

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, May 14, 2025, at the road commission offices.

Commissioners present: William Gonyon, Douglas Harmon, and Lee Fetterley
Staff present: Derek Wawczyk, Manager and Kerry Hewitt, Clerk
Others present: Gary Timmer and Danial Donavan

Motion by Commissioner Fetterley and supported by Commissioner Harmon to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 23, 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:

May 8, 2025

Vendor checks # 65991 - # 66016 and ACH Vendor checks elect. #14452 - #14485 in the amount of \$450,856.41 and Payroll checks # 60140 - # 60155 in the amount of \$114,207.38.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Danial Donavan lives at the corner of Beech Ave. and 16th St. He thinks the work we have done out there looks fabulous. There are several people, including him, that believe traffic travels too fast. He has personally witnessed several close calls involving bicyclists since the completion of the Dragon Trail. He believes the speed limit should be lowered and two additional stop signs erected.

Derek mentioned that once the project is complete, he will request the Michigan State Police perform a speed study. In addition, he will contact the Kent County Road Commission, who we often utilize for our engineering and traffic studies, to see if additional stop signs would be warranted. Derek also mentioned that he will place our portable radar sign in the area before the Memorial Day holiday.

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

Kerry presented the board with budget reports and fuel savings through April.

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

- Hardwick Dr. east of Pine Ave. – Reseal

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

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

- 60th St. between Dickinson Ave. and Fitzgerald Ave. and Fitzgerald Ave. at the railroad tracks. – Wedge and Overlay
- 80th St. between Warner Ave. and Stone Ave. – Wedge and Overlay

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

Derek informed the board that he will be attending the Paul Bunyan meeting on Thursday the 15th.

Derek informed the board that we have been invited to meet with the drain commission, townships, and the solar energy company regarding the planned project in Sheridan and Garfield Townships. This meeting is also scheduled for Thursday the 15th. Mike will be in attendance.

Derek reported on an encroachment issue in Lincoln Township at 2507 N. Grand Blvd. Kerry presented the board with resolution #NCRC-05-001-25, a resolution specifying authorized officials to issue an encroachment removal order. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to approve Resolution #NCRC-05-001-25 as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek informed the board that he and Mike met with the new Big Prairie Township Supervisor, Ray Westgate. Derek stated that it was a positive an informational meeting going over our procedures and discussing maintenance and construction projects. Discussion took place regarding dust control, cost sharing, and pavement marking.

Derek informed the board that he was contacted by Peterbilt, informing us that they will be able to submit more bids in the future, and that they have gone from a 3 series to a 5 series. In addition, Steve Bush from West Michigan International stopped by recently updating him on what they have been working on.

Derek reported that Oakland County is unable to purchase our 2026 Fed Aid, and that he has contacted Kent County to see if they would be interested in buying it.

Derek informed the board that our summer help has started for the season. We hired six, with four of them returning from last year.

Derek informed the board that he signed the proposal for our 2025 bridge inspection done by Fleis and Vandenbrink. Derek mentioned that they usually get the inspections done in June.

Derek presented to the board a proposal from Fleis and Vandenbrink regarding the construction engineering services for Spruce Ave. over the Five Mile Creek bridge project. Motion by Commissioner Harmon and supported by Commissioner Fetterley to accept management's recommendation and sign the proposal for the construction engineering services with Fleis and Vandebrink for the Spruce Ave. bridge project. All ayes. Motion carried.

Derek reported that MDOT has given us \$40,000 to pull berm in the county; specifically in the city limits of Grant, Newaygo, and White Cloud.

Derek provided an update on the 40th St. Bigelow project. Last night, Northern Concrete presented us with the final shop drawings of the box culvert to review and approve.

Derek provided an update on the Elm bridge project. Jon Moxey with Fleis and Vandenbrink have been working with Krenn Bridge. The bridge has been designed and ordered. There was a slight change in the EGLE permitting increasing the length from 16 ft. to 20 ft. so it could be eligible for bridge funding in the future.

Derek provided an update on construction projects.

Commissioner discussion items:

Commissioner Harmon stated that he just read an article that State Representative Joseph Fox is advocating for nearly \$15 million to address infrastructure issues in the City of Cadillac.

Commissioner Harmon informed the board that the committee has selected and hired Asa Vermeulen as the new Parks Director.

Public Comment: Gary Timmer inquired if the budgeted line item for the cost share portion of the township projects fluctuates or remains the same.

Danial Donovan requested that the speed study be performed on the weekend.

With no objections, Chairman Gonyon adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

William Gonyon, Chairman

Kerry Hewitt, Clerk