Regular Meeting Minutes
Iron County Board of Commissioners
November 10, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Iron County was held on Tuesday, November 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 and Commissioners Dan Germic, Chuck Battan, Ron Frailing, and Jim Cihak. Also, present: Superintendent Brad Toivonen, Finance Director Michelle Johnson, Maintenance Foreman Rob Johnson, Shop Foreman Duane Porier, Construction Foreman Dylon LaMay, Bates Twp. Supervisor Mike Stafford, Mastodon Twp. Trustee Dave Smith, Brian Schiavo-GEI, and Attorney Mark Tousignant.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
Motion by Commissioner Battan, support from Cihak, to add 11.NB h. Generators-Oss and IR garage.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

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

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED

a.	Payrolls of:	$164,336.63
b.	Prepaid Claims of:	$465,365.38
c.	Account Payables of:	$825,086.95
d.	Total:	$1,454,788.96

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

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT
Supt. Toivonen reviewed his report:
Building/Inventory:
Fuel was delivered on November 3rd and fourth. Our crew has finished sand hauling for all locations. Advertisements for bids for 2027 fuel, ice control sand and gravel crushing have gone out and are due December 1st. State salt deliveries are also complete, totaling 5,730 tons at a cost of $540,135 to MDOT. The Iron River Salt Shed is on schedule for advertising early December.

Primary Roads:
MDOT has extra funding and will be accepting applications on a first-come, first -serve basis on 2027 buyout projects, requiring a 20% match. CR424 PH 9 is eligible, or maybe a chip seal or overlay project. Hagerman Lake PH2 is complete, and the invoice received. The CR424 PH 10 (2028) MDOT buyout has been approved, and notifications should be received soon. We are still waiting for MDOT obligation of funds for the FH-16 FLAP grant.

Local Roads:
A certified letter was sent to the property owner on Little Finland regarding the vehicles and personal property in the ROW. The deadline for compliance is November 14th, with legal action to follow if necessary. Complaints from Crystal Falls Township residents have been received regarding pavement damage on Pakkala Rd., caused by the contractors the township hired to install new water lines and the Twp. Supervisor has been notified. A property owner requested the abandonment policy, with the intent of petitioning for abandonment of part of a no name stub road off Pentoga Trl. The gravel project on Brule River is complete, and the Stanley Lake Dr. encroachment complaint is moving forward and has been filed.

Equipment:
#296 could potentially be done this week. The WS chassis (#295) is expected in December, as is the underbody. The wing is still tentatively a June 2027 delivery. Metal prices have increased 25%, which will drive up prices. The Plow Storms Act was approved by the State Transportation Committee, categorizing plow trucks as emergency vehicles in regard to emissions laws and is continuing to move forward. McCoy's estimate on a reclaimer came in at $85,000, plus $10,000 in tariffs. Management will be meeting with the Equipment Committee after Thanksgiving to look at budgeting for 2027 equipment.

Bridges:
While the official notification has not yet been received, we have heard that the statewide bridge committee approved all region bridge selections. Idlewild Bridge has been submitted for obligation, with a letting date of either December or January. Our crew will do some clearing yet this fall. TetraTech is continuing to audit our bridge inspections and has determined that the Chicagon Mine Rd. bridge will need to be closed due to poor condition. Additionally, the FH-16 -Cooks Run bridge will have reduced load ratings and new signs will be put into place.

2026 Flooding:
Met with the ICF Engineer on November 4th and fifth to revisit the flood damaged sites and estimates. We are looking to hire an engineering firm and get an engineer's opinion on repairs. Parks Farm Rd.-Parks Cr., Deer Lk Rd-Camp Cr. and Deer Lk Rd.- Fribleys Cr. are potentially 2027 projects if we can get through the FEMA process in time.

General/Misc:
The wells have been drilled, and samples taken on the Urban Ave. property. TriMedia has sent a notification that a plan will be submitted in March, once all the test results have been received. Brian Schiavo updated the Board about the restoration problems that are still being encountered with the fiber optic contractors. Additionally, there are a few culverts that were damaged and need repair. He has also advised Highline to avoid doing work in certain areas of the county for safety during deer hunting.

Drain Commission- The surveyor has so far been unsuccessful in finding the original benchmarks recorded at the county. All of the boards were pulled on the 29th.

DELEGATIONS
Mastodon Twp. Trustee Dave Smith thanked the road commission for addressing the culvert patches on CR424 and asked about work being done in Mastodon Twp.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
g. Parks and Recreation-Commissioner Germic reported that the survey responses and funding issues were discussed at the last Parks & Rec meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

OLD BUSINESS

CRA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY-STATEWIDE 2 MILL COUNTY ROAD MILLAGE
Supt. Toivonen provided the proposed language that was given to the members of the Great Lakes District for consideration of being added to the CRA Legislative Priorities. Following a brief discussion, the Board maintained the motion that was passed at the October 13th. 2026 meeting, to NOT support the proposal to add statewide county millage to the CRA legislative priorities.

NEW BUSINESS

CHANGE DECEMBER 8TH MEETING DATE
Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support from Germic, to reschedule the December 8, 2026, meeting to December 15, 2026. The times will remain the same.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

SET DATES: 2027 BUDGET HEARING, EOY SPECIAL MEETING
Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Frailing, to schedule the 2027 Budget Hearing to follow the regular meeting scheduled December 15, 2026, and the EOY Special Meeting for December 30, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

NRF FUNDING-RESERVATION AND PROGRAMMING
Supt. Toivonen and Finance Dir. Johnson explained both the late timing and smaller than estimated amounts received in FY2026. Next year's FEMA repairs to local roads (3 large culvert replacements) require a 25% match and by transferring some of this year's primary NRF funds to local, there could be enough to fund that match.
Motion by Commissioner Battan, support by Germic, to reserve NRF funds received during the fiscal year for use in the following year, barring unforeseen circumstances such as severe winter weather or flooding.
Roll call vote: Ayes- Battan, Germic, Frailing, Cihak, Schmidt. Nays-none. Motion carried.

2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT #3
Finance Director Johnson presented the amendments.
Motion by Commissioner Cihak, support by Frailing, to accept the amendments as presented.
Roll call vote: Ayes- Cihak, Germic, Frailing, Battan, Schmidt. Nays-none. Motion carried.

CRA/ GREAT LAKES DISTRICT ACTION ITEMS
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS
Moved by Commissioner Frailing, support by Germic, to support the creation of the Legislative Priorities Development and Approval process within the Great Lakes District.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

LOG/FARM PLATES
Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Frailing, to support the addition of legislation restricting the purchase and use of log/farm plates to only farm and logging operations that provide certification and only on qualifying trucks, (including pickups) used for operations as defined in SOS-437 or SOS-438 and with a GVWR of 6,000 lbs. or greater, making ineligible those vehicles classed as SUV, CUV, minivan, station wagon, passenger car, to the CRA Legislative Priorities.
Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Frailing to support the addition of the above language to the CRA Legislative Priorities.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DECERTIFIED ROADS
Motion by Commissioner Germic, support by Frailing, to support the addition of legislation and/or the development of a uniform policy for the handling decertified roads by County Road Agencies to the CRA Legislative Priorities.
Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

DISCUSSION: SNOW MONEY
Supt. Toivonen and Finance Dir. Johnson explained some of the information received regarding the lack of snow money being allocated from the NRF. While MDOT/ AG has said there will not be snow funds distributed from the NRF, there may be more to come on this.

GENERATORS-OSS AND IRON RIVER GARAGE
Following discussion, it was motioned by Commissioner Battan, support by Frailing, to table the discussion and purchase of the generators until the December meeting. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

UNDERBODY PURCHASE
Shop Foreman Porier had not received the estimates as of the time of the meeting, however Supt. Toivonen explained that we were warned that the price of steel had increased 25% since our last purchase and to expect an increase in pricing.
Motion by Commissioner Frailing, support from Cihak, to approve the purchase of a new underbody from Heights Machinery in an amount not to exceed $25,000.
Roll call vote: Ayes- Battan, Frailing, Germic, Cihak, Schmidt. Nays-None. Motion carried.

ATTORNEYS REPORT
None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
None.

At 10:41 a.m. with no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Battan, supported by Frailing, to adjourn.

Ernie Schmidt, Chairman

Michelle Johnson, Clerk of the Board