LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MT. PLEASANT AREA

Local Government Spotlight

NONPARTISAN MEETING SUMMARIES BY LEAGUE OBSERVERS

November 2026
Issue No. 33

Isabella County Board of Commissioners

October 6 & 20

Public defense funding: Approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 grant agreement with the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, establishing a total budget of $1,855,288. The funding supports compliance with statewide standards for effective public criminal defense across the county's District and Circuit Courts. The program is financed by a $1,617,082 state grant and a county investment of $238,206.

Veteran outreach: Approved a $50,000 contract with King Media for a one-year advertising campaign to inform veterans about available service-related benefits. These benefits include education, health care, disability support, and financial resources. Funding for this contract is provided by a grant from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Emergency Management resolution: Updated the text of the 1992 resolution that established the county's Emergency Management Program. The revision incorporates terminology and provisions to align with current practices, standards, and responsibilities.

E-911 service plan: Updated the district to maintain compliance with state law by removing two inactive agencies from the service directory. The Michigan Department of Motor Carrier was removed because it now operates under the administrative authority of the Michigan State Police, and the Sherman Township Marshal's Office was removed as it has disbanded. The action has no financial impact on the county.

Commissioner health insurance: Authorized County Commissioners to receive opt-out payments in lieu of health insurance coverage at the same rate and under the same terms as all eligible county employees, effective January 1, 2027.

Mt. Pleasant City Commission

October 13 & 26

Building Department: Approved contracting with Preston Community Services to handle permitting, inspections, and plan reviews. Under the agreement, the contractor will manage administrative duties and conduct multi-discipline inspections for an annual fee of $7,200, plus 80% of permit fees and 100% of inspection and plan review fees.

Building permit fees: Approved a new fee structure to simplify how building permits, plan reviews, and inspection fees are calculated. One- and two-family residential projects start with a $65 base permit fee for the first $1,000 of construction value, with final permit costs determined by the overall value of the project. Plan reviews for commercial, multifamily, and industrial buildings carry a $200 minimum fee.

Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport: Approved a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for rehabilitation of Runway 9/27, the airport's primary runway. The city was awarded a $1.796 million grant, which is expected to fully fund the project, planned for next year. The Commission also approved a $99,928 contract with Mead & Hunt for engineering and project management services.

Airport equipment: Approved an agreement with MDOT for the acquisition of a $433,983 pull-behind broom attachment to be used for snow removal. The Federal Aviation Administration will cover 95% of the cost of the equipment and the state will cover 5%. MDOT is responsible for the distribution of funds.

Restroom supplies: Approved a policy to provide free feminine hygiene products in city-owned public restrooms. The products will be available in women's restrooms and family restrooms.

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Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission

October 8

Zoning changes: Considered proposed ordinance amendments. In CD-3 residential zones, duplexes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), triplexes, and fourplexes would move into a new Permitted Limited category. Instead of requiring special use permits and public hearings, these projects would receive staff approval if they meet specific criteria. In CD-3 and CD-3L zones, minimum sizes for duplexes and ADUs would be reduced and ADU owner-occupancy rules modified. In CD-3, CD-3L, and CD-4, attached garage encroachment standards would be updated. For complete details, see the November Planning Commission packet on the city website.

Raising Cane's restaurant: Approved a special use permit and a site plan for a drive-through restaurant at 1516 S. Mission Street, the former site of La Senorita Mexican Restaurant. The new building will feature double drive-thru lanes, approximately 50 indoor seats, and space for about 12 outdoor diners.

Marijuana grower: Approved a special use permit for 1110 N. Fancher Street, modifying the operation from Class C (up to 2,000 plants) to Class B (up to 500 plants). Because this scales down operations, no physical site alterations will occur.

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education

October 5

FY 2025 – 26 audit: Accepted the independent report prepared by accounting firm Yeo & Yeo. The district's General Fund closed the fiscal year with an unassigned fund balance of $8.5 million.

Employee benefits: Approved new medical insurance options for the Mt. Pleasant Education, Administrators, Community Education, and Transportation associations. Michigan law limits the amount school districts can contribute toward employee medical costs.

House project: Approved foundation and excavation bids from Robin Harsh Excavating, Great Lakes Superior Walls, and H & H Concrete to prepare a site on Batson Drive for the next home to be built by students in the Gratiot-Isabella Technical Education Center.

Union Township Board of Trustees

October 14 & 28

Sewer infrastructure upgrade: Approved a $129,115 bid from GFL Environmental Services for the rehabilitation of 14 sanitary sewer manhole structures located on High Street, Lincoln Road, and Mulberry Lane. The project includes cleaning, debris removal, leak stops, and cured-in-place liner.

Township Manager compensation: Approved a 5% salary increase and a $100 per month car allowance increase for the Township Manager, with the 2027 employment agreement yet to be finalized.

Youth hockey: Recognized the Amateur Hockey Association of Mt. Pleasant as a nonprofit operating in the township. This designation allows the association to secure a state charitable gaming license for an upcoming fundraising event.

For More Information

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