

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Newaygo County was called to order by the Chairman Gonyon at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 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 August 27, 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:

September 11, 2025

Vendor checks # 66235 - # 66256 and ACH Vendor checks elect. #14743 - #14776 in the amount of \$570,001.80 and Payroll checks # 60290 - # 60306 in the amount of \$125,654.86.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment – none

Kerry provided the board with an updated cash flow, township project spreadsheet, and fuel savings and budget reports through August.

Kerry informed the board that MDOT sent out an email last week regarding our MTF distributions and the state budget. The notice reported that MDOT will be distributing the August Act 51 funds prior to September 30th instead of waiting until the 3rd of October, to ensure local units of government do not experience delays in receiving monthly MTF allocations. If a shutdown occurs and stretches another 30 days, MDOT would not have authorization or staff available to process payments.

Kerry informed the board that over the last few years she has been having issues with our business credit card. Even though we process payments every other week, they are sometimes “received” late because they are being mailed to Omaha, NE. Kerry would like to cancel our current business credit cards and obtain new ones from Independent Bank, where we can make payments right at our local branch. The board had no objections.

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

- Chestnut Ave. from the north township line to 56th St. – Overlay

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

Kerry presented the following contract with **Big Prairie Township**:

- Chestnut Ave. from 36th St. south approximately 1.5 miles to the township line. – Crush, Shape, and Pave

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

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

- 56th St. between Ferris Ave. and Bingham Ave. – Grade and Dolomite

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

Kerry asked the board if they would like to set the board meeting dates for November and December. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to have our board meetings at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, and Wednesday, December 17, 2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that we have taken delivery of most of the sign-truck equipment, and we will begin to assembly.

Derek informed the board that the Spruce Ave. over the 5 Mile Creek bridge job is nearing completion. A walk-through is scheduled with Jon Moxey, Wayne Harrall, and Miller Construction for next Friday.

Derek informed the board that he had a conference call with Kerry and Andrew Cascini, the labor attorney Bill Henn recommended. Derek reported that we have not had a labor attorney since the retirement of Derderian and it would be a great asset to bring him on board to review our outdated contract and help us in future negotiations. Derek will be inviting him to a future board meeting. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to sign the retention agreement with Andrew Cascini with Henn Lesperance PLC, as our labor attorney. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that he will be attending the Rural Task Force meeting on the 22nd to update the 2026 Fed. Aid fund usage. Derek mentioned that we will not be selling our 2026 Fed. Aid because neither Kent nor Oakland can purchase it. We may use those funds for the improvement of 40th St. between Gordon Ave. and M-37.

Derek provided an update on the 40th St. over the Bigelow Creek project.

Derek informed the board that Mike met with Consumers Energy on Hardy Dam last week to discuss the upcoming mill and fill project. Consumers Energy has 7 sensors in the road that will have to be lowered along with the PVC pipe. We are currently waiting for Rieth and Riley to get it scheduled. Commissioner Harmon stated that the Parks Committee just met, and they are still planning to move forward with the marina updates. However, the scope of the project is being downsized.

Derek provided an update on the Garfield/Sheridan Township solar project. He has been in contact with AES Clean Energy regarding the scope of the project and the effect it would have on our roads and what we would have to do to support this type of project. Derek reported their projection of the project shows 80 semi’s and 350 cars a day. Derek mentioned that AES emailed him over a road use agreement for review. Derek will forward this on to Fleis and Vandenbrink and Kent County for review.

Derek informed the board that the 2nd round of roadside mowing is complete.

Derek reported that we had a meeting with MDOT regarding our budget and remaining funds. We have the brush hog and cut crews on the highway this month utilizing the remainder of our funds in our budget.

Derek reported that MDOT plans to replace the vault restrooms at Ziegler roadside park this fall.

Derek provided a construction update.

Derek informed the board that we will be going to our normal work schedule on Monday, September 15th.

Derek reported that under the USFS maintenance agreement, we have used up all the funds but \$1,000. Derek mentioned that the USFS is currently working on new agreements.

Discussion took place regarding the email received about the nails in the road and missing street sign at Ash and 76th St. Law enforcement was notified and this has been resolved.

Public Comment: Rich Houtteman, Consumers Energy, joined the board in session. Rich informed the board that he attended the Big Prairie Township board meeting last night. He mentioned that a lot of people in attendance were concerned about the sale of the dam and whether the new purchaser would honor the current lease agreements. Consumers Energy recommended the new buyer to honor all lease agreements as they are.

Rich also reported that a handful of residents were concerned about the condition of the road over the dam. Rich explained that Consumers Energy and the Road Commission have partnered this year for the repair of the road. Rich also explained that there was a massive project planned for the dam, and it would have been a waste of funds to repair the road to have it tore out with that project.

Rich mentioned an erosion issue on Beech Ave. north of 16th St. at the guardrail that needs to be addressed. Derek mentioned that he has previously brought this to Consumers Energy’s attention, and he has already met on-site with Consumers Energy representatives. Derek mentioned that the section of road is approximately 900 ft. in length that will have to be shifted approximately 33 ft. to alleviate the erosion issue.

Commissioner Harmon informed Rich that he is on the Parks Department Committee, and he is glad to hear they anticipate keeping current agreements so they can keep moving forward with the improvements at the Marina.

Commissioner discussion items:
Commissioner Fetterley reported that he will be out of town during our next board meeting, September 24th.

Commissioner Harmon reminded the board that the tire collection will be on September 20th from 8 a.m. – noon, and they are looking for volunteers. Commissioner Harmon informed the board that the Hazardous Waste program received a \$10,000 grant for electronics, and that grant is done. Last collection they had a whole semi load of electronics. The Department of Public Works has been discussing the future of the program and its funding. Commissioner Harmon informed the board that the Parks Department is reaching out to the Fremont Area Foundation on the possibility of funding another cabin to be placed at Henning Park. Commissioner Harmon mentioned introducing Asa, Parks Director to the staff at the Fremont Area Foundation.

Commissioner Gonyon informed Derek of a brush issue that could be addressed by the boom mower.

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk