

Isabella County Board of Commissioners

August 4 & 18

\$13.7 million bond issue: Authorized the publication of a Notice of Intent to issue up to \$13.7 million in bonds for the Administration Building Complex renovation project. Residents have a 45-day window to submit a petition requiring a public vote on the plan. The County will use its General Fund, which comes mostly from local taxes, to repay this loan.

Administration Building renovations: Approved contract updates with Progressive Companies to cover additional design, engineering, and furniture planning services at a cost of \$143,000.

FY 2027 millage rates: Approved the levy of County millages including 0.862 mill for the Transportation Commission, 1.0 mill for the Medical Care Facility, 0.35 mill for Parks and Recreation, and 1.0 mill for the Commission on Aging.

Cybersecurity upgrade: Approved a \$16,755 software maintenance agreement to upgrade cybersecurity and protect the heating, cooling, and food refrigeration systems at the Commission on Aging building.

Mt. Pleasant City Commission

August 10 & 24

Ballot question: Voted to place a proposal on the November 3 ballot for a permanent Consumers Energy easement along the Chippewa River park corridor. If approved by voters, this measure would authorize electrical grid upgrades, pole relocation, and maintenance of low- and high-voltage electrical lines along the north right-of-way of West Broadway Avenue. The easement would also allow tree trimming and brush removal, extending 80 feet into southern portions of Nelson Park and Riverside Cemetery, and 40 feet into northern Mill Pond Park.

Broomfield and Crawford rezoning: Approved the rezoning of 157 acres at the southwest corner of Broomfield and Crawford Roads from Planned Residential Development to four new designations. The land now includes 74 acres for residential housing; 54 acres for a university district; 21 acres for a civic zone intended for a potential private school, with other uses permitted; and 8 acres for a mixed-use zone, allowing a combination of commercial, light industrial, and residential projects.

Solar energy agreement: Approved participation in the Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program, securing clean power from a new solar farm opening in 2028-29. Under four contracts at 5, 10, 15, and 20 years, the city will lock in a stable electrical rate of \$0.064 per kWh, reducing its projected net electrical costs. The Water Resource Recovery Facility will use 50% renewable energy from this program and supplement with fossil fuels as necessary. All other city electrical accounts will be subscribed to 100% renewable energy.

Water Resource Recovery Facility: Approved a \$43,000 agreement with Fishbeck Engineering for a mechanical equipment replacement study. The study will develop conceptual-level recommendations, cost estimates, and phasing strategies for future replacement projects. A primary focus of the assessment will be the facility's HVAC system, where major components are nearing the end of their useful lives.

Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission

August 13

Proposed zoning revisions: Reviewed extensive ordinance amendments that would allow triplexes and fourplexes in single-family neighborhoods (CD-3 and CD-3L), remove special use permits in those neighborhoods, and expand home occupations. The city-wide changes would also lower minimum sizes

for duplexes from 1,000 to 400 sq. ft. and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from 400 to 200 sq. ft. View the full list in the August work session packet online. A public hearing for community input will be scheduled following further Commission review.

New townhomes: Approved a site plan for new townhomes with on-site parking at 221 W. Michigan Street and 215 S. Pine Street. The developer plans to seek funding through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. This project is an alternative to the mixed-use buildings approved in 2025, which have not secured the gap financing to move forward.

Car wash expands: Approved a special use permit and site plan for Fast Eddie's Car Wash and Oil Change at 900 E. Broomfield Road. The business will expand to the south to provide extra lane space for waiting vehicles.

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education

August 10 & 24

Board trustee: Appointed Nathan Tomson to the Board through December 31, 2026, replacing Jessica Jernigan, who resigned.

Emergency Operations Plan: Approved an update modeled after the Michigan State Police Office of School Safety template.

Cell phone policy: Approved a revised policy on the use of wireless communication devices to align with

State law. Students may not use cell phones or smart devices during instructional time, other than for specific situations such as medical needs, emergencies, or approved learning activities.

Girls' ski team: Approved a two-year Michigan High School Athletic Association agreement that allows Sacred Heart Academy students to join the girls' ski team at Mt. Pleasant High School.

Union Township Board of Trustees

August 12 & 26

Tax rates: Approved the 2026 Tax Rate Request form for submission to Isabella County. At an Operating Millage of 1.0 mill and a Fire Millage of 2.25 mills, the rates remain the same as last year.

Subdivision paving: Approved the preparation of preliminary cost estimates and a formal petition for the establishment of a Paving Special Assessment District for Country Squire Estates (No.1 & No. 2), Snyder's Subdivision, and Ruby Street. The residents of these areas put forward an informal petition with signatures from over 51% of property owners favoring the project.

Water Tower lease: Approved a 15-year lease extension with SprintCom LLC (T-Mobile) for equipment at the Broadway Road Water Tower. Effective June 11, 2027, the agreement will generate an initial \$1,700 in monthly revenue, increasing 3.75% annually beginning in June 2028.

For More Information

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, 989-779-5346, mpowidayko@mt-pleasant.org

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education: Wiline Pangle, President, wpangle@mp.edzone.net

Union Township Board of Trustees: Bryan Mielke, Supervisor, 989-772-4600, bmiele@uniontownshipmi.com

