

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Road Commission office at 800 W. Franklin Street, Iron River, Michigan.

Chairman Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting.

Present for the roll call were Chairman Ernie Schmidt, Vice-Chairman Ron Frailing and Commissioners Jim Cihak, Chuck Battan and Dan Germic. Also, present: Superintendent/ Manager Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Emily Bieghler, Fill-In Shop Foreman Duane Porier, Maintenance Foreman Rob Johnson, Bates Twp. Supervisor Mike Stafford, Mastodon Township Trustee Dave Smith, Ean Bruette, County Commissioner, Attorney Mark Tousignant, Logan Schmutzler, Wickwire, Brian DeBernardi, McCoy and Brenda Drayton, Michigan Dept. of Treasury. Members of the public present: Patti and Ronjo Leonoff, Sharon Telle and Jeff Shepard.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Supt. Toivonen requested the addition of 11. I, MDOT QAQC Load Ratings-Ayers Proposal.
Motion by Commissioner Frailing, with support from Germic, to accept the agenda with the addition.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025, audit and regular meetings.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 145,963.35
b. Prepaid Claims of:	269,323.46
c. Accounts Payables of:	257,618.11
d. Bond Payment P&I	108,568.75
Total:	\$ 781,473.67

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated July 31, 2025, covering the above disbursements.

Roll call vote: Ayes- Battan, Cihak, Germic, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Toivonen requested the observation of a moment of silence for the Oakland County Road Commission employee that lost their life in the line of duty on July 23, 2025.

Supt. Toivonen reviewed his report:

Building/Inventory:

The contract for the Iron River MDOT salt shed has been signed; Michelle has invoiced for the administration fee to pay for consulting firms and engineering fees.

The 2025 fire protection system inspection was completed by Johnson Controls and a quote for necessary replacement parts has been received.

Primary Roads:

CR 424 PH 7/ Hagerman Lk. Rd.- Work is tentatively scheduled to begin on CR 424 Aug. 25th. Bid savings on the two buyout projects will be applied as our matching funds, since all of the buyout money is required to be spent on a federal aid route. If all of the Category D funds are not used, they will be returned to the task force and carried forward to another year's projects.

The preliminary preview submission from EGLE has been received for Homer Rd-Sunset Creek. Logan Schmutzler, Wickwire, reported EGLE has done a site visit, requiring an 18' span, therefore options are being investigated.

Pavement marking was completed July 15th-16th, and the crosswalks were done July 31st.

Bids to do a patch on Rockcrusher Rd. were received and due to the high cost, the project will be re-evaluated, possibly to be completed by our crew.

The 2023 Spring Flooding projects on Ponozzo, Warner Mine, Baumgartner and Bates-Amasa are complete. There is an issue at Basswood Rd, and the road closure time has been extended. Hoping for a resolution by the end of the week.

FLAP grant applications have been started for Ottawa Lake Rd Phase 3, for three 1-mile segments of road: Ottawa Lk. Rd. from the 2021 pavement to Ottawa Lk. Park, FH-16 US2 to Golden Lk/ USFS North line, and FH-16 USFS North Line to University/Basswood intersection.

Local Roads:

Township local road project list requests have been sent out, with a due date of October 10th.

Trybom Dr. is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 8th, with hopes of a one-day road closure.

Crystal Falls Township is working on the drafting of the agreement for the Resort Drive bridge, with hopes of an April 2026 submittal for the removal.

The final invoice for the Section 19 Barry Rd. culvert replacement has been received and total costs will be submitted to MSP for reimbursement soon.

The preliminary preview submission from EGLE has been received for iron Lake Rd-Sunset Creek. Logan Schmutzler reported EGLE has done a site visit, requiring an 18' span for this crossing as well.

Kalla Walla and Armstrong Lake Rd. projects are tentatively scheduled to begin August 25th, while East Brule Lk. Rd. starting mid-September.

Fleet / Equipment:

The 2025 International Chassis has been picked up and work to build the truck has begun.

A report was made regarding a mailbox that potentially was hit by the mowing crew. We were able to use Samsara to investigate and determine that the mailbox was not struck by our employee.

A traffic counter was recently purchased as the counts are sometimes required when applying for grants. It is currently in Amasa getting the counts needed for the grant application to resurface the railroad crossing on US 141.

Employment Items:

Interviews were held and three HEOP's were hired, one for Crystal Falls and two for Iron River. One Mechanic was offered the position, and we are waiting for acceptance of the job offer.

The Construction Foreman position was posted and accepted internally.

Bridges:

Ayers inquired with MDOT as to whether inspections on the Pentoga Rd-Brule River stream needed to continue to be done, as it is scheduled for replacement in the next three years. MDOT felt the inspections should continue to avoid future issues if the replacement were to be postponed or cancelled.\

Misc:

MDOT contracted out some repair work on the cross culvert in the M73/ Hagerman Lake Rd. area; the road

commission provided lane closure and flaggers. The restrooms at both roadside parks were removed by our crew yesterday as well and are being replaced by contractors hired by MDOT this week. The rental skid steer is being used on the clear vision areas.

There is no new information on the EGLE/ Urban Ave fuel tank issue. Following the last meeting, Bill Henn reached out and said they would be calling all the affected road commissions and have a recommendation of how to proceed at that time. TriMedia is aware of this and is ok with waiting to proceed with their proposal.

Highline will start running drops to homes soon; a plan on how to address when permits are needed on these is in progress. Crews are moving over to the Mansfield/ Camp 5 area as of today. Midway is wrapping up and doing drops to homes and Michigan Broad band will do an approximately two- week project in the Smoky Lake area starting August 25th.

Drain Commissioner:

Stager Lake and Fortune Lake both have beaver activities picking up again. The cameras are working very well.

DELEGATIONS

Mike Stafford, Bates Twp. Supervisor asked who is responsible for the signage at Larson Park. He was pleased that the outhouse was being replaced.

Dave Smith, Mastodon Trustee requested updates on road repairs and the greenbelt information he brought to the meeting last month. He made statements regarding reclaiming gravel from the shoulders of the roads in their township.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Sharon Telle asked for recommendations on the drainage issues she is experiencing on her property on Pentoga Trail. She was advised that because her yard is sloped toward her cottage, it would be a good idea to address the drainage at her cabin and the slope on her parking pad and yard. The road is not the cause and we cannot do work outside of the right-of-way on her property or anyone else's property.

Resident Jeff Shepard spoke possibly submitting an abandonment petition for the one-mile end of Little Finland Road.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT PRESENTATION-BRENDA DRAYTON, MICHIGAN DEPT. OF TREASURY

Treasury Senior Auditor Brenda Drayton went over the Annual Audit, highlighting significant changes in revenues and expenses from 2023 to 2024. Overall, the audit went well and there were no audit findings.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY CCAA

Supt. Toivonen reviewed the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances and recommended the Board approve a three-year commitment that will both protect the monarch butterfly and help the road commission maintain maintenance and repairs without the delays caused by otherwise adding mitigation measures.

Motion by Commissioner Germic, with support from Cihak, to authorize the three-year commitment to the CCAA.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Battan, Cihak, Germic, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

MDOT ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE-RELATED CONDITIONS

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, support from Germic, to sign and submit the annual MDOT certification of employee related conditions.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

PA 202 OF 2017-RESOLUION FOR WAIVER APPLICATION-OPEB

Finance Director Johnson explained that since beginning the trust in 2024, the road commission has contributed \$59,237, representing the required normal cost. We are .6% funded; a waiver is required until the road commission reaches a 40% funding level.

The resolution and waiver application were authorized by a motion from Commissioner Frailing, supported by Battan.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

JOHNSON CONTROLS OSS SPRINKLER SYSTEM REPAIRS PROPOSAL

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support by Cihak, to approve the proposal from Johnson Controls for the repairs needed as determined at the annual inspection, for the amount of \$13,800.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Germic, Frailing, Cihak, Battan, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

CULVERT BIDS-BAUMGARTNER RD

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support by Frailing, to accept the low bid of \$13,746.25 from U.P. Concrete Pipe for the purchase of the arch culvert for Baumgartner Rd.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Cihak, Germic, Frailing, Battan, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

GRADER BIDS

Motion by Commissioner Battan, supported by Germic, to accept the low bid from McCoy/John Deere for the 5-year lease of two machines, at \$381,000 each.

Roll call vote: Ayes-Cihak, Battan, Germic, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

CRASIF BALLOT- BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Cihak to cast votes for Bill Luetzow, Wayne Schoonover and Micheal Scott to fill the three at-large terms on the Board of Trustees.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

MDOT QAQC LOAD RATINGS-AYERS PROPOSAL

Supt. Toivonen presented Ayers proposal for additional bridge rating outside the current contract, as now required by new MDOT requirements.

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, support by Cihak, to approve the proposal submitted by Ayres in the amount of \$22,125 for the necessary rerating of some structures within Iron County.

Roll call vote: Ayes- Battan, Germic, Frailing, Cihak, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Battan requested Brad inquire with the State about replacing the Larson Park sign.

At 10:19 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Germic, supported by Cihak, to adjourn.


Ernie Schmidt, Chairman


Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board

Board of County Road Commissioners Of IRON COUNTY

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Finance Director/Clerk

Emily Bieghler
HR-PR/Assist. Finance Director

Ernie Schmidt, Chairman
Ron Frailing, Vice Chairman
Chuck Battan, Member
Dan Germic, Member
Jim Cihak, Member

PUBLIC ACT 202 OF 2017 RESOLUTION FOR WAIVER APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County recognizes the requirements of Public Act 202 of 2017;

WHEREAS, Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County is committed to protecting the security of retirement benefits for its retirees and current employees;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County has completed the Michigan Department of Treasury, Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefit Act Application for Waiver, Retirement Health Benefit Systems and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Iron County Road Commissioners approves and submits the Application for Waiver.

The resolution is adopted in a motion by Commissioner Frailing with support from Commissioner Battan

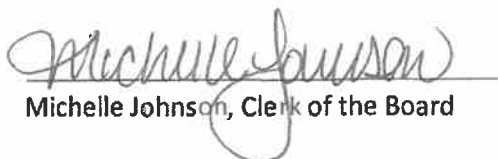
Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of part of the minutes of a meeting held on the 12th day of August 2025, by the Board of County Road Commissioners, Iron County, Michigan.


Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board

Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer



Baumgartner Rd - 71" x 47" Arch Culvert Bids

	Length	Size	Cadillac	Miller Prod	Etna	Contech	Metal Culverts	UP Concrete Pipe
Baumgartner	72'	71" x 47" - Arch 10 ga Aluminized w/ Band	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,182.10	\$14,437.40	\$13,746.25
		2 each 36' pieces						
Notes:		Metal Culverts quoted out of spec 3x1 vs						
		specified 2-2/3 x 1/2 corrugation						
		Shipping	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		TOTALS:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,182.10	\$14,437.40	\$13,746.25

IRON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

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BID SUMMARY - GRADERS (08-2025)

2025

	Caterpillar Fabick	John Deere McCoy
make / model	Cat 140-15 2025	John Deere 770 P 2026
Type (tandem or all-wheel)	Tandem	Tandem
engine	Caterpillar C9.3	JD Powertech PSS 9.0L
displacement	567.5 cu in	548 cu in
HP range (200 to 255)	177 - 250	200 - 255
	With wing	With wing
base price (each)	\$444,304.00	\$381,030.00
(fall 2020 bid)	\$266,426.00	\$262,000.00
buy back - each (5 year / 4000 hr)	NA	\$206,860.00
Net Price (each)	NA	\$174,170.00
Total cost for 60 months (each)	\$444,704.00	\$250,550.75
annual payment (each)	\$98,692.25	\$50,110.15
Interest Rate	5.49	4.75
End of lease buyout/purchase (each)	\$1.00	\$206,860.00

Meets all specifications (as indicated by vender on bid sheet)	Yes	Yes
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Any deviations	One wide-angle interior rear view mirror (spec = 2)	
Added Other		Armrest steering Control & Conventional Steering Wheel (spec = either/or) Automated cross slope control premium heated leather/fabric, high-wide back air suspension seat

IRON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

BID SUMMARY - GRADERS (08-2025)

2025

	Komatso Roland Machinery
make / model	Komatso GD655-7 2025
Type (tandem or all-wheel)	Tandem
engine	SAA6D107-E-3
displacement	480 cu in
HP range (170-230)	135 - 218
	Without wing
base price (each)	\$393,161.54
(fall 2020 bid)	\$0.00
buy back - each (5 year / 4000 hr)	NA
Net Price (each)	NA
Total cost for 60 months (each)	\$466,729.36
annual payment (each)	\$93,345.84
Interest Rate	4.50
End of lease buyout/purchase (each)	\$1.00
Meets all specifications (as indicated by vender on bid sheet)	Yes
Any deviations	In search of a Wing Supplier
	No Bluetooth
Added Other	