

Regular Meeting Minutes

Iron County Board of Commissioners

March 10, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Road Commission office at 800 W. Franklin Street, Iron River, Michigan.

Vice-Chairman Frailing led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting.

Present for the roll call were Vice-Chairman Ron Frailing and Commissioners Chuck Battan and Jim Cihak. Also present: Superintendent/ Manager Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, Construction Foreman Dylon LaMay, Bates Twp. Trustee Mike Stafford, Attorney Mark Tousignant, Brian Schiavo, GEI, and County Commissioner Ean Bruette. Chairman Schmit attended via phone. Members of the public present: Ethan Amerson and Forester Brock VanOss

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Frailing requested 11.h.-Forest Management Plan-Discussion be moved to 5.a due to time constraints with Forester VanOss. 11.i-2026 CRA Legislative Priorities will then move to 11.h., accordingly. Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support from Battan, to accept the aforementioned changes to the agenda. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2026, audit and regular meetings.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

a. Payrolls of:	\$188,913.77
b. Prepaid Claims of:	\$248,215.68
c. Account Payables of:	\$207,170.15
d. Total:	\$644,299.60

Moved by Commissioner Battan, supported by Cihak, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated February 28th, 2026, covering the above disbursements.

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

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Supt. Toivonen reviewed his report:

Building/Inventory:

Commissioner Schmidt and Supt. Toivonen attended the County Board meeting on Feb. 10th. Both the use of materials from the mud run section of the fairgrounds for the salt shed base and the 50/50 cost share between the County and ICRC for the title searches were approved.

Salt orders for Iron River (500 tons), Crystal Falls and Amasa (100 tons each) were placed by MDOT; Crystal Falls garage has received half of their order. The salt shed at Iron River garage will be torn down this summer and we are hoping to avoid having to haul salt out.

The second review of plans for the new shed has been received, but there are still some concerns about the placement. Once approved by us, MDOT approval is also required.

A meeting with Joe Goriesky regarding installing a control switch for generators is in the works.

Primary Roads:

FHWA-2023 Spring Flooding-All projects have been completed, and Coleman has submitted balancing mods and final quantities to MDOT. MDOT is assessing the contractor with liquidated damages due to the project

on Smokey Lake Rd. not being completed on time.

Denial letters for the FLAP grant applications for Ottawa Lk. Rd. PH3 and FH-16 PH2 have been received. FH-16-US 2 PH1 to Golden Lake has been approved for 2027 construction. However, funding has not yet been allocated. We're still looking to push it back to 2029 in order to accommodate a non-motorized trail into the project.

The road commission owns property off of Stager Lake Rd. and the owner of property adjacent to us had asked about to get an easement in the past, since they were using our property to access theirs. They are now trying to sell it, and it has been discovered that their cabin and outbuildings are very likely crossing into our property. After conferring with counsel, Supt. Toivonen informed them that they will need to get a licensed survey done, after which a license may be issued by the road commission. Per Mark, it is a policy of both the County of Iron and the Road Commission to not grant easements, only revocable license agreements. A centerline survey would also need to be completed if a license for access were to be granted.

Local Roads:

Township Projects-

Bates Township: Little Finland Rd.(gravel), Forsberg Rd. (gravel), Rogers Ave. (pave).

Mastodon Township: Pending Twp. Board decision, Upper Dam Rd (gravel)

Stambaugh Township: Brule River Rd. (gravel, ditching and culverts), Forestview Rd. (gravel) and possibly Cataldo Rd. (overlay)

The property owner at the end of Little Finland Rd. is still moving toward filing an abandonment petition. Gates on both the North and South stub roads of East Camp Gibbs will be removed this spring, with letters being sent out to property owners.

Equipment:

The 2026 International chassis was delivered to Peninsula Boom & Equip, along with some other parts, to begin the build. The underbody and box have been ordered. An award email was sent to U.P Truck, approving the purchase of the 2027 Western Star.

The grader that we attempted to auction off on Wisconsin Surplus did not meet the minimum bid and was not sold. Dylan has both graders up for auction on Municibid, with staggered auction ending times in two weeks.

Employment Items:

Advertisements for temporary summer help are out, with an application deadline of March 31st. The new employee hired for the Mechanic position starts March 16th.

An Employee Appreciation Day was held on March 6th, with emphasis on safety, employee survey results, summer project line up and a chance for the crew to all get together for lunch. This will become an annual meeting going forward.

Bridges:

The preliminary plan for the Idlewild Rd./Fortune Cr. Bridge has been received and will be reviewed next week. Applications for the Resort Dr. bridge and the FH-16 N. & S. bridges are being submitted this month to the Local Bridge Program.

We Energies are rescinding their \$200,00 grant for the Wild Rivers culvert due to the lack of progress on the project. There is hope there is something that can be done to keep the funding source and not move backwards on the project as a whole.

MDOT/Ayers released the bridge inspection findings and there were a handful of bridges that have their load limit reduced; new signage is in place.

Misc:

Mike Phillips, MCRCSIP, is holding a drug and alcohol suspicion training for Regional Foremen and Managers in April and the Region Work Zone Safety session in May.

Seasonal weight restrictions went into effect county-wide March 5th.

Fiber Optic-Brian Schaivo gave updates to the Board: The splicers were finishing up E. Lake Emily and then

planned to temporarily stop working in the County ROW. They will work on pulling fiber on the MDOT ROW, and once restrictions are off, go to 424, Alpha through Gaastra.

Drain Commission-An award email was sent out to Andy Buck to perform the survey loop on Sunset Lake, at a cost of \$4,070.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN-DISCUSSION

Brock Van Oss presented a draft forest management plan for review. Peninsula Title is currently doing the title searches. Once the titles are reconciled for ownership, both the county and road commission forest management plans will be adjusted accordingly.

DELEGATIONS

Brock VanOss, Mansfield Township Supervisor, relayed he had received complaints about snow plowing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

PATROL WING FOR #295

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support from Cihak, to approve the quote from Truck & Trailer Specialties for the purchase of a patrol wing in the amount of \$13,232.17.

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION -FH-16 N & S BR. PAINT RIVER BRIDGES

The resolution was read by Commissioner Frailing and is included below.

WHEREAS the BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN IS ACTIVELY SEEKING PARTICIPATION IN THE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE BRIDGES ON FH-16 ACROSS THE N & S BRANCHES OF THE PAINT RIVER.

AND, WHERE AS THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN CONSIDERS THESE BRIDGES TO BE A PRIORITY IN IRON COUNTY.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN HEREBY APPROVE THE APPLICATION AS SUBMITTED.

AYES-ALL-COMMISSIONERS CIHAK, BATTAN, FRAILING
NAYS-NONE.

RESOLUTION -RESORT DR. BRIAR HILL CREEK BRIDGE

The resolution was read by Commissioner Frailing and is included below.

WHEREAS THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN IS ACTIVELY SEEKING PARTICIPATION IN THE REMOVAL OF THE BRIDGE ON RESORT DRIVE, ACROSS BRIAR HILL CREEK.

AND, **WHEREAS** THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN CONSIDERS THE REMOVAL OF SAID BRIDGE TO BE A PRIORITY IN IRON COUNTY.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF

IRON, STATE OF MICHIGAN HEREBY APPROVE THE APPLICATION AS SUBMITTED.

AYES-ALL-COMMISSIONERS BATTAN, CIHAK, FRAILING
NAYS-NONE.

UPDATE ON INVESTMENTS

Finance Director Johnson updated the Board on the status of the MERS Defined Benefit Plan, OPEB, MERS Retiree Trust, CD's and interest earned as of year-end, 2025.

2026 LOCAL PROJECT BIDS

Bids for the local township projects were supplied as informational to the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to accept the low bid of \$108,986.90, as submitted by Bacco for the Channing Rd. overlay project.

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

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, supported by Battan, to accept the low bid of \$326,106.45, as submitted by Pitlik & Wick, for the Hagerman Lake PH2 buyout project.

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

2026 CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL BIDS

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support from Battan, to accept the only submitted pavement marking bids from PK Contracting, as summarized.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support from Cihak, to accept the only submitted cold patch bid for MDOT cold patch as summarized.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support from Battan, to accept the crack fill materials bid from Sherwin Industries, Inc., as summarized.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support from Battan, to accept the bid from U.P Concrete for all culverts, as summarized.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

AMASA GRAVEL CRUSHING

Moved by Commissioner Cihak, support by Battan, to accept the low bid of \$3.98/ton, submitted by Iron Coty Enterprises, for the crushing of 15,000 tons of gravel at the Amasa pit.

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

SKID STEER SNOW BLOWER ATTACHMENT

Motion by Commissioner Battan, support from Cihak, to accept the low estimate from Skid Pro Attachments in the amount of \$15,640 for the purchase of a skid steer snow blower attachment.

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

CRA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Supt. Toivonen briefly presented the DRAFT CRA Legislative Priorities to the Board, for their review.

ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Tousignant has been working with Brad on both the Stager Lake Pit licensing issue and the potential abandonment on Little Finland.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

At 9:47 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Battan, supported by Cihak, to adjourn.

Ernie Schmidt, Chairman

Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board