



MINUTES
St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
Human Services Committee

Board of Commissioners' Room
County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060

January 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call/Opening/Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Beedon called the meeting to order at 06:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Beedon.

Present: Kerry Ange, Lisa Beedon, Joi Torello, Paul Zeller, Dave Rushing, Dave Vandenbossche and Steve Simasko

Absent: None

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Torello, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

3. Citizens to be Heard

David Hoffman, Fort Gratiot - re: Prayer and Dr. Nevin

Fred Fuller, Yale - re: Dr Nevin and Health Advisory Board Appointments

David Allison, Kenockee - re: Paul Urben Health Advisory Board Appointment

Angela Defain, Fort Gratiot - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Kevin Watkins, Wales - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Monica VanCamp, Clyde Twp - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Diane Hulett, Riley - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments and Dr. Nevin

Vicki Blackburn, Port Huron - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Carol Miller, Port Huron Twp - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Rachelle Bonelli, St. Clair - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Laurie Oldford, Port Huron - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Tracy Birgy, Marysville - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Lynda Howard, Marysville - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Marie Zacharias, Marysville - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Kim Scheible, Fort Gratiot - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments/Dr. Nevin

Anthony Ferriell, St. Clair - re: Community Mental Health Board Appointments

Jim Frank, Burtchville - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Eileen Tesch, Algonac - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Justine Schrader - re: Health Advisory Board Appointment

Mary Lou Creamer, Port Huron - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments and Dr. Nevin

Jeanne Mackay, Marysville - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

John Reed, Fort Gratiot - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Katherine Albrecht - re: Community Mental Health and Health Advisory Board Appointments

Kathleen Granton, Avoca - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Andrew Eberly, Columbus - re: Dr. Nevin

Liz Sommerville, Port Huron - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Libby Prill, China - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Susan Ingles, Burtchville re: Vaccines and Health Advisory Board Appointments

Sage Granton re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Catherine Fitrakis, Fort Gratiot - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Jay Wetzel, St. Clair - re: Health Advisory Board and Community Mental Health Appointments

Shawn Treadaway - re: Health Advisory Board Appointments

Paul Urben, Marysville - re: Health Advisory Board Appointment

Sandra Richardson, Fort Gratiot - re: Health Advisory Board

Randi McCracken submitted a letter to be included in the minutes (see attached).

A. R. McCracken

4. Updates

None

5. Conceptual Initiatives

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Community Mental Health Board — Appointment - FINAL ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Ange, to move as a Committee of the Whole (for final action) to nominate Anthony Ferriell, Marion Stewart and Dorothy Yope for Member-at-Large Representative on the Community Mental Health Board for the remainder of a three-year term expiring 03/31/2028 and to cast ballots. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandebossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

Anthony Ferriell was the candidate chosen. Ferriell - 5 (Simasko, Ange, Torello, Zeller, Rushing); Stewart - 2 (Beedon, Vandebossche).

B. Health Advisory Board — Appointments - FINAL ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Ange, to move as a Committee of the Whole (for final action) to nominate all candidates for appointment to the Health Advisory Board and cast ballots. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello,

Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

Paul Urben was chosen as the candidate for District 4. Urben - 5 (Simasko, Ange, Torello, Zeller, Rushing); Bonelli - 2 (Beedon, Vandenbossche).

Steven Smith was chosen as the (only) candidate for District 5.

Dawn Fulk was chosen as one candidate for Member at Large. Fulk - 5 (Ange, Rushing, Zeller, Torello, Simasko) Schrader - 3 (Zeller, Torello, Simasko); Chapman - 2 (Beedon, Vandenbossche); Hayes - 2 (Ange, Rushing); Heuvelman - 1 (Beedon); Bonelli - 1 (Vandenbossche).

Joseph Hayes was chosen as one candidate for Member at Large. Hayes - 5 (Ange, Beedon, Zeller, Vandenbossche, Rushing); Schrader - 2 (Simasko, Torello).

C. MSU Extension Memorandum Of Understanding Amendment

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Torello, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation approve the amendment with MSU Extension that outlines the changes in billing for staffing changes. Carried - Roll Call Vote 6-1. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: Commissioner Simasko

D. FY 2026 St. Clair County Department of Veterans Affairs County Veterans Service Fund Grant (CVSF) - FINAL ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Vandenbossche, to move as a Committee of the Whole (for final action) to approve FY 2026 County Veterans Service Fund Grant agreement in the amount of \$70,130. Carried - Roll Call Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

E. St. Clair County Library System - Midwest Tape's Hoopla Digital Media

Moved by Commissioner Vandenbossche, supported by Commissioner Ange, to forward to the Regular Board meeting the recommendation to approve the renewal of the agreement with Midwest Tape for access to their hoopla Digital Media Platform for the provision of access to digital content for library patrons for a 2-year term in the amount of \$560,000. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

8. Other Human Services Matters

None

9. Information Only

None

10. Receive and File Packets

Moved by Commissioner Rushing, supported by Commissioner Ange, to receive and file packets and all information received. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

11. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Zeller, supported by Commissioner Rushing, to adjourn at 08:48 PM. Carried - Voice Vote 7-0. Aye: Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Simasko, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Vandenbossche, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Zeller Nay: None

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment for the record.

I am writing as a St. Clair County resident to express my support for Dr. Remington Nevin and for the proper role of the Advisory Board of Health as an independent and evidence driven body.

Public health is not static. It evolves as new scientific evidence emerges and as our understanding of human biology becomes more precise. When credible new data comes to light, particularly data concerning differential risk within populations, it is the responsibility of public health professionals to review it carefully and transparently.

One important example is genetic variability. Conditions such as MTHFR gene variants are well documented in the scientific literature and affect how some individuals metabolize and respond to certain environmental and medical exposures. Many families live with these genetic differences knowingly, while others remain unaware. Responsible public health policy recognizes that populations are not biologically uniform and that susceptibility can vary across individuals and families.

Dr. Nevin's willingness to examine emerging research related to environmental exposures, water treatment practices, and evolving medical guidance reflects professional diligence, not politicization. Asking whether longstanding practices remain appropriate for all segments of the population as science advances is a core function of ethical public health leadership.

Public confidence is strengthened when institutions demonstrate openness to evidence and respect for informed consent. Discouraging inquiry or penalizing professionals for engaging with emerging science risks undermining trust and discouraging qualified experts from public service.

Advisory boards exist to advise independently, not to simply affirm predetermined outcomes. Their value lies in careful analysis, transparency, and integrity, even when the conclusions require thoughtful reevaluation of existing approaches.

I respectfully urge the Board to protect the independence of the Advisory Board of Health and the professionals who serve in good faith. Allowing evidence based discussion to proceed without pressure ensures sound decision making and maintains public trust in county governance.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Respectfully,

Randi McCracken
St. Clair County Resident