

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Newaygo County was called to order by Clerk, Kerry Hewitt at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at the road commission offices.

Commissioner present: Douglas Harmon, Lee Fetterley, and John Clark

Staff present: Derek Wawsczyk, Manager and Kerry Hewitt, Clerk

Others present: Gary Timmer

Kerry asked for nominations for Road Commission Chairman. Commissioner Fetterley made a motion to nominate Commissioner Harmon for Chairman, supported by Commissioner Clark. No other nominations were made for Chairman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry turned the meeting over to Chairman Harmon. Commissioner Harmon asked for nominations for Road Commission Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Harmon made a motion to nominate Commissioner Fetterley for Vice-Chairman, supported by Commissioner Clark. No other nominations were made for Vice-Chairman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Harmon welcomed John Clark to the board.

Motion by Commissioner Clark and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for April 29, 2026, and May 11, 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

May 8, 2026:

Vendor checks # 66643 - # 66662 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 15304 - # 15335 in the amount of \$382,522.97 and Payroll checks # 60548 - # 60560 in the amount of \$116,071.42. All ayes. Motion carried.

May 21, 2026:

Vendor checks # 66663 - # 66688 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 15336 - # 15370 in the amount of \$284,929.97 and Payroll checks # 60561 - # 60574 in the amount of \$124,330.06. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Gary Timmer inquired about the 56<sup>th</sup> St. road project; if we received push back from the property owners and how much more work do we have left to do. Derek explained the township requested the scope of the project be switched from dolomite to gravel. Derek reported that we have grading to do before the gravel is hauled in.

Gary Timmer inquired about the trees. If they are hauled away and where do we haul it? Derek reported that in most areas' property owners own to the center of the road; therefore, the trees would belong to the property owners. We check with all affected property owners to see if they want the wood or not. The road commission has property we own, and we haul stumps and trees to our property to let them rot naturally.

Gary Timmer inquired about brine. Kerry informed Mr. Timmer that Garfield Township has three dates scheduled for brine, and Derek mentioned we will apply brine to the road while we are working on it as needed.

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, MTF Comparison spreadsheet, budget reports, and an updated spreadsheet for township projects.

Kerry informed the board that she transferred a million from our independent bank savings account to our MI Class Account. This account yields greater interest. Kerry will move it back when we receive the invoices for the upfit of the trucks, primary paving projects, and pavement markings.

Kerry informed the board that we receive the official audit report with the financial statements from the Michigan Department of Treasury, and each commissioner received their own copy.

Kerry presented the following contracts with **Dayton Township**:

- 32<sup>nd</sup> St. from Comstock Ave. to Green Ave., approximately 4,320 ft. - wedge
- 32<sup>nd</sup> St. from Maple Island to Comstock Ave. – Grub and full width wedge various sections

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Clark to approve and sign the above-mentioned contracts with Dayton Township. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kerry requested the board's signatures on MDOT form 2044, Engineering Reimbursement for \$10,000 for payments made during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, to licensed professional engineers retained by the Commission. The board had no objections.

Derek reported on the first round of negotiations with the union. The primary areas to address are wages and health insurance. Derek mentioned that some old verbiages should be changed.

Derek informed the board that he and Wayne Harrall attended a zoom meeting with MDOT and West MI Trails regarding wayfinding signs for the bike trails. Derek mentioned that the applicant needs to be a recipient of ACT51 funds.

Derek informed the board that 2 of the 3 cab and chassis were picked up by Truck and Trailer to start the builds. Derek reported that the dump body manufacture is having a tough time getting the lift cylinder to pass inspection.

Derek informed the board that we received a letter from ITC showing potential routes for the new transmission line potentially traveling through the county. Derek reported that it is still uncertain at this time if any of the routes will land in our county. ITC is currently working on the routing aspect, avoiding potential hazards, rivers, and state forest land.

Derek informed the board that a new settlement conference for the Redding case is scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Derek reported that he and Kerry met with Jennifer Martin to open the talks on this year's insurance renewal. Jennifer did not have the actual rates at the time of the meeting.

Derek reported that he met with Kim from the drain office to discuss this year's hazardous waste event. No issues were reported.

Derek informed the board that Everett Township is inquiring about carrying over project cost if they sign two job estimates. Derek reported each project is estimated to be over \$300,000 and the request to carry-over would approximately \$150,000. Discussion took place regarding project costs, budgeting,

and cost-share. The board agreed that there is no cost savings on doing two projects versus one, the roads are in decent condition, and the amount requested to carry forward exceeds what the board is comfortable with allowing. Derek will contact Everett Township.

Derek provided a construction update.

Derek reported that pavement marking has been completed for the NE and SW quadrants of the county. Derek reported that the price was reasonable and he would like to go ahead and paint the rest of the county. This is something that has never been done before. The board had no objections.

Derek informed the board that Ken Hulka with the Muskegon County Road Commission is stepping down from the CRASIF board as he is looking to retire next year. Derek reported that the Muskegon County Road Commission Director of Finance and HR, Laurita Humphrey, is interested in this position. Derek mentioned a ballot will circulate later.

Derek passed around the adopt-a-road policy for review. Kerry will email a copy to the board.

**Commissioner discussion items:**

Commissioner Clark inquired about our fuel facility and if we thought about Pacific Pride. Derek mentioned that it was designed and built before he was in management by the previous manager. We assume he liked the design of a fuel facility at a different road commission and wanted it built to have more control internally.

Commissioner Harmon said he worked the hazardous waste collection last Saturday, and everything seemed to run smoothly.

**Public Comment:**

Gary Timmer inquired about bordering roads with townships and counties and how that is managed. Derek mentioned it would be up to the townships. Derek referenced the project we did last year on Maple Island, where the cost was split between Newfield Township in Oceana County and Denver Township in Newaygo County. Kerry mentioned of an “unwritten” rule that the townships are responsible for their south and west line. Kerry found old board minute meetings that discuss the jurisdiction of roads that boarder other counties, but nothing official for township boundaries.

Gary Timmer inquired about roadside mowing and if they will work from the south to the north. Derek said they do start south because the grass tends to grow quicker down south. They must have the first round mowed by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Timmer wondered if we got enough summer help. Derek mentioned we hired six and they have all started.

With no objections, Chairman Harmon adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

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Douglas Harmon, Chairman

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Kerry Hewitt, Clerk