

Regular Meeting Minutes

Iron County Board of Commissioners

July 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, July 14, 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 and Commissioners Ron Frailing, Dan Germic, Chuck Battan and Jim Cihak. Also, present: Superintendent Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, Mastodon Twp. Trustee Dave Smith, Bates Twp. Supervisor Mike Stafford and Brian Schiavo, GEI. Members of the public present: Patti Leonoff and Ethan Amerson.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Moved by Commissioner Frailing, supported by Cihak, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2026, audit and regular meetings.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| a. Payrolls of: | \$244,048.07 |
| b. Prepaid Claims of: | \$389,651.77 |
| c. Account Payables of: | \$545,122.71 |
| d. Total: | \$1,178,822.55 |

Moved by Commissioner Germic, supported by Battan, to approve the Audit Committee Report dated June 30th, 2026, covering the above disbursements.

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

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Supt. Toivonen reviewed his report:

Building/Inventory:

Gravel crushing mobilized into Oss pit last week and Amasa today, with the crushing estimated to take three weeks and 1 ½ weeks respectively.

A culvert order will be placed soon to replenish inventory.

Obtaining quotes on replacement of the air conditioner and furnace at the office; they are both the original units from 1995.

Primary Roads:

The FH-16 Flap Grant is moving forward, with a GI meeting to be set up, probably next week. This will be a 2027 construction project. Projects planned for 2027 construction include the two phases of CR424, Hagerman Lake Rd. PH3, FH-16, and Idlewild Bridge.

Local Roads:

There have been no updates or contact from the individual interested in the abandonment of the end of Little Finland Rd., near Morrison Creek. A few members of the public have contacted us with opposition to losing access to the creek and thereby losing access to the Paint River.

The Hematite Twp. Meeting on June 8th was an opportunity to explain in detail the MDOT 141 culvert replacement detour project that is in the works, which has the potential to get \$600,000 of pavement on Pine St., River Lane, Spruce St., Cemetery Rd. and Parks Farm Rd.

Discussions with ELS and MDOT are still in progress regarding upgrading or removing the railroad crossings in Amasa.

The gates on both N. & S. Camp Gibbs Rd. have been removed.

Work is still in progress on potentially adopting Highview Dr. into our road system. We have maintained it for many years, and it recently came to light that it is not an Act 51 certified road. If the residents wish to have

us continue maintenance, it will have to be certified as a county road.

After obtaining a copy of the deed from the Register of Deeds, the property near Stager Lake pit where there is an issue with an encroaching cabin, does not actually belong to the road commission. GIS has it listed as ours, but the deed shows that it is owned by Iron County. The owner of the adjacent property was instructed to contact the County regarding the issue with his cabin.

Equipment:

The truck build for #265 is progressing well.

Michelle and Emily recently got new office computers because the old ones were out of memory.

A demo in Ontonagon will be scheduled at the end of the month to see their grader reclaimer in action.

The crack filling machine is old, and we may need to consider a replacement in the next few years.

Employment:

The four new Operators are a good group of guys and are doing well. Verbal notification was received of a pending retirement with one of the Operators from the Oss garage near the end of the year.

Bridges:

While there were some comments and concerns received from the Lake Association, the Idlewild Bridge project is two years in the works and will continue as planned, with construction in 2027. The bridge construction has an estimated cost of 1.4-million-dollar, with approx. \$80,000 paid by the road commission. Ayers is drafting a contract amendment with WisDot for the Pentoga Rd. bridge project. Boulders and rocks have made completing the necessary soil boring impossible and specialized equipment needs to be brought in to get it done.

2026 Flooding:

The Governor announced July 2nd that the President approved the federal declaration of disaster for the Michigan counties that were part of the June 5th request. There is a lot going on with the process of obtaining FEMA funding, attending meetings and information/paperwork submissions. CRA has drafted an RFP for a consulting firm that specializes in FEMA to be available for road commissions to hire, similar to how it was handled with the ice storm. The consulting firm is also reimbursable through FEMA through Category Z. Recovery Scoping Meetings will begin July 20th, and we are working on getting the necessary paperwork in. FEMA funding is a 75% reimbursement; the road commission is required to pay all costs up front. Just the three bridges alone are estimated at 6 million dollars to repair.

General/Misc:

Brad and Michelle will be downstate next week at the annual MCRCISIP/CRASIF meeting in Mt. Pleasant.

The draft agreement between the City of Crystal Falls and the road commission regarding the electric lines at the Oss pit has been put together and will be sent over to Dave Graff to review.

Trimedia is sending the Supplemental Groundwater Monitoring Report to EGLE for the Urban Ave. property. There is a good chance that we will need to redrill some of the missing sample wells in order to obtain more samples.

Fiber Optic- Crews should be moving into Gaastra in the next couple of weeks. Permits have been approved for the M-189 corridor, including stub roads, as well as Baumgartner Rd., Stromberg and Hiawatha. Permits for Pentoga Trl, N. Cliff and Hilberg are next for approvals. There were issues hitting rock on Section 6.

Drain Commission-The board was removed at Fortune Lake on the 4th of July. There has not been an update from the surveyor on the Sunset Lake elevation loop; Brad will reach out to him this week.

DELEGATIONS

Bates Twp. Supervisor Mike Stafford asked questions about signs at Larson Park, washouts at Rogers Ave./Bates-Gaastra and shared that chloride is tentatively scheduled for Thursday.

Mastodon Twp. Trustee Dave Smith inquired about fiber optic, crack filling and intersection mowing within the township.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation: Commissioner Frailing reported there is a meeting on July 23rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION: STATE TRUNKLINE CONTRACT 2026-2031

The resolution approving the MDOT 2026-2031 State Trunkline contract was presented to the Board and is included below:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation ("MDOT") has presented a proposed contract between MDOT and the IRON County Road Commission under which the Road Commission would perform maintenance on state trunkline highways within IRON county, and

WHEREAS, MDOT has affirmatively found that contracting with the IRON County Road Commission for the maintenance of state trunkline highways and bridges within IRON county is in the best public interest, and

WHEREAS, the IRON County Road Commission concurs in MDOT'S finding that it is in the best public interest to contract with the IRON County Road Commission for the maintenance of state trunkline highways and bridges within IRON County, and

WHEREAS, the IRON County Road Commission has reviewed the terms of the contract and the recommendations of the CRAM's Negotiating Committee, and

WHEREAS, the members of CRAM's Negotiating Committee have recommended that Road Commissions approve the proposed contract, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the IRON County Road Commission hereby accepts and agrees to enter into the State Trunkline Maintenance Contract 2026-2031, presented by MDOT, and BRADLEY P. TOIVONEN, Superintendent/Manager, is authorized and instructed to sign the State Maintenance Contract on behalf of the IRON County Road Commission.

On a roll call vote: Ayes-Germic, Battan, Cihak, Frailing, Schmidt. Nays-none. Motion carried.

2025 MERS ANNUAL ACTUARIAL

Finance Director Johnson presented the 2025 MERS actuarial to the Board. Points of interest included: the increase of the estimated monthly contributions required by \$3,140 per month, the current funded ratio of 86% as of 12-31-25, and different future projections, but is dependent on the rate of return, benefits paid and future surplus contributions.

SALE PRICE-GRADER #419

Supt. Toivonen explained that there has been no movement on the sale of the grader and is considering advertising for sealed bids in the newspaper. Selling to a non-governmental until would also require collecting sales tax. He would like to reduce the selling price to entice a purchase and is considering reaching out to other road commissions again at the reduced price prior to putting an ad in the paper.

Motion by Commissioner Frailing, support by Germic, to set the minimum price of the grader to \$156,455

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

INFORMATIONAL

2025 Act 51 report was approved by Treasury on June 25, 2026.

ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Tousignant was absent from the meeting, but Supt. Toivonen said he has been working with him on Rawnick Rd., Highview Dr., the Crystal Falls electric line agreement and the Stager Lake pit property issue.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Schmidt requested more lights be put on the back of the mowers for safety because presently they can be difficult to see.

At 10:13 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