

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Newaygo County was called to order by Chairman Gonyon at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at the road commission offices.

Commissioners present: William Gonyon, Douglas Harmon, and Lee Fetterley
Staff present: Derek Wawsczyk, Manager and Kerry Hewitt, Clerk

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for November 12, 2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve the following vendor checks, ach vendor payments, and payroll checks:

November 21, 2025:

Vendor checks # 66367 - # 66387 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14928 - # 14963 in the amount of \$262,219.17 and Payroll checks # 60371 - # 60385 in the amount of \$115,555.89. All ayes. Motion carried.

December 5, 2025:

Vendor checks # 66388 - # 66415 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14964 - # 14998 in the amount of \$255,358.72 and Payroll checks # 60386 - # 60400 in the amount of \$166,803.74. All ayes. Motion carried.

December 19, 2025:

Vendor checks # 66417 - # 66440 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14999 - # 15029 in the amount of \$278,290.64 and Payroll checks # 60401 - # 60415 in the amount of \$156,509.42. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Public Hearing: proposed abandonment of N. Willow Ave. north of Hayes St.

In attendance:

Michael Wood, 10130 N. Centerline Rd., Bitely, MI

Robert Randolph, 4277 S. DeWitt Rd., St. Johns, MI

Derek presented the board with the proposed abandonment. The northerly section of N. Willow Ave. had previously been abandoned. This 750' section of public road was maintained for access for the previous owners. Mr. Randolph purchased this property and has had issues with trespassers and littering. Those in attendance were in favor of the abandonment of N. Hayes. The Forest Service has submitted a letter showing no concerns with the proposed abandonment. With no opposition to the abandonment, a motion was made by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to adopt resolution NCRC-12-001-25, a resolution vacating and abandoning N. Willow Ave. approximately 750 ft. beginning at N. of Hayes St. and going north to a point ending at the previously abandonment portion of N. Willow Ave. between Sections 5 and 6 of Monroe Township. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, MTF Comparison, and fuel savings spreadsheet through November. The MTF revenue is down 19.44% compared to last year, because of the removal of the income tax. This decrease is expected for 3 months.

Kerry presented the board with spreadsheets showing primary and local expenditures for FY25.

Kerry informed the board that Watkins and Ross are working on our full actuarial.

Kerry reported that she has finished the ACT51 and reports for the auditor for FY25. The auditor had originally given a date of mid-December to start working on our audit.

Kerry reported that Derek's contract expires on December 31, 2025. Kerry presented the board with an updated contract. Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to sign the employment agreement with Derek Wawczyk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry informed the board that we submitted two railroad crossing locations for the Local Grade Crossing Surface Program, and unfortunately neither project was selected due to the volume of requests and high estimated costs.

Kerry presented the following contract with **Ashland Township**:

- 116th St. from Ashland Township line, east for approx. 1,800 ft. – Grub, Grade, and Gravel

Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve and sign the above-mentioned contract with Ashland Township. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that Fahrner Asphalt has offered to extend pricing from 2025 to 2026. Derek and Mike worked on a primary project map. Derek mentioned that he has scaled back on the amount to reseal for 2026 due to the decrease in funding and increase in winter maintenance. The board had no objections.

Derek provided an update on the CRA Northern Conference he attended last week. Derek reported that this conference had a lot of great topics including the following: transportation package/funding, crisis response, problem employees, solar projects and road agreements, supporting wellness at work, state trunkline negotiating committee, and CRA's working on a local passer rating program to show the improvements accomplished by the new funding. Derek mentioned the last topic of the conference was FSU's scholarship programs that would benefit road commissions, but there was nobody at the conference to present the topic.

Derek reported on the Hardy and Croton Dam stakeholder meeting he attended yesterday. The buyer of all the dams indicated their plan of keeping all the dams functioning, investing in upgrades to the systems, and their intention of not selling any of the land they own.

Derek informed the board that the MDOT Fed-Aid buyout program applications for 2027 funds will be due in January. Wayne will be working on this on our behalf. Derek mentioned we will be receiving 90 cents on the dollar.

Derek reported that he attended the Paul Bunyan meeting with Mandy and Doug on the 20th of November. We will be the host county for 2026, and Mandy has begun to make room reservations and food planning. Derek reported that Dirk Heckman, Mackinac County Road Commission spoke at the meeting about working with a lobbyist to divide the Paul Bunyan Council to get more representation to the northern part of the county.

Derek informed the board that he and Mike held another meeting here with AES Clean Energy to review the solar project road use agreement. Derek reported that he will continue to work on that agreement. Derek mentioned that it is not our intention to interfere with the project, because the roads are for public use, but we need to be able to protect them from damage or be compensated for repairs because of the demand and impact the project will have on the roads. The board agreed.

Derek reported that Mike attended the winter maintenance/mutual aid meeting with MDOT and surrounding counties.

Derek informed the board that he and Kerry met with Newaygo Insurance and will be meeting with Jennifer Martin formally of 44 North to discuss our Health Care future. Discussion took place on the issues with Angle Health.

Derek informed the board that he and Mike met with Croton Township Supervisor, Morgan Heinzman, to discuss a potential future project. Derek mentioned that he was under the impression that they wanted the intersection of Elm Ave. and Holly Ave. to be improved due to the fact that Res. Life Church purchased property at the end of Holly and Petit Lake Dr. with a goal of turning the land into a church camp, which will produce an increase in traffic flow. Derek reported that Morgan reached out to him recently with a revised plan of moving the existing Holly Ave. towards the fire barn, where they hope to eventually build a new township hall. Derek informed Morgan of some of the logistics of moving the road. Derek will wait to hear back from the township on the route they want to take.

Derek reported that weather permitting, we plan to move into the County Parks new marina to start the removal of the current dock system.

Derek informed the board that one leased grader has been returned, and the other two will be gone by the end of this week along with the mini excavator. Michigan Cat has replacements coming to us.

Derek informed the board that he is looking through driver applications. We currently have two employees off work on short-term disability.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Fetterley commented on how nice Beech Ave. near 16th St. turned out, the work we did to help control the erosion issue.

Commissioner Harmon informed the board that he has decided not to re-up his term on the board of public works. He informed the board that he is spending more time with Asa in the parks department. They have been inspecting electrical and working on upgrades.

Commissioner Gonyon informed the board that after 25 years he is thinking of retiring from the board.

Commissioner Gonyon asked if Darren was going to retire at the end of the year, if we were going to have a party, and if we were looking at replacing that position.

Commissioner Gonyon reminded the board that we will set our meeting date and times at our January 14th meeting.

Public Comment: none

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk