

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 8:31 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, Dan Germic and Chuck Battan. 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, Ean Bruette, County Commissioner, Attorney Mark Tousignant, Logan Schmutzler, Wickwire, Brian Schiavo, GEI, and Justin Simila, Fabick CAT. Members of the public present: Patti Leonoff.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025, audit and regular meetings and the special meeting held on September 3, 2025.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

a. Payrolls of:	\$ 150,966.83
b. Prepaid Claims of:	164,749.53
c. Accounts Payables of:	206,604.15

Total: \$ 522,320.51

Moved by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated August 31, 2025, covering the above disbursements.

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

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Supt. Toivonen reviewed his report:

Building/Inventory:

Sand deliveries will start in the first week of October, starting with Iron River garage. Starting to put together bid documents for the new contract as this is the final year of the current agreement. Early salt has been delivered. The administration fee for the Iron River salt shed project was received this morning.

Johnson Controls has not been onsite yet for repair on the Oss garage deficiencies; we will follow up as to when we can expect them.

Primary Roads:

CR 424 PH 7/ Hagerman Lk. Rd.- Paving is complete on CR 424 PH7. All that remains to be done is the permanent signage and centerline grooves/polyurethane. Paving on Hagerman Lake Rd. PH 1 began on Sept.15th.

There has been activity on the property near the CR 424 bypass. Another email was sent to the resident regarding the need for an agreement to be put in place if he wishes to continue to use road commission owned property to access theirs. Additionally, the Board currently has no interest in selling it.

Logan Schmutzler, Wickwire, confirmed the culvert sizing is almost complete for the Homer Rd-Sunset Creek EGLE permit, with it covering a 15' span, and a 3.5 or 4' height.

Doug is lined up to begin TAMC PASER ratings on the primary road system on Sept. 23rd. He completed the local system last week.

All repairs from the 2023 Spring Flooding are complete except for Smokey Lake Rd. The delivery of the box culvert is anticipated for the mid to third week of October, pushing it past the completion date. A time extension request is expected. Basswood Rd was finally open to traffic on Sept. 2nd.

FLAP grant applications have been submitted for Ottawa Lake Rd Phase 3; unsure as to the timeframe for approvals. A four-foot paved shoulder was included in the applications, to increase non-motorized access for residents and recreational visitors in that area. Spring Rosales, USFS, is looking to have a master agreement with the road commission, which could cover some of the maintenance costs on bi-jurisdictional roads within the county. She also thinks the USFS may have grants to help fund repairs on the FFH-16 bridges.

Local Roads:

The Trybom Dr. culvert was installed on Sept. 9th, and the project went extremely well. Working with the residents to close the road made the project much more efficient.

Pricing has been requested for the patching in the Rogers Location.

The Escanaba & Lake Superior RxR is generally not interested in resurfacing railway crossings and would rather remove them. Looking at the potential of this being done at the Pine St. and Elm St. crossings in the future, with Township participation.

Kalla Walla Rd. is finished, with the painting being done on Sept. 12th. The gravel job on Armstrong Lk Rd. has also been completed.

West Brule Lk Rd will be scheduled for mid-October. W. Chicagoan Lake Rd is being scarified today. A Stambaugh Twp. resident came in, wanting to get a seasonal road plowed in the winter. Because a major upgrade to the road would be required, this would involve the Township to agree to a heavy maintenance project.

Fleet / Equipment:

The crew is focused on going through the trucks to get them ready for winter.

New firewall is in place at the office.

There was an issue with the mower deck on the rental skid steer, but it has been resolved.

Employment Items:

The new Heavy Equipment Operators are in place and staffing looks good for winter. Advertisements for the winter seasonal positions are out; it looks like everyone from last year is returning, except for one.

Applications are due Oct. 2nd.

Dylon is working out great as the Construction Foreman and the new operators are working out very well.

Bridges:

Selections for regional MDOT local bridge program project funding will be made on Sept. 19th. According to information received at the Great Lakes District meeting last week, approx. \$440 million worth of applications were submitted for \$83 million in funding.

There are three culvert crossings that will be added to our bridge inspection list. These may be eligible for funding due to the culvert spacing and being over 20'.

Misc:

MDOT adopt-a-highway is Sept. 20-28th.

ICRC crews aided MDOT in the replacement of the restrooms and grounds restoration at the Larson and Alpha roadside parks

The trial for the Treeline Dr. lawsuit begins Sept. 30th.

MCRC SIP safety training Oct. 9th, along with the 2nd. Annual Roadeo.

CRA reported that efforts to push the road funding forward are still being made, with the Governor and House being set at \$3 billion. The budget deadline is Oct. 1st.

SAM local chapter meeting will be held at the Iron River office on Oct. 15th.

Brian Schiavo explained that most of what Highline has been permitted is being wrapped up. He is happy

that this year went much smoother than last year. There are some concerns remaining regarding a damaged culvert and whether permits will be needed for long-distance drops to homes. Michigan Broadband is close to wrapping up.

Linsey Rinquette, EGLE, has begun our 5-year soil erosion and sedimentation plan audit.

Drain Commissioner:

Stager Lake and Fortune Lake both have beaver activity. A request for a larger budget for 2026 has been made to the County in order for a survey loop to be performed on Sunset Lake to determine the elevation and pin down exactly where the summer level is mandated to be. A monument was supposed to have been put in when the lake level was originally court ordered, but it can't be found and was never recorded with the Register of Deeds written in the court order.

DELEGATIONS

Mike Stafford, Bates Twp. Supervisor expressed appreciation for both the recent maintenance projects and the Trybom Dr. culvert project that the road commission recently completed in Bates Township. The township has purchased some speed signs with digital messages that they are looking to put out.

County Commissioner Bruette informed the Board that he has been in touch with Zach regarding reforming the Heritage Trail Committee. He will bring up the drain commission budget with the County Board in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Germic reported he attended a virtual meeting with the State regarding Cooks Run. He was there as a resident, not as part of the Parks & Rec. Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS

Finance Director Johnson provided the Board with an update on the MERS Defined Benefit Plan, MERS Retiree Heath Trust and interest revenues for YTD 2025, noting we are 74% and 1% funded respectively.

GRADER BIDS

Supt. Toivonen reviewed bids received from Fabick CAT and McCoy John Deere. CAT no longer offers the lease option with a guaranteed buyback and additional purchase options were also requested in the bid documents. Motion by Commissioner Cihak, with support from Germic, to accept the bid for a five-year lease with guaranteed buyback from McCoy John Deere for the purchase price of \$359,575.

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

2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT #3

Finance Director Johnson presented budget amendment #3 for 2025.

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, support from Cihak, to accept the amendment as presented.

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

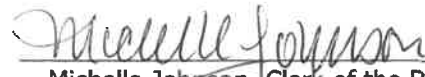
ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Battan mentioned auctioning off older equipment. Chairman Schmidt commended the crew on the Trybom Dr. culvert installation.

At 9:49 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

Iron County Road Commisison
Budget Request Form
Amendment #3

Approved

9/16/2025

Account Name	Revenue Increase (Decrease)	Expenditures & Fund Balance Increase (Decrease)
Revenues:		
<u>Primary Roads</u>		
CR 242 PH7- State "D" Funds	10,342.00	
State-funded salt shed repl.	60,000.00	
<u>Local Roads</u>		
Bates Twp	66,315.00	
Interest Income	42,680.00	
Expenditures:		
<u>Primary Heavy Maintenance</u>		
CR 424 PH7		(36,113.00)
Baumgartner Rd-Culvert		30,000.00
Primary Road Culvert Replacement		36,565.00
Hagerman Lake Rd PH1		(25,110.00)
Prim. Routine Maint.-Bridges		22,125.00
<u>Local Roads</u>		
Bates Twp		73,330.00
Local Rd. Engr		(7,015.00)
511-Indirect Equipment		13,800.00
Capital Outlay-Buildings		60,000.00
Capital Outlay-Rd. Eqt.		25,841.00
TOTALS:	179,337.00	193,423.00
Estimated Change in Fund Balance		(14,086.00)
2024 EOY Act 51 Fund Balance	3,646,455.50	
Estimated change in FB from Amend. #1	8.00	
Estimated change in FB from Amend. #2	(573,794.00)	
New Estimated Change in Fund Balance	(14,086.00)	
New Estimated EOY Fund Balance	3,058,583.50	

IRON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

BID SUMMARY - GRADERS (09-2025)

Lease Buy-Back Option 2025

	Caterpillar Fabick	John Deere McCoy
make / model	Cat 140-15 2026	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
	Without wing	Without wing
base price (each)	\$0.00	\$359,575.00
(fall 2020 bid)	\$239,950.00	\$260,050.00
buy back - each (5 year / 4000 hr)	NA	\$196,860.00
Net Price (each)	NA	\$162,715.00
Total cost for 60 months (each)	\$0.00	\$235,651.7 - Arrears; \$224,069.25 - at delivery
annual payment (each)	\$0.00	\$47,130.34 - Arrears; \$44,813.85 - at delivery
Interest Rate	0.00	4.75
End of lease buyout/purchase (each)	\$1.00	\$196,860.00

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)	
	Not a sealed circle	6 year / 5000 hr Warranty
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 (09-2025)

60 Month Outright Purchase 2025

	Caterpillar Fabick	John Deere McCoy
make / model	Cat 140-15 2026	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
	Without wing	Without wing
base price (each)	\$358,600.00	\$359,575.00
(fall 2020 bid)		
buy back - each (5 year / 4000 hr)	NA	NA
Net Price (each)	NA	NA
Total cost for 60 months (each)	NA	NA
annual payment (each)	\$79,583.34	\$78,889.55
Interest Rate	5.49% - Locked	5.2% Estimated
End of lease buyout/purchase (each)	NA	NA

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)	
	Not a sealed circle	6 year / 5000 hr Warranty
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 (09-2025)

84 Month Outright Purchase 2025

	Caterpillar Fabick	John Deere McCoy
make / model	Cat 140-15 2026	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
	Without wing	Without wing
base price (each)	\$358,600.00	\$359,575.00
(fall 2020 bid)	\$0.00	\$0.00
buy back - each (5 year / 4000 hr)	NA	NA
Net Price (each)	NA	NA
Total cost for 60 months (each)	NA	NA
annual payment (each)	\$59,795.31	\$59,781.82
Interest Rate	5.49% - Locked	5.2% Estimated
End of lease buyout/purchase (each)	NA	NA

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)	
	Not a sealed circle	6 year / 5000 hr Warranty
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