**BRANCH COUNTY**
**COURTHOUSE**
31 DIVISION STREET • COLDWATER • MICHIGAN • 49036
TELEPHONE (517) 279-4301 FAX (517) 278-4130

# WORKING MEETING AGENDA September 18, 2025

I. Call to Order, 12:00 PM (PLEASE SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES)

II. Call to the Public

III. Approval of the Agenda

IV. Items for Discussion

## PERSONNEL, PLANS & POLICY (Commissioner Houtz)

**Action:** None

**Information:**
A. Contract Negotiations Update (Admin)

## SHERIFF & PUBLIC SAFETY (Commissioner Stoll)

**Action:** None

**Information:**
B. Emergency 911 August 2025 Report

## HOUSE (Commissioner McClellan)

**Action: None**

**Information:**
C. Annual Scrap Tire Event (Scott Walls)

## FINANCE (Commissioner Hollister)

**Action:**
D. Bills & Accounts
E. Resolution Opposing House of Representatives FY 26 Cuts to Revenue Sharing (Admin)

**Information:** None

**LEGISLATIVE** **(Commissioner Hazelbaker)**

**Action**:

F. Branch County Planning Commission Reassignment (Admin)

**Information:**

K. Consent Agenda

L. Other

V. Call to the Public

VI. Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

**FRANK L. WALSH**
**BRANCH COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**
31 DIVISION ST, COLDWATER MI 49036
OFFICE (517) 279-4301, CELL (269) 208-1779
fwalsh@branchcounty.gov

MEMO TO: The Honorable Branch County Board of Commissioners

MEMO FROM: Frank L. Walsh, County Administrator FLW

SUBJECT: Contract Negotiations Update

DATE: 9/18/2025

INFO:

Commissioner Houtz and I continue to work with our four bargaining groups with their contracts expiring on December 31, 2025. The four open contracts are the Command Officers of Michigan (COAM), Police Officers of Michigan (POAM), District Court, and Circuit Court.

On Thursday, we plan to update you on the status of each bargaining unit. We also will focus on meeting with the non-union team to have consistency across the departments

Branch County EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

141 E. Chicago Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036

Dispatch: (517) 278-3091
Director: (517) 278-9020
Fax: (517) 278-4541

# August 2025

**CodeRED Totals:**

CNE Business: 233
CNE Phones: 5,645
Emails: 3,090
TDD: 94

CNE Residential: 4,848
Texts: 3,816
Weather Warning: 4781

(CNE - Community Network Enrollment) (+ up from last month)

**Total Events for August 2025**

**2025 Law Enforcement: 2,928**

Branch County Sheriff's Office - 935 Coldwater Police Department – 925, Michigan State Police Post 54 - 524, Bronson Police Department - 204, Union City Police Department - 142, Quincy Police Department -198.

**2024 Law Enforcement: 3,494**

Branch County Sheriff's Office - 1372, Coldwater Police Department - 1133, Michigan State Police Post 54 - 479, Bronson Police Department -313, Union City Police Department - 152, Quincy Police Department -45

**2025 Fire: 213**

Bronson Fire Department - 37, Coldwater Fire Department-126, Lakeland Fire Department - 22, Quincy Fire Department - 15, Sherwood Twp. Fire Department - 2, Union City Fire Department – 11.

**2024 Fire: 251**

Bronson Fire Department - 27, Coldwater Fire Department -167, Lakeland Fire Department - 23, Quincy Fire Department -22, Sherwood Twp. Fire Department – 7, Union City Fire Department - 5.

2025 Emergency Medical: 326

2024 Emergency Medical: 315

Total Events: August 2025 - 3,467 / August 2024 – 4,060

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MEMO TO: The Honorable Branch County Board of Commissioners

MEMO FROM: Frank L. Walsh, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Annual Scrap Tire Event

DATE: 9/18/2025

INFO:

Branch County will once again hold a scrap tire event on Saturday, October 11, near the county jail. The event is being managed by Building and Grounds Manager Scott Walls. I've attached a flier that was created by our office to publicize the event. On Thursday, Manager Walls will be present to talk about the event and summarize the rules in effect for the day.

# BRANCH COUNTY TIRE RECYCLE EVENT

WHEN: SAT OCT 11, 2025

WHO: BRANCH COUNTY RESIDENTS - RESIDENTIAL USE ONLY

LOCATION: EAST PARKING LOT OF ANIMAL CONTROL
375 KEITH WILHELM DR. COLDWATER MI 49036
SEE ATTACHED MAP FOR TRAFFIC PATTERN

TIME: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- No Fee
- Passenger Vehicle/Pickup Tires only *No Semi or Tractor Tires
- Limit 10 tires per vehicle
- This event is limited and will be on a first come first serve basis.

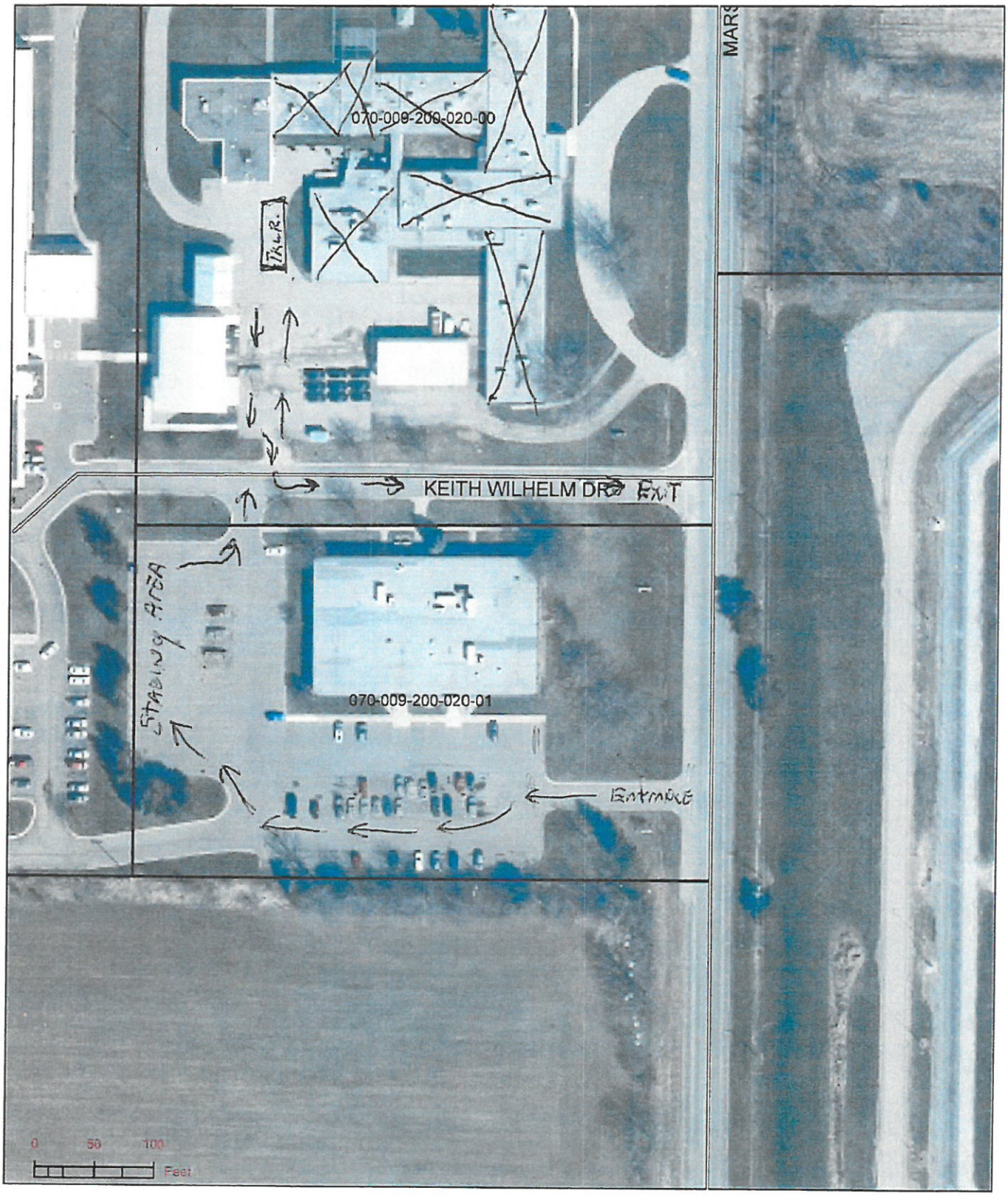
Note In recent years, people have been dumping tires in the general area of the collection site. Unloading and dumping tires on public ground outside of the designated drop off times can be cited and will be considered illegal dumping per Statute 750 Section 552a and subject to fines.

*Area is covered by 24 hr. surveillance cameras.

Questions email maintenance@branchcounty.gov

Event provided by Branch County and Van Buren Conservation District through the EGLE Scrap Tire Grant

# BRANCH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KEITH WILHELM DR
EXIT
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Entrance
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100
Feet

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MEMO TO: The Honorable Branch County Board of Commissioners

MEMO FROM: Frank L. Walsh, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution Opposing House of Representatives FY 26 Cuts to Revenue Sharing

DATE: 9/18/2025

ACTION

The State of Michigan continues to lag in their discussions to settle on a 2025-2026 budget. Currently, the House of Representatives has sent a bill to the Senate for their consideration. For weeks, nothing has moved forward.

One of the many reductions in the House version is a 12% cut in state shared revenue. If the Legislature ultimately approves the budget plan in its current form, Branch County would lose approximately $156,000. This would poke a large hole in our general fund budget.

The attached Resolution was received by the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). The Association is requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution.

**Template for Resolution on Revenue Sharing**

_____ COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION # ____

**OPPOSING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' FY26 BUDGET CUTS TO COUNTY REVENUE SHARING**

WHEREAS, counties are mandated by the State of Michigan to provide essential public services including courts, jails, elections, public health, public safety and human services; and

WHEREAS, unlike cities, villages and townships, counties do not receive constitutionally guaranteed revenue sharing and instead rely solely on statutory revenue sharing, leaving counties uniquely vulnerable to annual state budget decisions; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposes a $34.9 million reduction in county statutory revenue sharing, wiping out the long-overdue progress made in FY25 to restore revenue sharing to sustainable levels; and

WHEREAS, the House plan, if enacted, would leave counties with just over $256 million in statutory revenue sharing statewide, while constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships (CVTs) is set to reach $1.1 billion, and when combined with statutory revenue sharing, CVTs would get $1.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, the House plan shifts $40 million into restricted sheriff funding with strings attached, requiring counties to maintain higher law enforcement funding levels, even as flexible revenue sharing is reduced, thereby further straining already-limited general funds; and

WHEREAS, public safety dollars directed exclusively to sheriffs are not equivalent to revenue sharing, since they cannot be used to support the wide range of mandated services counties must provide; and

WHEREAS, the Senate budget proposal provides just over $320 million in county statutory revenue sharing, an increase of $29.1 million over FY25, and includes $60 million for public safety that can be allocated at the discretion of county boards of commissioners rather than bypassing them; and

WHEREAS, the Senate approach respects county governance, strengthens general fund flexibility, and better equips counties to meet their broad statutory responsibilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that _____ County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the Michigan Legislature and governor to reject the House revenue sharing cuts and support the Senate's proposal to increase county revenue sharing and provide flexible funding for public safety needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, House Speaker Matt Hall and Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025

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MEMO TO: The Honorable Branch County Board of Commissioners

MEMO FROM: Frank L. Walsh, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Branch County Planning Commission Reassignment

DATE: 9/18/2025

ACTION

Branch County Planning Commission Reassignment

Currently, Algansee Township Treasurer Sharon Atkinson serves on our Planning Commission as at At-Large member. We currently have a vacancy in filling the township government seat.

Planning Commission Chair Debbie Lounds-Bowers, and other Commission members, have requested that the Board of Commissioners formally name Treasurer Atkinson as the township representative. The opinion of the body is that filling an At-Large seat will be easier than the narrow scope of township representative.

Treasurer Atkinson's term would not change. Her current term expires on Dec 31, 2027.

The action requested is to officially name Treasurer Sharon Atkinson as the township representative on the Branch County Planning Commission.