

**MINUTES**  
**COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602  
**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.**

Present: Christopher Boyd - Chair, Mark Piotrowski, Rich Spitzer, Jack Tany  
Absent: Sheldon Matthews – Vice-Chair  
Others: Vanessa Guerra, Koren Thurston, Dave Gilbert, Carissa Diffin, Kelly Suppes, Jaime Ceja and Suzy Koepplinger

- I. Call to order – **Chair Boyd at 4:02 p.m.**
- II. Welcome/Roll-call
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes (***October 7, 2025***)
  - ***Moved by Piotrowski, seconded by Tany, to approve. Motion carried.***
- IV. Public comment
  - Judge McGraw provided an update for the courts. He noted there have been some positive changes in Juvenile. They identify the problematic offenders to ensure they're not influencing the less violent offenders. Presently there are 4-6 juvenile offenders that have been relocated to the Saginaw County Jail and 20-25 juvenile offenders being housed at the Juvenile Detention Center.
- V. Agenda
  1. **Rachel Horton, Director, SCACCRC**, re:
    - **1-20-3** Update on Animal Care & Control operations (*Receive & File*)
    - Rachel Horton, Director, SCACCRC, provided an update on the animal shelter. She noted there is a mentor program being created with MSU. She provided explanation of a managed intake system which helps them manage the space available for strays and surrenders. She spoke about Best Friends, a national organization with extensive experience, that has selected Saginaw County as a recipient of one of the programs which will provide staffing. Through this program, two people have been assigned to SCACCRC for at least 6 months at no cost to the county. Saginaw will also benefit from Best Friends marketing department who will assist in explaining this new program.
  2. **Tracey Slodowski, Chair of Animal Control Advisory Council**, re:
    - **1-20-4** Requesting approval of amendments to the Animal Control Advisory Council's Bylaws (*Board Report*)
    - In Tracey Slodowski's absence, County Administrator Hannah provided an update of the proposed revisions to the Animal Control Advisory Council Bylaws. She noted the council has had issues with attendance so many proposal revisions are connected to the number of meetings as well as not having enough members to meet quorum. Chair Boyd recommended consideration to make changes to the bylaws regarding the creation of committees. Adopting the following amendments was recommended:
      - Council shall establish a 10-meeting schedule at the beginning of the year
      - The number of members shall be reduced to 9 with a quorum being 5 members
      - Language related to the committee structure should be removed
      - Adopt the remainder of changes as presented.
    - ***Moved by Tany, seconded by Piotrowski, to approve as amended. Motion carried. (Board Report)***

3. Any other matters to come before the committee

- Judge Gafkay distributed copies of a report for the Board regarding:
  - Chief Judge Appointments and Internal Court Leadership
  - Judicial Resources Recommendations – Status Updates
  - The status of Judicial Information System (JIS) Migration
  - The Strategic Judicial Forum that all judges will attend on February 25, 2026
- Judge Gafkay stated that the Saginaw County Trial Courts appreciate the continued partnership and support of the Board of Commissioners and remain committed to transparency and continuous improvement.

VI. Miscellaneous – *None*

VII. Adjournment – ***Piotrowski moved, seconded by Tany, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:52 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher Boyd, Committee Chair  
Vanessa Guerra, Committee Clerk