

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, January 14, 2026, at the road commission offices.

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

Set board meeting dates and time for 2026: Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to set the 2026 Board Meetings to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month starting at 8:00 a.m. except for February, which will have one meeting date on the 11th. The meetings for November and December will be set later. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for December 17, 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:

January 2, 2026:

Vendor checks # 66441 - # 66458 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 15030 - # 15046 in the amount of \$270,150.60 and Payroll checks # 60416 - # 60433 in the amount of \$183,373.78. All ayes. Motion carried.

January 16, 2026:

Vendor checks # 66459 - # 66486 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 15047 - # 15081 in the amount of \$190,620.77 and Payroll checks # 60434 - # 60448 in the amount of \$161,430.42. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, MTF Comparison, and budget reports and fuel savings spreadsheets through December.

Kerry informed the board that the auditors from the Michigan Department of Treasury were here Monday and Tuesday this week. They are wrapping up our audit, but we are still waiting for the full actuarial from Watkins and Ross. Kerry anticipates receiving it by the end of this week or early next week. Kerry presented the ACT51 attest page for Chairman Gonyon's signature, which is a requirement for uploading the report to the State of Michigan.

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

- Beaver Rd. from M-37 going east for approximately 2,790 ft. – wedge and overlay

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

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

- 32nd St. between Parson Ave. and Baldwin Ave., approximately 1.25 miles – Wedge and Overlay

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

Kerry informed the board that the Highway Conference in Lansing is scheduled for March 24th – 26th.

Kerry informed the board that she emailed Commissioner Tubbergen Clark regarding the process and frequency of salary increases for the Board of County Road Commissioners. Kerry noted that in the last 20 years, the Road Commissioners' salary has only increased 4 times.

Derek informed the board that we will be rebidding roadside mowing and brush control spraying as we have reached our extension limit.

Derek reported that Aggressive Tree Service has denied our request to extend their bid prices from 2025. We will rebid tree cutting and trimming.

Derek reported that we will be extending pavement marking with Michigan Pavement Marking for 2026. Derek informed the board that he has contacted both PK Contracting and Michigan Pavement Markings to inform both companies of the increased miles we plan to cover between reseal projects and maintenance. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve the extension with Michigan Pavement Markings bid prices from 2025 into 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that we have received two out of the three new graders from McAllister CAT. There was an issue with one of the 12' graders that was delivered but not equipped correctly. It has been returned and they have a corrected one on order. We will be receiving a replacement for our mini excavator whose lease expired as well. We should have all our new leased equipment by spring.

Derek informed the board that he met with Kim from the Drain Commission to look over some bid documents she was working on. In addition, the Drain Commission would like to continue the scrap tire program with Board of Public Works approval. Derek reported that we will reapply for our scrap tire hauler license for 2026. Derek mentioned that it is a good partnership to be a part of.

Derek reported that Mike is currently catching up on permits along with creating a draft job description for that department since Darren's retirement on December 31st.

Discussions took place on our current insurance issues. Derek informed the board that we switched agents from Acrisure to the HILB Group. Kerry mentioned that Jennifer Martin's knowledge and connections in the insurance industry will be an asset to the road commission. Jennifer will be here on Friday, January 16th to meet with employees still having insurance issues.

Derek informed the board that Mike Phillips with MCRISIP was on-site for a building inspection. There are minor repairs to the rafters in the old salt shed that need to be made. Derek reported that we received the equipment we ordered for the MIOSHA grant.

Derek informed the board that some of the counties to the south and west of us are implementing weight restrictions. At this time, we will not.

Derek informed the board that he submitted the form for the MDOT buyout of our 2027 Fed Aid. Prior to submittal, he had the Rural Task Force review it. We should see a list of those awarded by the end of the month.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Fetterley commented on the social media attention of the hole that formed over Hardy Dam. Derek reported that clay pushed up in three spots over the dam, and with the warmup the clay sunk creating a hole. We fixed the problematic areas and had the dam back open within a couple of hours.

Commissioner Harmon reported that Mr. Roossinck questioned him on the procedure to have the county maintain a road that we currently are not. Kerry will research the property and gather some information.
Commissioner Harmon informed the board that he will be gone from January 24th to February 7th.

Commissioner Harmon mentioned a conversation he had with an employee of a road department in Illinois. They discussed mailbox policies and plow wings. Commissioner Harmon shared an old county map he received from his wife’s uncle.

Commissioner Gonyon informed the board that he has decided to retire effective April 1, 2026. Kerry will contact the County Clerk’s office.

Public Comment: none

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk