

# CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Chairperson**  
Bruce DeLong  
**Vice-Chairperson**  
Zach Rudat

**Members**  
Nicole Fickes  
Brian Hurtekant  
Robert Showers  
John Andrews  
Dwight Washington

**COURTHOUSE**  
**100 E. STATE STREET**  
**ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879-1571**  
**989-224-5120**



**Administrator/Controller**  
John F. Fuentes  
**Clerk of the Board**  
Debra A. Sutherland

DATE 1/2/2026 The Clinton County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, January 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with Clerk Sutherland calling the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Clerk Sutherland called for a moment of silence. The pledge of allegiance was given to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL Roll was called with a quorum of the members in attendance: Nicole Fickes, Zach Rudat, Bruce DeLong, Brian Hurtekant, Robert Showers, John Andrews and Dwight Washington.

COUNTY PERSONNEL John Fuentes, Todd Campbell, Stephanie Dush, Steve Wiswasser, Undersheriff Gute and Craig Thelen

VISITORS Val Vail-Shirey, Donna Graham, Jim Lawless, Dawn Lawless, David Smith, Jody Smith, Philip Bareham, Nancy Bareham, Mark Belfanz and Jessie Stipcak

AGENDA The agenda was presented for review and approval.

**BOARD ACTION:** Commissioner Hurtekant moved, seconded by Commissioner Fickes to move public comments and approve the agenda as amended. Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Commissioners Washington, Fickes, Rudat and Hurtekant. Commissioners Showers, Andrews and DeLong voted no. Four ayes, three nays. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Clerk Sutherland called for public comments. The following individuals offered public comments:

- Tim Fair, DeWitt Township
- Nancy Bareham, Watertown Township
- Mark Belfanz, Riley Township
- Phillip Bareham, Watertown Township
- Jesse Spicak, DeWitt Township
- Steve Wiswasser, Bath Township, Clinton County Treasurer
- Dawn Lawless, Bingham Township

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON Clerk Sutherland opened the nominations for Chairperson of the Board. Commissioner Rudat nominated Bruce DeLong for Chairperson. Clerk Sutherland called for further nominations. None were offered.

**BOARD ACTION:** Commissioner Showers moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to close the nominations and cast a majority ballot for the election of Commissioner DeLong as Chairperson for 2026.

Discussion followed.

Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Commissioners Andrews, Rudat, Fickes, Showers, Washington and DeLong. Commissioner Hurtekant voted no. Six ayes, one nay. Motion carried.

By majority vote, Bruce DeLong is elected as Chairperson.

ELECTION OF  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Clerk Sutherland opened the nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Commissioner Showers nominated Zach Rudat for Vice-Chairperson. Clerk Sutherland called for further nominations. None were offered.

**BOARD ACTION:** Commissioner Showers moved, seconded by Commissioner Fickes to close the nominations and cast a majority ballot for the election of Commissioner Rudat as Vice-Chairperson for 2026. Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Commissioners Rudat, Andrews, Showers, Fickes, Washington, Hurtekant and DeLong. Seven ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.

By majority vote, Zach Rudat is elected as Vice-Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON ASSUMES  
THE CHAIR

Commissioner DeLong assumed the Chair.

ADOPTION OF 2026  
MEETING SCHEDULE

Commissioners reviewed the 2026 proposed meeting schedule.

JANUARY 27 @ 9:00 a.m.	JULY 28 @ 9:00 a.m.
FEBRUARY 24 @ 9:00 a.m.	AUGUST 25 @ 9:00 a.m.
MARCH 31 @ 9:00 a.m.	SEPTEMBER 29 @ 9:00 a.m.
APRIL 21 @ 9:00 a.m.	OCTOBER 13 @ 6:00 p.m.
MAY 26 @ 9:00 a.m.	OCTOBER 27 @ 9:00 a.m.
JUNE 30 @ 9:00 a.m.	NOVEMBER 24 @ 9:00 a.m.
	DECEMBER 18 @ 10:00 a.m. (Friday)

**BOARD ACTION:** Commissioner Showers moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to adopt the meeting schedule as proposed.

Discussion followed.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

The list of 2026 Committee Chairpersons, Committee Assignments and other Boards/Agencies was presented in detail with the following Committee Chairpersons being recommended by Chairperson DeLong:

Ways and Means Committee – Zach Rudat  
Human Resources Committee – Nicole Fickes  
Public Safety Committee – Zach Rudat

**BOARD ACTION:** Commissioner Showers moved, seconded by Commissioner Washington to appoint the above-named Commissioners as Chairpersons to the respective Committees, in addition concur with the Committee Assignments and Appointments to other Boards/Agencies with amendments at the recommendation of Chairperson DeLong.

Discussion followed.

Voting on the motion by roll call vote, those voting aye were Commissioners Washington, Showers, Andrews and DeLong. Commissioners Fickes, Hurtekant and Rudat voted no. Four ayes, three nays. Motion carried.  
(INSERT BOARD COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS)

JANUARY 2026  
OPEN MEETINGS AND  
EVENTS CALENDAR

Chairperson DeLong introduced discussion regarding the January 2026 Open Meetings and Events Calendar as well as

**BOARD ACTION:** Commissioner Showers moved, seconded by Commissioner Fickes to approve the January 2026 Open Meetings and Events Calendar and include a Special Board of Commissioners' meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss Planning was proposed and added to the motion. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/  
CONTROLLER'S  
COMMENTS

Administrator/Controller Fuentes reported that he will prepare an agenda for the February 5, 2026 Special Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS'  
COMMENTS

Chairperson DeLong called for Commissioners' comments:

- Commissioner Andrews, Commissioner Fickes, Commissioner Showers, Commissioner Washington, Commissioner Hurtekant, Commissioner Rudat and Chairperson DeLong all offered comments

ADJOURNMENT

**BOARD ACTION:** With no further business to come before the Board, Chairperson DeLong adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Motion carried.



Debra A. Sutherland, Clerk of the Board

NOTE: These minutes are subject to approval on January 27, 2026.