

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, June 11, 2025, at the road commission offices.

Commissioners present: William Gonyon, Douglas Harmon, and Lee Fetterley
Staff present: Derek Wawsczyk, Manager; Kerry Hewitt, Clerk; and Mike Brege, Superintendent
Others present: Dale Twing

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 28, 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:

June 5, 2025

Vendor checks # 66040 - # 66061 and ACH Vendor checks elect. #14521 - #14548 in the amount of \$923,264.11 and Payroll checks # 60172 - # 60188 in the amount of \$128,401.03.

All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Kerry provided budget reports and fuel savings through May.

Kerry provided an update on the golf outing and request for hole sponsorships.

Kerry presented the board with MERS Employer Resolution establishing Military Service Contribution requirements for defined benefit. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to adopt the presented MERS resolution; Whereas, the board elects to allow the member to remit some or all missed mandatory employee contributions within a time period equal to three times the duration of the military service from the date of reemployment, but not to exceed five years, and years of service credit shall be granted in proportion to the employee contributions received. All ayes.

Public Comment – Dale Twing thanked the road commission for the use of the facility for the Hazardous Waste Collection, and for Commissioner Harmon for helping. He said the event was shortened from 6-hours to 4-hours. The event cost around \$40,000 and they received \$2,800 in donations. Dale mentioned receiving a tire grant for \$21,000, which is equivalent to 7 semi loads. He hopes to schedule another one day, 4-hour event for collection. The reports and data for the tire grant do not have to be submitted until next year, so he is assuming they will not be awarded grants next year. This is something to be mindful of.

Dale mentioned the sand that was hauled by Oakridge and leveled by Kukal concrete looks great at Crystal Lake. Dale appreciates the collaboration from all the entities involved.

Dale mentioned being contacted by the Ryerson Lake Association about 4 pieces of pipe sticking out at the road that ends at the water's edge, which is utilized as a boat launch. Dale checked around and he does not know what they are or why they are there. He sees to issues with them being removed if that is what the association wants.

Derek provided an update on the Grace St. / Randy Christensen right-of-way and encroachment issues from last meeting. At this point, we are under the impression that the landowners are working on an agreement; therefore, we will be holding off on removing the encroachments.

Derek informed the board that Trout Unlimited will be holding a field training day at our 40th St. Bigelow creek crossing today. We are informed that there will be a bus of about 35 participants learning how to properly stake a project. This will be performed off the road, but we have placed caution signs in the area.

Derek reported that the catch basin cleaning has started in the county.

Derek reported that the roadside mowing has started on MDOT and county roads. Jablonski's have five tractors working countywide.

Derek informed the board that he has been working with MI CAT on the future of our grader leases. We have been putting more hours on the graders because of the increased workload, and the price of graders has risen considerably.

Derek reported that under our EGLE permit we have removed the old abutments from the Elm bridge project. The timber piles for the pier caps will be installed by the 1st of August.

Derek informed the board that he met with Asa Vermeulen, the new County Parks Director, to discuss the marina project. He also had questions about how we function and how we are funded, as he has never worked with a road commission before. It was a productive meeting.

Derek reported that with the Hardy Dam project on hold from Consumers Energy, they have agreed to pay up to \$70,000 for the mill and overlay of the road surface on Hardy Dam, which is approximately 50% of the estimate Mike has compiled. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to enter into an agreement with Consumers Energy for the surface repairs on the dam. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that all the Fed Aid Chip seal is complete, and the fog seal should be completed by the 23rd.

Derek informed the board that the MDOT project in the City of Fremont has started this week.

Derek provided a construction update.

Derek informed the board that we received a letter from the City of White Cloud requesting our participation again at their Kids Day event on August 19th.

Derek informed the board that Sheridan Township Supervisor, Peter Lance, mailed a letter to the residents of Rhonda Dr. stating that the road commission presented them with an estimate of \$80,000 to fix their road properly by correcting the drainage and adding gravel, but the township is only willing to spend \$40,000. Discussion took place on the condition of the road and the proper fix, along with all the previous estimates and conversations had with property owners. Derek will try and attend the township's next board meeting.

Derek received a MCRCSIP ballot with one person seeking reelection. The board had no objections to Derek casting a vote for the candidate.

Derek informed the board that he has sat down with the union a few times to discuss the contract. Derek's recommendation is to extend the current contract for one more year and present them with a letter of understanding about wage increases and the new ESTA requirements. The board had no objections.

Discussion took place regarding management annual wage increases. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve the following, effective June 1, 2025:

The Superintendent and the Foremen will receive the longevity payments on the same schedule as all the other employees and will receive a 2% wage increase.

Engineering Tech., Payroll/HR/Accounts Payable, and the Administrative Assistant will receive a 5% wage increase.

Office Manager/Clerk to the Board and the Manager will receive a 5% wage increase.
All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner discussion items:
Commissioner Gonyon stated that he received three separate complaints about speeding in the Hess Lake Dr. area. Discussion took place on the “failed” extra funding for road patrol in Brooks Township.

Public Comment: none

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk