

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, October 22, 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 on October 8, 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:

October 24, 2025:

Vendor checks # 66315 - # 66334 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14847 - # 14885 in the amount of \$700,699.82 and Payroll checks # 60341 - # 60355 in the amount of \$118,459.79. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow.

Kerry informed the board that the next Paul Bunyan meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20th.

Kerry informed the board that she has started the process of closing out FY25. She has calculated the benefit rate for FY26 to be 99.88%, which is up slightly from 97.13% in FY25.

Kerry informed the board that she attended the MERS conference last week in Grand Traverse. MERS is switching their record keeper from Alerus to Empower. They will start sending out communications via email and mail to participants. Kerry informed the board that MERS is lowering their Administration fees from .33% on account balances to a \$10 a month per participant flat fee, regardless of how many accounts they have. This will be a huge savings for participants.

Kerry reported that the Workers Comp. audit was completed last month.

Derek informed the board that we have reinstalled the Woodland Park historical sign on 11 Mile Rd. Derek mentioned that the old sign was removed about a year ago, when it was sent in to be refurbished.

Derek informed the board that the Hardy Dam paving project has begun. We are collaborating with Consumers on their sensors; milling began Monday the 20th. Derek reported that once it was milled, we then began filling in voids with grout and repairing catch basins. We utilized Give 'Em a Brake for signage for the closure and detour route. It is scheduled to be paved on Thursday, and we hope to have it open by the end of the week.

Derek reported that we are officially done with the scrap tire collection and disposal for the season. Derek mentioned that Kim at the Drain Commission has been wonderful to work with.

Derek informed the board that he was contacted by Holly Vickers with Michigan Wetland Bank regarding the property in the county we are sponsoring. The price of the property nearly doubled when they first started negotiating. Derek had to sign a new agreement reflecting the price increase. Derek mentioned that we will pay these costs and get reimbursed within days.

Derek reported that Reith Riley recently paved 136th St. in Grant Township. This wraps up township paving for the year. Derek mentioned that we will have 40th St. to pave, Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. over the new bridge and to the north, along with Hardy Dam.

Commissioner Harmon inquired about Hess Lake Dr. Derek mentioned that we completed that project last week. Derek explained that we installed valley gutter to help control the drainage issues. It took over week to complete the driveway work. We will continue to monitor the water flow and will more than likely have minor work to perform next spring.

Derek informed the board that he was contacted by Michigan Paving regarding future funding. Derek informed him that we will do an early bid for our budgeted primary work. If we receive increased funding, we may do a second bid letting later in the construction season next year. Like what we have done in the last few years. Derek reported that Fahrner Asphalt contacted him with the same inquiry. Derek informed them that we will be running reseal through the MDOT bid letting process utilizing fed. aid funds.

Derek reported on the RTF meeting he attended yesterday. Derek mentioned that the State D monies we can collect for five years qualify for direct grant buy-out, like what we did to fund the Robinson Creek project. Stone Rd. is slated for 2029. Derek informed the RTF group that we were unable to sell our fed aid so we will run it through the program to complete more reseal.

Derek reported that Michigan Cat informed us that our three new graders should be here by the end of the month and the graders we have need to be ready to be returned.

Derek informed the board that he was contacted by Chris Wren on Monday regarding an interest again in a shared project to pave Mundy Ave. near the Diamond Lake county park. This project would be split three ways by the NCRC, Lincoln Township, and Newaygo County. The board had no objections. Mike will generate a revised estimate.

Derek informed the board that Darren submitted a notice that he is retiring and his last day of work will be December 31st.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Harmon mentioned that Mr. Wheeler has published another picture and article on the front page of the Indicator this week.

Commissioner Harmon mentioned that he attended the County board meeting last month after our meeting. He shared our construction project spreadsheet showing all the work that was completed this season. Commissioner Harmon also provided an update on the 40th St. and Hardy Dam closures.

Commissioner Harmon indicated that Commissioner Maike asked if we had a 50 ft. lift to cut limbs and branches, and Commissioner Kruithoff inquired about having corners cut back with the brush hog. In addition, Commission on Aging asked questions about the cameras we have installed countywide through our agreement with Frost Solutions. This might be helpful in determining when they should cancel their routes due to inclement weather.

Commissioner Harmon inquired about the issue at 76th St. and Ash. Derek informed the board that law enforcement has contacted the individual. He believes it has been turned over to the prosecutor.

Commissioner Harmon commented on the new development in the City of Fremont. The public, via social media, has made their opinion known about the existing power pole that was not moved and that the contractor simply paved around it.

Commissioner Harmon mentioned the benefit that was held last weekend for Tim and Terri who are affiliated with the county parks. They have both experienced health issues, and the community came together and raised over \$6,600.

Commissioner Harmon informed the board that he will be gone for two weeks beginning this Saturday. He will be available via email.

Commissioner Gonyon inquired about sending the brush hog to 88th St. between Linden and Catalpa. Derek mentioned that the area foreman will be trimming the area with a cut crew. Derek mentioned that most of our employees have been assigned to the 40th St. construction project and not maintenance. Once this project is complete the brush hog will be used more.

Public Comment: none

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk