in the Chair.

**PRESENT:** Christopher S. Boyd, Denny M. Harris, John L. Kaczynski, Gerald D. Little, Sheldon Matthews, Mark S. Piotrowski, Tracey L. Slodowski, Richard A. Spitzer, Jack B. Tany, and Michael A. Webster

– **10**

**ABSENT:** Lisa R. Coney – **1**

**TOTAL:** – **11**

**OTHERS:** Vanessa Guerra, Mary Catherine Hannah, Dave Gilbert, Koren Thurston, Todd Borders, Gilbert Ramirez II, Hon. Barbara Meter, Yolanda Gonzales, Mickey Holm, Julie (Paul) Champagne, Jim Champagne, A. Taylor, Mary McLaughlin, Eric Smith, Kyron Redding, Kelly Suppes, Jaime Ceja, Undersheriff Gomez, Darcie Totten, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Kila Thomas, Tom Miller Jr., Steve Hensley, Christina Harrington, Andrew Klaczkiwicz, Suzy Koeplinger, Renee Sharkey, Catherine Hicks, and others

- ✚ Vice-Chair Little gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- ✚ Administrator Hannah introduced the new Deputy Administrator, Gilbert Ramirez II, to the Board. His official start date is next Monday. Prior to his employment with the County of Saginaw, he served as the City of Pontiac's Grants Compliance Analyst. Among other things, he will be working on grants and special projects and represent Administration leadership at various Boards and Commissions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ❖ Minutes of the December 16, 2025 Committee of the Whole and the December 16, 2025 Regular Board Session were approved.

**AUDIENCES**

- Commissioner Boyd, along with Family Court Judge Barbara Meter and Court Administrator Todd Borders, presented Julie Paul with a Certificate of Recognition for her work with Forgotten Youth Ministries and 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Family/Juvenile Division. Judge Meter gave honor to Julie Paul calling her an "Angel on earth" and spoke of what a wonderful person she is and how valuable the work she has done through Forgotten Youth Ministries has been. Todd Borders spoke of the 27 years she has been working with detention kids, providing entertainment, mentorship and guidance. He expressed his amazement at the amount of clothing she has donated to the Foster Closet throughout the years. They and the many audience members who worked with Julie Paul were invited to stand for a photo.

**LAUDATORY RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

- ❖ Certificate of Recognition to Julie Paul to honor her for her work with Forgotten Youth Ministries

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Approved amendments to the Animal Control Advisory Council Bylaws
- Approved 6<sup>th</sup> amendment to the funding agreement for economic development between County of Saginaw and Saginaw Future
- Approved amendment of County Policy #351 – Travel regarding the use of MBS International Airport
- Approved County of Saginaw Brand Identity Guide and Policy
- Approved vendor transactions for December 2025 in the amount of \$12,546,197.33
- Approved acceptance of \$150,000 in grant funds from MDHHS (Michigan HUB Program) for FY26
- Approved Sheriff's request to increase its Surplus Sales account and Vehicle Purchase account by \$13,000 to purchase a Dodge Durango for \$35,528
- Approved 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Family Division to amend the Childcare Fund programming by \$258,720 for the local Community Mental Health Authority to cover expanded services for children under court jurisdiction
- Approved County Administrator's request for a FY 2026 budget amendment in the amount of \$5,196,878 from the General Fund to the Public Improvement Fund specifically for the purposes of the development and construction of a new Health Department facility
- Approved two (2) Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements between County of Saginaw and UAW Local 455 – Unit 48 and Teamsters Local 214 to allow the Public Health Officer to increase the pay step of the Nursing Program Supervisor and newly hired Public Health Nurses at her discretion
- Approved Collective Bargaining Agreement between County of Saginaw and POAM - Deputies
- Approved Commissioner Compensation Reports 1-20-26.1 and 1-20-26.2

## **APPOINTMENTS**

None

## **ELECTIONS**

- ✓ Cassi Zimmerman was reappointed to the Land Bank Authority with a term to expire December 31, 2029

## **CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ❖ Chairman Tany announced he is elated with the Rx Kids program. He congratulated Christina Harrington for recently kicking off the program. Chairman Tany informed the Board and the audience that Rx Kids started with Dr. Mona Hanna Attisha in Genesee County. He stated we had the funds for this program, then lost the funds, and then they were reinstated. This program will help mothers of newborns in the City of Saginaw and the townships of Bridgeport and Buena Vista with expenses after having a baby. He appreciated that we do not have to keep track of the funds because the Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiduciary.

## **COMMISSIONER AUDIENCES**

- ❖ Commissioner Kaczynski announced Zehnder's Snowfest in Frankenmuth from January 28 - February 1, 2026. Some of the activities at this event will be an international snow and ice sculpting competition, family entertainment, fireworks, a petting zoo, a baking competition and live entertainment in the warming tent. John Shelton, Vice President of Marketing for Zehnders of Frankenmuth, who was one of the creators 35 years ago, will pass his role on to his son Nick this year. Commissioner Kaczynski also added, if you are unable to attend during the festival, they will keep the sculptures around and due to the cold temperatures, they will likely be visible the following week. Commissioner Kaczynski thanked everyone for reaching out to him during his absence.
- ❖ Commissioner Boyd gave congratulations to the Indiana Hoosiers (16-0) on their perfect season, a first national title and for bringing the Big 10 national championship win back to the mid-west.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REMARKS**

- ❖ Administrator Hannah spoke with commissioners about the naming rights at the Dow Event Center. Dow Chemical had secured the rights in 2004 but will not be able to sponsor at the same level going forward. In order to replace revenue, other sponsorship opportunities are being considered. The Red Room is now the Jolt Celebration Club sponsored by the Jolt Credit Union. The Jolt Credit Union Event Park is seeking sponsorship and will likely have a new name by the time summer events begin. The Heritage Theater has been renamed Applied Innovations Theater and will display signage honoring the formerly named Heritage Theater. Contractually the management company is responsible for selling the naming rights. The Saginaw Spirit sponsor 50% because of their marketing ability. The press conference will be rescheduled and the event space renamed. The Building Authority owns The Dow and has approved the new sponsorships. Commissioner Webster asked if we could sell rights to the parking ramp.
- ❖ Administrator Hannah reminded commissioners of the strategic planning session on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. to be held at The Dow. Chairman Tany commented that in March, Morley will put up the display case to hold the Spirit Memorial Cup jersey given to the Board of Commissioners by the Saginaw Spirit after winning the Memorial Cup, a replica of the Memorial Cup trophy, Commissioner Boyd's replica Memorial Cup ring, and the awards given to the County of Saginaw.
- ❖ Administrator Hannah announced that big projects are underway in the Dow's Heritage Theater. The sound system is being updated; the equipment has been delivered; the lights will be updated early this summer during shut down; and the bathrooms located on the theater side are being refreshed and updated.
- ❖ It was also announced that the Early Voting Center opens this weekend.

Respectfully Submitted,

**SAGINAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JACK B. TANY**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**VANESSA GUERRA**  
**COUNTY CLERK**

Prepared by:

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