

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, February 10 2026, 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 Dan Germic, Chuck Battan and Jimi Cihak. Also, present: Superintendent/ Manager Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, HR-PR Administrator Emily Bieghler, Maintenance Foreman Rob Johnson, Construction Foreman Dylon LaMay, Shop Foreman Duane Porier, Mastodon Twp. Trustee Dave Smith, Attorney Mark Tousignant, Brian Schiavo, GEI, and County Commissioner Ean Bruette. Members of the public present: Patti Leonoff and Ethan Kurtz.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Supt. Toivonen requested the addition of 11 j. 2027 Western Star Chassis and 11 k. Patrol Wing Motion by Commissioner Batta, support by Cihak, to accept the agenda with the requested additions. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

**MINUTES TO BE APPROVED**

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Germic, to approve the minutes of January 13, 2026, audit and regular meetings. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

**DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Payrolls of:           | \$ 216,384.21         |
| b. Prepaid Claims of:     | 246,535.95            |
| c. Accounts Payables of:  | 646,506.56            |
| d. Bond Payment- Interest | 12,143.75             |
| Total:                    | <u>\$1,121,570.47</u> |

Moved by Commissioner Battan, supported by Germic, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, covering the above disbursements. Roll call vote: Ayes-Cihak, Germic, Battan, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

Supt. Toivonen reviewed his report:

**Building/Inventory:**

The award email has been sent to Northern Crushing and Screening for Oss pit, but we are still waiting to hear back from them as to whether they could do the same pricing for Amasa.

Revised plans for the Iron River salt shed are expected soon, following the meeting with UPEA on January 19<sup>th</sup> to address the items that were missed in the original preliminary plans. Supt. Toivonen and Commissioner Schmidt will be attending the County Board meeting this evening to discuss getting some barrow from the mud run area at the fairgrounds, to be used to build the pad for the new salt shed. This would also help the Fair Board out as they would like to make the mud run area longer.

Research is being done to purchase a small generator for each shop, capable of running the fuel pumps during a power outage.

**Primary Roads:**

CR 424 PH 9/ Hagerman Lk. Rd. PH 3 (2027)- The applications for the MDOT Federal Aid exchanges for 2027 were both on the draft award exchange list distributed by MDOT. This is a 90% buyout program.

The FLAP grant application for FH-16-US 2 PH1 to Golden Lake has been approved for 2027 construction. Will be looking to push it back to 2029 in order to accommodate a non-motorized trail into the project.

**Employment Items:**

Interviews for the Mechanic position are being held on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>; there are two candidates.

**Bridges:**

The 2029 call for projects has been sent out for the MDOT local bridge program, and the FH-16 bridges will again be submitted for funding.

Ayers reached out regarding the load ratings after the last inspections of the FH-16 bridges. They are recommending the FH-16 north branch bridge be further reduced from 30 tons to 1,19,27 ton, based on the truck axels. New signs are being ordered and must be in place within 20 days.

**Misc:**

Mike Phillips, MCRC SIP, will be here for work zone safety and site inspections on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Michelle is working with Marla to get information together regarding new ADA website guidelines that must be in place by April 2027.

Trimedia will honor the 2025 cost to complete the paperwork on the EGLE-Urban Ave. file, tentatively in Spring once the snow melts.

Michelle will be attending a CRA/MDOT webinar tomorrow regarding the new funding package.

Fiber Optic-Brian Schaivo explained to the Board that the gas crossings on Oss Rd are complete, and the crews are focused on Lake Emily. They are hoping to be pulling fiber net week.

The TransCanada pipeline is in the planning stages, with work going from Crystal Falls 93 miles south into Wisconsin. The proposed pipeline is tentatively scheduled for 2028 construction.

**DELEGATIONS**

Dave Smith, Mastodon Twp. Trustee, has some questions about highway plowing, weekend plowing and the banks on 424.

Commissioner Bruette shared that the Iron County Fair will be held in late August this year as a new company is running it this year. The Veteran's Affairs Office is looking for a new location. He also thanked the road commission crews for their hard work over the winter.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ethan Kurtz expressed some questions and concerns regarding plowing in the Buck Lake Rd. area.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**POLICY NO. 7-AMENDMENT #5-SEASONAL ROAD RESTRICTIONS**

Following discussion, Commissioner Schmidt requested verbiage defining the 5-ton weight limit.

Moved by Commissioner Germic, support by Battan, to approve Amendment #5 to the Seasonal Road Restriction Policy, including the addition of the 5-ton weight limit description.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

**TITLE SEARCH PROPOSAL**

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, support by Cihak, to accept the proposal from Peninsula Title to perform title searches for the County of Iron and Iron County Road Commission, contingent on the approval of the County Board to split the costs 50/50 with the road commission, with \$4,000 to be paid by each entity.  
Roll call vote: Ayes-Germic, Battan, Frailing, Cihak, Schmidt. Nays- None. Motion carried.

**JD GRADERS-PURCHASE OF #416/ #419; RESCIND SALE TO MCRC**

Superintendent Toivonen explained to the Board that there was confusion with the sale price of the graders to the Marquette Road Commission. While numbers had been verbally exchanged, ultimately, they did not have enough budgeted to meet the Iron CRC approved sale price of \$172,100.50 each. We budgeted according to this approved sale price and would be short on our 2026 budget if it were reduced.  
Commissioner Battan moved, with support from Frailing, to rescind this November 11, 2025, motion that approved the sale of the graders to the MCRC for \$172,100.50 each.  
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Battan, support by Germic, to approve the purchase of John Deere graders #416 and #419 from McCoy for a total of \$280,000 with the completion of the lease.  
Roll call vote: Ayes- Cihak, Battan, Frailing, Germic, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Cihak, to approve listing both graders on the Wisconsin Surplus auction site, with staggered auctions, each with a starting bid of \$165,000.  
Roll call vote: Ayes- Cihak, Germic, Battan, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

**CAT GRADER #415**

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, support from Cihak, to pay the final invoice for CAT grader #415 in the amount of \$166,599.81. which includes the final lease payment and personal property taxes.  
Roll call vote: Ayes-Germic, Battan, Cihak, Frailing, Schimdt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

**CHASSIS BUILD QUOTE**

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support by Frailing, to approve the build estimate for #296 as submitted by Peninsula Boom in the amount of \$68,550.30, not to exceed \$100,000.  
Roll call vote: Ayes- Battan, Germic, Frailing, Cihak, Schmidt. Nays-none. Motion carried.

**UNDERBODY SCRAPER AND DUMP BOX-INTERNATIONAL #296**

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support by Germic to accept the low bids as follows: Heights Machinery-Michigan Scraper for \$18,415 and Truck Equipment Beau Roc box for \$23,820.  
Roll call vote: Ayes-Frailing, Cihak, Germic, Battan, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

**EOY 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Finance Director Johnson presented the final amendment for 2025.  
Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support by Frailing to approve the amendment as presented.  
Roll call vote: Ayes- Germic, Battan, Cihak, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

**CRA BALLOT- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Motion by Commissioner Germic, support from Cihak, to cast a vote for Bob Lindbeck, PE, Alger County.  
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

**2027 WESTERN STAR CHASSIS ORDER**

Supt. Toivonen explained to the Board that there is a small window of opportunity to purchase a 2027 Western Star from U.P Truck Center, using Sourcewell cooperative purchasing, to be delivered in January 2027. Not only would this truck be pre-new emission standards, but Peninsula Boom could complete the build on this chassis in 2027, avoiding the two-year wait time with all other contractors for complete trucks.  
Motion by Commissioner Battan, support by Germic, to approve the purchase of a 2027 Western Star from U.P

Truck Center at the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing price of \$171,295.

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

Moved by Commissioner Battan, support by Frailing the purchase of an underbody and box for the 2027 chassis using the same low bids accepted for #296: Heights Machinery-Michigan Scraper for \$18,415 and Truck Equipment Beau Roc box for \$23,820.

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

Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Cihak to table the purchase of a wing until more research is obtained.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

### **PICKUP BIDS**

Commissioner Battan initially requested to discuss the pickup bids at the end of new business, to determine the other capital outlay purchases first.

Supt. Toivonen recommended we accept the low bid from Stateline for a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500, without the additional purchase of a utility box.

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, support by Schmidt to accept the low bid of \$52,440 from Stateline Chevrolet.

Roll call vote: Ayes- Germic, Cihak, Schmidt. Nays-Battan, Frailing. Motion carried.

### **ATTORNEYS REPORT**

None.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Germic shared some literature from the MCRCSIP Commissioner training he attended and said it was the best training of that kind he had attended.

At 10:12 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Germic, supported by Cihak, to adjourn.

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Ernie Schmidt, Chairman

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Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board