

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, November 12, 2025, at the road commission offices.

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

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for October 22, 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 7, 2025:

Vendor checks # 66335 - # 66366 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14886 - # 14927 in the amount of \$1,547,610.16 and Payroll checks # 60356 - # 60370 in the amount of \$123,781.08. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, MTF Comparison, and fuel savings spreadsheet through October.

Kerry reported that she is busy working on closing out FY25, including Act51 reporting and auditors request items.

Kerry asked the board if they would like to set the January board meeting. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to set January's board meeting for January 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that he attended the Paul Bunyan Managers' lunch yesterday in Cadillac. It was great round-table conversations about equipment, funding, salt sheds, and inventory.

Derek reported that he, Doug, and Mandy will be attending the Paul Bunyan meeting on the 20th where we will learn our role as the host county for 2026.

Derek informed the board that Kerry has been selected for the 2026 Newaygo County Leadership Empowerment and Advancement Program (NCLEAP.) Derek asked the board to pay the tuition fee of \$200 and allow her to attend the six 3-hour sessions. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to pay the \$200 tuition fee and allow attendance of the six sessions for the 2026 NCLEAP. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that we are working through issues with Angle Health. Discussion took place regarding insurance issues and options.

Derek informed the board that he and Mike will be holding a meeting here at the Road Commission on November 24th with AES Clean Energy regarding the road use agreement for the future solar project in the county. Derek has reviewed the road use agreement he received along with another one he received from another road commission.

Derek reported that we have been awarded the MIOSHA MIWISH grant Melissa had applied for to use towards safety equipment. We will be purchasing Bluetooth headsets, welding supplies, and a harness for the sign truck.

Derek reported that he has signed the Letter of Understating with MDOT regarding winter patrol on the highways that we sign every year. Derek mentioned that the winter patrol official starts this weekend, but he did have a foreman run the roads early a few mornings this week because of the weather.

Derek informed the board that Mike has created a map of potential line stripping for 2026. Derek mentioned that he would like to increase the pavement marking line item to allow for the county to be divided into quadrants and be painted on a rotation. Derek reported that Michigan Pavement Markings agreed to extend their contract and notified us they would be able to complete the increased miles. Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to increase pavement markings to \$500,000 for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that Kent County Road Commission has begun to create the Fed Aid project for the 2026 chip seal. Mandy provided Wayne with crash data, and Wayne will begin measuring and staking the project in preparation for the bid letting. Derek reported that Wayne mentioned that MDOT is going to buy Fed. Aid in 2027 dollar for dollar, which is better than the 75 – 80 cents we were getting when we sold to Oakland and Kent. Derek stated that we will plan within the program to sell our Fed Aid to MDOT in 2027.

Derek reported that Wayne Harrell will officially retire from Kent County on January 2, 2026. He is asking for us to cover his expenses to attend the Engineers' Workshop, the Bridge Conference, and his PE license and we can retain him as our Engineer of record for 2026. Derek and the board had no objections.

Derek informed the board that the Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. bridge project has been paved. Jon Moxey will load rate the bridge soon, which will complete the project. Jon has provided Kerry with a timber bridge structure number to put in fixed assets.

Derek reported that he was contacted by a township supervisor in Lake County regarding the Elm Ave. bridge project as he had questions about how it was completed so quickly. He stated that they have a bridge that has been out for a couple years.

Derek gave a construction update. He informed the board that we have completed all the work slated for the 2025 construction season. Derek mentioned that with the favorable weather, he has a crew working on an erosion issue on Beech Ave. north of 16th St.

Derek reported that the grant writer we secured for the Anderson Hill project has been busy reaching out to possible funding resources and is waiting to hear back from a few more. He has presented a 7-page document listing his progress so far. Derek was pleased that he is actively working on this project. Derek mentioned that LR Cole has also contacted him about working on a timeline, where the township would have a few years to complete the project. This of course, is still in the early stages, but moving in the right direction.

Derek reported that Barber Creek has graciously donated \$30 gift cards from Houseman’s for all our employees. Melissa has also ordered turkeys for Thanksgiving. Derek asked the board if they would allow us to purchase the \$50 Meijer gift cards for Christmas like we have done before. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to allow management to purchase \$50 Meijer gift cards for all employes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that Adam Mikula has quit. He sent an email to Melissa on October 24th after being on vacation, stating personal reasons and that he resigned effectively immediately. Derek reported that we are sitting good for the winter, and we may look at hiring another employee before next construction season. The board had no objections.

Commissioner discussion items:
Commissioner Fetterley mentioned that 40th St. and Spruce Ave. bridge projects look great.
Commissioner Harmon mentioned that retiree Larry Crisler passed away.
Commissioner Gonyon reported that he received a phone call from Mr. Kincaid regarding drainage issues at the newly paved section of Hess Lake Dr. Derek reported that Mike has handled the situation and Mr. Kincaid is currently satisfied.

Public Comment: none

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk