

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, July 23, 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 July 9, 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:

July 17, 2025

Vendor checks # 66117 - # 66145 and ACH Vendor checks elect. #14616 - #14647 in the amount of \$308,636.67 and Payroll checks # 60223 - # 60239 in the amount of \$128,554.99.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment - none

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

Kerry informed the board that the next Paul Bunyan meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21st.

Kerry reminded the board that the NCRC Golf Outing is August 2nd.

Kerry informed the board that she and Derek met again with Jennifer with Acrisure to discuss insurance plans and policies. Kerry reported that she had asked Jennifer to solicit new providers for our Life, Short- and Long-Term Disability plans. Liberty Financial Group came in at \$29,073.01 annually which is a \$17,034.51 savings to our existing plan/provider. Kerry informed the board that she also requested quotes on different eye and dental providers. There were no savings in the vision and only \$6,787 annual savings in dental, but the new provider lacks participating providers in our area. Kerry and Derek agreed to leave our eye and dental carriers alone for the time being. Jennifer will be compiling different plan options with Angle Health. Once we have this information, we will present it to the board and employees.

Derek reported that we have drafted a Letter of Understanding with the Union to extend the contract for an additional year, which will now expire August 31, 2025. Derek mentioned that the union would receive a 5% increase on 9-1-25, would continue to receive longevity payments the first pay period following January 1, 2026, and July 1, 2026, and personal time off and/or vacation time may be used for the purposes defined by ESTA. The contract would then expire on August 31, 2026. The board had no objections and Commissioner Gonyon signed the LOA.

Derek reported that the historical signs have been installed in the Woodland Park area. Derek reported that one of the signs was placed in the road right-of-way in front of Ford Redding's property. He has an issue with sign placement. He vocalized his concerns on site, then came into our office, and then filed a lawsuit with the courts. We now have 21 days to respond. Derek recommended sending the information to our attorney. The board had no objections.

Derek informed the board that construction began on the 21st on Elm Ave. north of 13 Mile Rd. bridge over Mcduffee Creek. The bridge was delivered and assembled. The sheet piling will be installed and the bridge will be hauled up when ready. Dale Dukes has been contacted regarding the guardrail. Derek mentioned that we will be paving 800 ft. north of 13 Mile Rd.

Derek reported that he and Mike attended an online meeting with Trout Unlimited on the 17th to discuss the timeline of the 40th St. Bigelow project. Derek has an agreement with Trout Unlimited, they have \$650,000 for the project, which should cover everything but our cost share of labor and asphalt. They still have the closure beginning on August 18th, and anticipate it being closed for 6-8 weeks.

Derek reported that the repairs on the salt shed have finally been completed.

Derek informed the board that the historical signs in Woodland Park have been installed. The ribbon cutting event will take place on August 8th at 1:30 p.m.

Derek informed the board that he does not have a recent update on the Spruce Ave. bridge rehab. The meeting scheduled was delayed until next week.

Derek informed the board that Reith Riley had an incident with their Big Rapids plant. The paving we had scheduled for the week the incident happened was cancelled, but they managed to utilize resources from the Ludington plant to continue paving.

Derek reported that the township reseal projects with Oceana County should happen mid to late August. We have all the stone and emulsion ready, and we are just waiting for Oceana County to finish their projects and move into our county.

Derek informed the board that we have a 2nd paint map ready for Michigan Pavement Markings. This will cover more primary miles and all the township projects done to date.

Derek provided a construction update.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Harmon reported that they are meeting with the Parks Director today at 1 p.m. to discuss quite a few questions that he has.

Public Comment: none

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