

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2025
4:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dennis Ross, Nevins Lake Church offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Alexander, Johnston, Petersen, Painter, Johnson, Carr, and Murray. Members absent: Mahar

Others present: Stephanie Bracey, Brenda Taeter, Michelle Becker, John Johansen, Jody Snyder, Jeff Scoby, J.L. Hudson, Montabella Varsity Football Team along with their Coaches, Family, and Friends, and Elisabeth Waldon.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Murray to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johnston, supported by Commissioner Murray to approve November 24, 2025, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered.

Ashley Wakeley, newly appointed Montcalm County Treasurer, introduced herself to the full board. She will be starting her new position on January 5th, 2026.

At 4:05 p.m. the Montabella Varsity Football team, along with their coaches, were present to be presented with a resolution to recognize their success in this falls football season. Commissioner Murray brought the team and coaches in front of the Commissioners to read and present Resolution 2025-15.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Alexander to authorize Chairman Carr to sign the Opioid Settlement Funds and/or Marijuana Agreements, and to allow for checks to be mail respectively. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Murray to approve the updated County of Montcalm Expenditure Policies and Procedures. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Alexander to approve warrant report numbers:

11262025 in the amount of \$1,044,318.85
12042025 in the amount of \$69,389.14
12052025 in the amount of \$815,939.37
12112025 in the amount of \$323,850.58
12152025 in the amount of \$583,074.93

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Murray to approve consent agenda items 8 through 14 and move stated action:

Controller	Resolution 2025-14, Lake Stanton dam	Place on file
Controller	Community Corrections FY2026 Grand Agreement	Place on File
Controller	2026 Survey & Remonumentation Application	Place on File
Controller	2026 Budget Review	Place on File
Controller	November ME Report	Place on File
Controller	November COA Report	Place on File
Controller	November Dodge Report	Place on File

Motion carried.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the Board with the Committee Appointment sheets with updated meeting times. Ms. Taeter stated that these sheets will go in the Organizational Board Meeting packet for final approval. Ms. Taeter also asked if anyone had anything they would like changed within the By-Laws that she provided to them sometime in November. She stated that she will make the necessary changes and then provide an updated copy to the board members.

Chairman Carr informed the Board that John Johansen and Jody Snyder from the Montcalm Prevention Collaborative (MPC) were present today requesting an opportunity to speak to the Board for reconsideration of their funding request. Chairman Carr stated that he was contacted by Mr. Johansen about the request prior to the hearing and said he would bring the request to the Board for discussion. Originally MPC was in front of the Opioid Committee asking for around \$20,000, whereas the Committee did award a portion of that request, but not the full amount. Due to the loss of Federal Funding recently in Mid-November, the request is now closer to \$125,000.

Chairman Carr stated he doesn't agree with allowing a second request as no other organizations that were denied have had the chance to come back a second time. Commissioners Petersen and Johnson agree, and feel that if the board allows this, it will be opening the floodgates for any organization denied funding requests to keep coming back asking for reconsideration. Chairman Carr allowed John Johansen to speak to the Board about his request. The consensus of the Board was to respectfully decline to reconsider the funding request by MPC.

Brenda Taeter, Controller/Administrator, presented the Board with an updated copy of the park rules. Commissioner Alexander did reach out to Tom Ginster, Montcalm County Prosecutor, regarding whether having a park ordinance is necessary. Commissioner Alexander shared the Prosecutor's email response back, which does state that an ordinance may be warranted. Commissioner Alexander stated that a committee may be needed to create such an ordinance. He suggested that each park have its own set of rules that are encompassed within a countywide ordinance.

Moved by Commissioner Murray, supported by Commissioner Alexander to form a committee, consisting of Commissioner Alexander, Mahar, Murray, and Controller Breada Taeter to establish a park ordinance for the county parks. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Johnson, Murray, Petersen, Alexander. Nays: Commissioners Johnston and Carr. Absent: Commissioner Mahar. Motion Carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johnston to move into a closed session to discuss a written legal opinion, which is material exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege, MCL 15.243(1)(G) Pursuant to MCL Section 8(h) of the Opens Meeting Act. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Alexander, Johnston, Murray, Johnson, Petersen, Carr. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Mahar. Motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 4:53 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Johnson, supported by Commissioner Murray to follow the advice from counsel regarding settlement of the lawsuit Clayton Thomas v. County of Montcalm, pending in United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan and to authorize the County Controller/Administrator to execute any necessary documents to effectuate the resolution of this matter. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Murray, Johnson, Petersen, Alexander, Johnston, Carr. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Mahar. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. 4:55 p.m.

John Johansen, Greenville MI, spoke to the Board about issues he is seeing regarding Veterans and Veterans Affairs. He thanked Commissioner Mahar and Controller Brenda Taeter for all their work and welcomed Commissioner Jack Johnson to the Board.

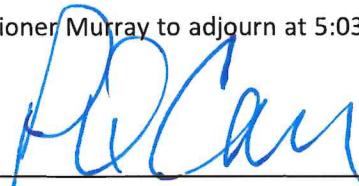
Katie DeBoer, candidate for State Senate, District #33 introduces herself to the board. Ms. DeBoer is currently a sitting Kent County Commissioner with a background in social work and chemistry. She is married and has three children. Ms. DeBoer and her husband are small business owners of a hardscaping and construction company. She also is a real estate developer, homeschools her children, and founder of a non-profit. Further she has taught government at Cornerstone University.

Commissioner Petersen addressed the Board, along with all in attendance and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Murray to adjourn at 5:03 p.m. Motion carried.



Kristen Millard
Kristen Millard, County Clerk



Patrick Q. Carr
Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman

