

Spotlight on Local Government March 2025

Isabella County Board of Commissioners

- Approved a contract with Isabella
 Corporation for renovations to the
 campground bathhouse at Herrick
 Recreation Area in an amount not to exceed
 \$393,000. The County has been awarded a
 \$319,000 Spark Grant from the Michigan
 Department of Natural Resources for the
 project.
- Approved an agreement between the Isabella County Trial Court and the Government Employees Labor Council for a three-year contract, effective 2025 through 2027. The contract includes salary and wage increases of 2.5% beginning March 22, 2025, with no retroactive pay.
- Approved a 2.5% cost-of-living increase for Non-Represented Employees, effective March 22, 2025, with no retroactive pay.
- Appointed Frank Engler, Jason Moore, and Charity Sweet to serve on the Heartland Material Management Planning Committee, a multicounty working group that will focus on developing and implementing plans to sustainably manage recyclables, organic materials, and solid waste. Michigan law requires counties to develop Materials Management Plans. The State has encouraged and incentivized a regional approach.

Mt. Pleasant City Commission

- Approved a one-time allocation of \$42,500 for fire suppression and facade improvement at 120 South University
 Street. No additional funding will be available for facade and fire suppression grants until clear criteria have been established.
- Awarded the contract for the 2025 Well Rehabilitation Project to Peerless-Midwest for \$115,476. Two groundwater wells are scheduled for repair.

- Approved a five-year contract with HydroCorp for the Cross-Connection Control Program and installation of automated water meters at a cost of \$665,785. The goal of cross-connection control is to identify and eliminate actual and potential physical connections between the City's drinking water system and sources of contamination.
- Approved a budget amendment of \$30,000 to support four summer interns who will work on Tax Increment Finance Authority plans, opioid settlement research, and the creation of leadership development training materials.
- Discussed the possible adoption of new regulations for motorized bikes and scooters on city park trails. City residents have expressed concern about the impact of ebike users on pedestrians.

Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission

 Approved a Special Use Permit and a site plan for a drive-through coffee shop at 1203 South Mission Street, which is currently a vacant lot.

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education

- Discussed school Policy 3115 on non-discrimination, anti-harassment, and non-retaliation, Policy 3118 on sexual harassment, and Policy 5106 on transgender and gender identity anti-discrimination. At issue was whether the policies should be changed due to recent executive orders that direct federal agencies to withhold funding from K-12 schools that support transgender students.
- Directed the Superintendent to ask the school attorney for clarification on whether Policy 5106 complies with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sexual discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal funding.

For More Information

LWV

Isabella County Board of Commissioners: Frank Engler, Chair, 989-300-4501, fengler@isabellacounty.org
Mt. Pleasant City Commission: Boomer Wingard, Mayor, bwingard@mt-pleasant.org
Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission: Manuela Powidayko, City Planner, 989-779-5346, mpowidayko@mt-pleasant.org
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education: Wiline Pangle, President, wpangle@mp.edzone.net

