

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, September 24, 2025, at the road commission offices.

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

Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Gonyon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 10, 2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

September 26, 2025:
Vendor checks # 66257 - # 66282 and ACH Vendor checks elect. # 14777 - # 14810 in the amount of \$811,597.61 and Payroll checks # 60307 - # 60323 in the amount of \$124,055.26. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

8:07 a.m.: Budget Hearing open for FY2026 Kerry presented the following FY 2026 budget to the Board and discussions took place:

REVENUE		EXPENDITURES	
	2026 Budget - Proposed		2026 Budget - Proposed
License and Permits		Primary Road	
Permits	100,000	Preservation/Structural Improvement	4,000,000
		Routine and Preventive Maintenance	2,400,000
Federal Funding		Local Road	
Category D - Rural Primary		Preservation/Structural Improvement	3,000,000
Surface Transp Program (Reseal)	1,176,267	Routine and Preventive Maintenance	4,000,000
Critical Bridge:Spruce Ave. over Five Mile Creek	63,199		
USFS Maintenance/non-road projects	1,045	Primary Road Structure	
		Spruce Ave. over Five Mile Creek	90,000
State Funding		Hardy Dam - future project	
Michigan Transportation Fund			
Engineering	10,000	Local Road Structure	
Primary Road	6,470,969	Vista Dr. @ Brooks Creek	
Local Road	4,863,602	Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd.	
Primary Urban	47,413		
Local Urban	16,106	State Trunkline	
Snow Removal	74,680	State Trunkline Maintenance	1,573,184
		State Trunkline Non-Maintenance	50,000
State Category D Funds			
		STP - primary reseal	1,188,084
Critical Bridge:Spruce Ave. over Five Mile Creek	11,850	State D Funds	
Economic Development Funds: Forest Funds	101,162		
		USFS	
Other State Sources		USFS Other	
Contributions from Local Units		USFS Maintenance FS roads	1,045
Townships	2,000,000	Forest Funds €	101,167
City/Village	10,000		
Schools	1,000	Equipment Expense ~ Net	
Other Entities	12,000	Direct	2,000,000
Drain Commission - Brooks Creek		Indirect	610,000
Buy-out Oakland Cty., transfer of fed aid funds)		Operating	500,000
		Less: Equipment Rentals	(3,000,000)
Charges for Services			
State Trunkline Maint	1,573,184	Administrative Expense ~ Net	
State Trunkline Non-maint	50,000	Administrative Expense	830,400
Charges for Fuel	10,000	Less: Handling Charges	
Salvage	14,000	Purchase Discounts	
		Overhead ~ State	(125,000)
Interest and Rents			
Interest	150,000	Distributive Expenses	
Rentals		Fringe Benefits	
		Other - Non Labor	
Other Revenues			
Private souce - property damage reimbursement	11,080	Capital Outlay ~ Net	
Private source - Trout Unlimited	650,000	Land	
Gain/(Loss) on Equipment	10,000	Building	150,000
Installment Purchase Proceeds (new leases)	1,363,922	Road Equipment	2,599,285
		Shop Equipment	10,000
TOTAL REVENUES:	18,791,479	Engineering Equipment	10,000
		Office Equipment	10,000
		Less: Depreciation Credits	(900,000)
		Less: Equipment Retirements (returned leases)	(606,403)
		Debt Service	
		Principal Payments	266,779
		Interest Expense	32,939
		TOTAL EXPENDITURES	18,791,479

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow and an updated township project spreadsheet.

Derek informed the board that the rural task force meeting on the 22nd was cancelled and was rescheduled for October 21st.

Derek informed the board that he sat in on a webinar from CRA regarding their road investment plan they released to the media.

Derek reported that last Friday they performed the walkthrough of the Spruce Ave. bridge over the 5 Mile Creek from the 19th. It was open to traffic yesterday.

Derek provided an update on the construction progress on the 40th/Bigelow box culvert. This is the largest project we have ever tackled. Derek mentioned that we have ran into quite a few issues, and he applauded Mike and Jason for their resilience and noted they are handling the project well.

Derek informed the board that he is planning to meet the grant writer for the Felch/Anderson Hill project on site the 10th of October.

Derek reported that Mike and Jason are unable to attend the SAM conference October 1st – 3rd due to conflicts with the 40th St. project. Derek informed the board that he will be attending with Chris.

Derek informed the board that a property owner on Walnut Ave. at the Pere Marquette filed a complaint with EGLE regarding sediment and erosion concerns. Derek and Mike met on-site with EGLE, the property owner, and Wayne with Kent County Road Commission. EGLE determined that there are no issues with the road but agreed we could create run-offs in the berm to the north and south of the river. The owner was not pleased with EGLE’s response and has since sent more emails regarding his unsatisfactory response from the on-site visit. Derek noted that after the meeting, someone shoveled the sediment from the bridge into the river. Mike has taken pictures and notified EGLE.

Derek provided an update on the issue that the board is copied on emails regarding 76th and Ash. The property owner continues to throw nails into the road, almost daily. We are taking pictures and keeping track of our expenditures.

Derek reported that he and Melissa met with Sam with CRASIF to discuss and apply for a MIOHSA safety grant. Derek mentioned that it is a 50/50 match. Derek reported that we are looking at getting a couple harness sets for the sign shop, new welding equipment, and we looked at drones. Derek also reported that Sam performed a site visit of the 40th St. box culvert project and was impressed with the safety aspect of the work zone.

Derek provided an update regarding the Woodland Park Historical sign lawsuit from Bill Henn and MCRISIP. Mr. Redding is continuing with the lawsuit, and we have retained MCRC SIP’s support, and they will cover Bill Henn’s representation on our behalf.

Derek reported that we received a letter from Randy Towne addressed to Mr. Road Commissioner regarding his driveway on 48th St. Randy had contacted the road commission with concerns of a bump over the driveway culvert we installed years ago. The area foreman performed a site visit and determined the culvert was not bad. It is not policy to fix driveway culverts that are not in need of repairing. By the time Derek received Randy’s letter, he had already hired a contractor to cut that section of asphalt and replace it. Commissioner Harmon mentioned that he knows Randy and is willing to follow up with him regarding the letter he sent.

Derek provided more details on the capital outlay line items in the FY26 budget.

Derek provided a construction update.

9:10 a.m.: Budget Hearing closed

Commissioner Gonyon closed the budget hearing. Motion was made by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Gonyon to approve the FY 2026 Budget and Resolution. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Harmon reported on the tire collection that was held last Saturday. He will be gathering information from the Drain Commission and contacting the Fremont Indicator to publish an article. Derek reported that 4 trailers have already been loaded in 2 days. He also mentioned that Larry’s Tire and the Drain Commission have been great to work with coordinating the swapping of trailers. Commissioner Harmon believes 4,000 tires were collected during the 4-hour event and there were a dozen volunteers.

Commissioner Harmon reported that he had recently met up with a relative that lives out of town who works for a road commission where they staff a CDL instructor right at the road commission. Commissioner Harmon thought that was interesting.

Commissioner Gonyon reported that his friend, and owner of Barber Creek Sand and Gravel would like to do something for the Newaygo County Road Commissioner to show their appreciation for all the business we give them throughout the year. Kerry will contact them and suggest a donation to our scholarship program and/or the purchase of turkeys for all the employees around Thanksgiving.

Public Comment: none

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

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk