

**ALLEGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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APRIL 9, 2026 SESSION

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APRIL 9, 2026 SESSION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan on April 9, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in accordance with the motion for adjournment of March 26, 2026, and rules of this board; Chair Beltman presiding.

Upon roll call the following members answered as Commissioners for the respective Districts:

- DIST #1 CRAIG VAN BEEK
- DIST #2 MARK DEYOUNG
- DIST #3 BRAD LUBBERS
- DIST #4 SCOTT BELTMAN
- DIST #5 GALE DUGAN

The invocation was offered by District #1 Commissioner Van Beek.

The Chief Deputy Clerk led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MARCH 26, 2026 SESSION MINUTES – ADOPTED AS PRESENTED

2/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Lubbers to approve the minutes for the March 26, 2026 session as distributed. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NO COMMENTS

3/ Chair Beltman opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

AGENDA ADOPTED AS AMENDED

4/ Chair Beltman asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Administrator Sarro requested ARPA funds be an addition to the agenda as a discussion item.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Lubbers to adopt the changes to the meeting agenda as requested. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION: 57th DISTRICT COURT

5/ Laurie Tange, Court Administrator from the 57th District Court presented the Board with an annual report.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

6/ Administrator Sarro noted his written report was submitted to Commissioners. Highlights included, the progress of going forward with the Medical Care project, Eden Software Replacement project, Parks Recreation Program update along with information regarding the Pop-up sites around the county to raise awareness of the senior services home delivered meal program.

CONSENT ITEMS:

FINANCE – CLAIMS & INTERFUND TRANSFERS

7/ **WHEREAS**, Administration has compiled the following claims for 4/3/26 and 4/10/26; and **WHEREAS**, the following claims, which are chargeable against the County, were audited in accordance with Section 46.61 to 46.63, inclusive, M.C.L. 1970 as amended and resolutions of the Board; and **WHEREAS**, said claims are listed in the 2026 Claims folder of the Commissioners’ Record of Claims.

APRIL 3, 2026

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund – 101	177,433.08	177,433.08	
County Road Fund – 201	3,596.68	3,596.68	
Parks/Recreation Fund – 208	1,423.68	1,423.68	

Friend of the Court – Cooperative Reimb. – 215	3,396.00	3,396.00	
Friends of the Court – 216	6,192.00	6,192.00	
Health Department Fund – 221	1,656.47	1,656.47	
Animal Shelter – 254	1,104.25	1,104.25	
Indigent Defense Fund – 260	21,230.49	21,230.49	
Law Enf Training Fund PA302 – 266	1,940.00	1,940.00	
Law Library Fund – 269	2,489.63	2,489.63	
Sheriffs Contracts – 287	108.75	108.75	
Transportation Fund – 288	5,904.12	5,904.12	
Child Care Fund – 292	6,328.40	6,328.40	
Veterans Relief Fund – 293	428.52	428.52	
Senior Services Fund – 298	3,147.61	3,147.61	
Capital Improvement Fund – 401	5,888.27	5,888.27	
Medical Care Facility Fund – 512	872.01	872.01	
Property Tax Adjustments – 516	1,865.07	1,865.07	
Self-Insurance Fund – 677	44,910.93	44,910.93	
Drain Fund – 801	20,647.84	20,647.84	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$310,563.80	\$310,563.80	

APRIL 10, 2026

	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	AMOUNT ALLOWED	AMOUNT DISALLOWED
General Fund – 101	141,632.86	141,632.86	
Parks/Recreation Fund – 208	5,711.72	5,711.72	
Friend of the Court – Cooperative Reimb. – 215	1,852.81	1,852.81	
Friends of the Court – 216	374.00	374.00	
MCOLES CPE – 217	1,689.08	1,689.08	
Health Department Fund – 221	16,903.49	16,903.49	
Solid Waste/Recycling – 226	338.65	338.65	
Animal Shelter – 254	9,833.87	9,833.87	
Central Dispatch Fund – 261	63,393.46	63,393.46	
Local Corrections Officers Training Fund – 264	863.56	863.56	
Law Enf. Training Fund PA302 – 266	200.00	200.00	
Grants – 279	3,025.00	3,025.00	
Transportation Fund – 288	28,981.88	28,981.88	
Child Care Fund – 292	22,040.32	22,040.32	
Veterans Relief Fund – 293	332.16	332.16	
Senior Services Fund – 298	28,143.35	28,143.35	
Property Tax Adjustments – 516	535.31	535.31	
Delq. Tax Revolving Fund 2025 Taxes – 525	7,833,664.20	7,833,664.20	
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund - 639	409.80	409.80	
Fleet Management/Motor Pool – 661	42.93	42.93	

Self-Insurance Fund – 677	550,013.70	550,013.70	
Drain Fund – 801	3,271.78	3,271.78	
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIMS	\$8,713,253.93	\$8,713,253.93	

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners adopts the report of claims for 4/3/26, 4/10/26, and interfund transfers.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

BREAK – 10:15 A.M.

8/ Upon reconvening at 10:25 A.M., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Van Beek, DeYoung, Lubbers, Beltman and Dugan. Absent: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

LAKE LEVEL RESOLUTIONS

9.1/ Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Lubbers to remove from the table the Pine Creek Lake - Lake Level discussion. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PINE CREEK LAKE – LAKE LEVEL

9.2/ WHEREAS, Pine Creek Lake, located in Otsego Township, Allegan County, Michigan has a normal lake level established by the Allegan County Circuit Court under Part 307 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, as amended (“Part 307”); and

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners and its delegated authority, the Allegan County Drain Commissioner (“Delegated Authority”), have jurisdiction to operate and maintain of the normal level of Pine Creek Lake. MCL 324.30702; and

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners is subject to a Flowage Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that, together with the court order, sets specific requirements for the lake level related to fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson Road, which is a county road under the jurisdiction of the Allegan County Road Commission, runs over the Pine Creek Lake Dam; and

WHEREAS, Part 307’s primary mechanism to fund infrastructure and activities to operate and maintain the normal level of Pine Creek Lake is by special assessments using a lake level special assessment district established by the Allegan County Circuit Court. See e.g., MCL 324.30711; and

WHEREAS, a review of the historical court orders relating to Pine Creek Lake’s normal level found that updates are necessary to ensure that the boundaries of the lake level special assessment district accurately reflect the parcels that benefit from the normal level. See e.g., MCL 324.30711; and

WHEREAS, Part 307 requires annual expenditures of over \$10,000 to be approved by a county board of commissioners. MCL 324.30722(4); and

WHEREAS, for the reasons stated herein, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners finds it necessary to: (1) approve hiring legal counsel and engineers to assist with the Part 307 lake level process, including filing a petition in the Allegan County Circuit Court; (2) amend the lake level order for Pine Creek Lake as necessary to allow Allegan County to operate and maintain the normal lake level, including updating and confirming the boundaries of the existing lake level special assessment district, and (3) authorize annual expenditures of over \$10,000 for activities to operate and maintain the normal level of Pine Creek Lake.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. Legal Counsel:** The Drain Commissioner may retain legal counsel Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC to assist with legal matters related to the Part 307 lake level process. Said legal counsel is explicitly authorized to file a petition in the Allegan County Circuit Court on behalf of Allegan County to amend the lake level order for Pine Creek Lake to update and confirm the boundaries of the existing lake level special assessment district and conduct any other updates to the lake level order that are necessary to allow Allegan County to operate and maintain the normal level of Pine Creek Lake. See MCL 324.30707(5) (circuit court has continuing jurisdiction). Said legal counsel is further authorized to assist the Delegated Authority with the

compilation of a special assessment roll and preparation/coordination of any necessary easements and/or other agreements.

2. **Engineers:** The Drain Commissioner may retain, in a manner consistent with the Drain Code, the necessary engineering services, to assist with activities related to maintenance and operation of the normal level of Pine Creek Lake, including but not limited to the preparation of studies and recommendations related to the boundaries of the lake level special assessment district and any other necessary updates to the lake level order; providing expert testimony related to the lake level order; compilation and approval of a special assessment roll; and preparation/coordination of any necessary easements and/or other agreements.
3. **Over \$10,000 Expenditure:** The Allegan County Board of Commissioners approves annual expenditures of over \$10,000 for activities to maintain the normal level of Pine Creek Lake, including maintenance and repair of lake level infrastructure. MCL 324.30722(4). This express authorization to spend more than \$10,000 annually shall authorize annual expenditures of over \$10,000 for all years in which work for the authorized activities herein continues to occur.
4. **Costs of Activities:** All costs associated with the activities authorized herein, including retaining all necessary consultants (e.g. legal counsel and engineers), shall be reimbursed by a lake level special assessment district to the extent permitted by Part 307.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Lubbers to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

LAKE LEVEL -PINE LAKE

9.3/ WHEREAS, Pine Lake is an inland lake located in Gun Plain Township, Allegan County and Prairieville Township, Barry County; and

WHEREAS, Part 307 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, MCL 324.30701 *et seq.* ("Part 307"), sets forth the procedures and requirements necessary to establish a normal lake level for an inland lake in the State of Michigan and process for confirming the boundaries of a lake level special assessment district; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Barry County Circuit Court established a lake level for Pine Lake and approved a special assessment district for Pine Lake; and

WHEREAS, the original lake level was later modified by the Court to the current level of 890.5 feet above sea level, subject to seasonal variations and precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Drain Commissioner and Barry County Drain Commissioner (collectively, the "Drain Commissioners"), sharing joint delegated authority under Part 307, have the ongoing responsibility to maintain and repair the lake level project for Pine Lake; and

WHEREAS, the County has previously determined that the whole or part of the cost of the project to establish and maintain the normal level for Pine Lake be defrayed by special assessments for the benefits derived against privately owned parcels of land, political subdivisions of the state, and state-owned lands, through the establishment of a special assessment district; and,

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Drain Commissioner has determined that the Pine Lake special assessment district boundaries should be amended to include benefitting lands that were not within in the existing special assessment district as originally determined by the Barry County Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, the Allegan County Drain Commissioner recommends that the County Board of Commissioners authorize the filing of a petition in the circuit court to re-affirm the established normal level and amend the boundaries of the Pine Lake Level Special Assessment District.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

5. The County Board of Commissioners finds that in order to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare, to best preserve the natural resources of the state, and to preserve and protect the value of property around the Pine Lake, it is necessary to take all such action to maintain the existing normal lake level for Pine Lake, that all expenses for maintaining the normal level shall be defrayed by special assessments for the benefits derived against privately owned parcels of land, political subdivisions of the state, and state-owned lands (if any).
6. The Allegan County Drain Commissioner is designated the "Delegated Authority" as provided by Part 307 to act on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and is directed to prepare or amend the boundaries of the special assessment district in accordance with the procedures set forth in Part 307, and to take all other

actions as necessary and required by the delegated authority as provided in Part 307 ("Lake Level Project").

7. The Clark Hill, PLC law firm is appointed as legal counsel for the Lake Level Project, and is directed to initiate appropriate legal action in the Barry County Circuit Court for the determination and the approval of boundaries of the Pine Lake Special Assessment District in accordance with the procedures set forth in Part 307 and to assist the Delegated Authority with the Lake Level Project in accordance with its responsibilities as set forth in Part 307.
8. The Land & Resource Engineering, Inc. ("LRE") is appointed as the engineer for the Lake Level Project, to prepare such reports required for the Lake Level Project, and to assist the delegated authority with all actions as necessary and required by the Delegated Authority as set forth in Part 307. All costs associated with the activities authorized herein, including retaining all necessary consultants (e.g. legal counsel and engineers), shall be reimbursed by a lake level special assessment district to the extent permitted by Part 307.
9. This resolution shall become effective only if the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan adopts a resolution substantially in the form of this resolution.
10. All resolutions and parts of resolutions, insofar as the same may be in conflict with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby rescinded.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Van Beek to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS -SENIOR MILLAGE BALLOT LANGUAGE

9.4/ WHEREAS, the County Boards of Commissioners Act, Act 156 of 1851, authorizes a county to levy a tax of not more than 1 mill for services to older citizens (MCL 400.576); and

WHEREAS, Allegan County previously authorized a millage of 0.493 mill for providing funds for services to senior citizens in Allegan County, which millage expired in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the millage was last levied at a rate of 0.4823 mill due to Headlee Amendment millage reductions; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to ask voters to renew the previously authorized millage (at the rate last levied) for a period of four years (2026 through 2029, inclusive); and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the request is in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the County residents; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is in the best interests of County residents to request that such millage request be placed on the ballot at the August 4, 2026, election.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Allegan County, Michigan, as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners approves and certifies to present to the electors of Allegan County at the August 4, 2026, election a proposed millage renewal in the amount of 0.4823 mill as described in the ballot language attached as Exhibit A; and
2. The County is authorized and directed to promptly submit this Resolution along with the ballot language attached as Exhibit A to the Allegan County Clerk for inclusion in the ballot at the August 4, 2026, election.
3. The County Administrator has authority to make any non-substantive or typographical changes to the Resolution or ballot proposal if recommended by the County Clerk or County's legal counsel.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby rescinded.

Moved by Commissioner DeYoung, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONSERVATION DISTRICT MILLAGE LANGUAGE

9.5/ WHEREAS, the County Boards of Commissioners Act, Act 156 of 1851, authorizes a county to levy a tax of not more than 1 mill and remit the proceeds of that tax to a conservation district (MCL 46.22); and

WHEREAS, Allegan County previously authorized a millage of 0.10 mill for providing funds for the operation of the Allegan Conservation District, including programs to assist landowners in the protection and enhancement of natural resources, environmental education, and environmental remediation within Allegan County, which millage expires in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the millage was last levied at a rate of 0.0943 mill due to Headlee Amendment millage reductions; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to ask voters to renew the previously authorized millage (at the rate last levied) for a period of six years (2027 through 2032, inclusive); and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the request is in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the County residents; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is in the best interests of County residents to request that such millage request be placed on the ballot at the August 4, 2026, election.

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Allegan County, Michigan, as follows:

5. The Board of County Commissioners approves and certifies to present to the electors of Allegan County at the August 4, 2026, election a proposed millage renewal in the amount of 0.0943 mill as described in the ballot language attached as Exhibit A; and
6. The County is authorized and directed to promptly submit this Resolution along with the ballot language attached as Exhibit A to the Allegan County Clerk for inclusion in the ballot at the August 4, 2026, election.
7. The County Administrator has authority to make any non-substantive or typographical changes to the Resolution or ballot proposal if recommended by the County Clerk or County's legal counsel.
8. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby rescinded.

Moved by Commissioner Lubbers, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to table the resolution until the April 23, 2026 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CCAB) APPOINTMENT

9.6/ BE IT RESOLVED that the following appointment is hereby confirmed:

- Community Corrections Advisory Board– fill a new 2-year term set to expire on 12/31/27.
 - Jonathan Blair – Prosecuting Attorney Designee

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner Van Beek to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

9.7/ BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the County Administrator to transfer any remaining ARPA dollars between and among the already approved and obligated projects pertaining to Water and Broadband, to the degree such can reasonably be determined as permissible through ARPA.

Moved by Commissioner Dugan, seconded by Commissioner DeYoung to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 5 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

PLANNING ITEMS:

- 10/** Administrator Sarro opened the floor for discussion of the Board Strategic Planning.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NO COMMENTS

11/ Chair Beltman opened the meeting to public participation and as there were no comments from the public, he closed the meeting to public participation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL APRIL 23, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M.

12/ Moved by Commissioner Lubbers, seconded by Commissioner Dugan to adjourn until April 23, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M. Yeas: votes. Nays: votes.



Chief Deputy Clerk



Board Chair

Minutes approved during the 04/23/2026 Session