

M u s k e g o n C o u n t y
Board of Road Commissioners

Gerald J. Walter, Chairman Jack E. Kennedy, Vice Chair John J. DeWolf, Commissioner

Terry J. Sabo, Commissioner Sue E. Buckner, Commissioner

Regular Meeting

**APRIL 15, 2026
10:00 A.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was held at the new Twin Lake Facility and called to order by Chairman Walter. He asked Commissioner Sabo to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#2026-056 ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Staff: Ken Hulka, Managing Director; Paul Bouman, Director of Engineering; Laurita Humphrey, Director of Finance & Human Resources; Scott Saigeon, County Highway Engineer; Andrew Nichols, Maintenance Superintendent; Jay Feltman, Equipment and Grounds Superintendent; Amy Johnson, Executive Secretary and Beth Ribesky, Receptionist.

Others: County Commissioner Kim Cyr; Water Resources Commissioner Stephanie Barrett; Laketon Township Supervisor Kim Arter; Blue Lake Township Treasurer Deborah Therrian; and an unidentified resident from Whitehall Township.

#2026-057 REVIEW OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2026

Moved by DeWolf, supported by Sabo, that the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2026.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-058 PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEM ONLY)

Chairman Walter opened the floor to public comment on agenda related items; there were none.

#2026-059 REVIEW ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Moved by DeWolf, supported by Buckner, to approve Accounts Payable #2026-16, #2026-17, and #2026-19, in the amounts of \$351,494.00, \$252,834.42, and \$228,029.33 represented by Vouchers #2410, #2411, #2413 and #2414.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-060 REVIEW PAYROLL PAYABLE

Moved by Buckner, supported by Kennedy, to approve Payroll Payable #2026-06 and #2026-07, in the amounts of \$202,213.28 and \$200,259.79 represented by Vouchers #2415 and #2418.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-061 PRESENTATION OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

The Director of Finance and HR gave a brief presentation of the Monthly Financial Report for the for the past month. She noted that the information was presented for the information of the Board and that no action was required.

#2026-062 RECOMMENDATION FOR MCRCSIP INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mrs. Humphrey recommended, moved by Kennedy, supported by Buckner, that the Board authorize staff to pay the MCRCSIP Renewal Invoice in the amount of \$337,896 for the upcoming year.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-063 REPORT ON WINTER MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Mr. Nichols provided an updated report on maintenance operations over the past few weeks. He distributed a map that outlined the various projects that are planned or currently in the works in the engineering and maintenance departments. He provided updates on several culvert failures: Bard Road west of Pillon – he noted that we got the approval from the Township and the EGLE permit and were awaiting the production of the culvert. Cline Road and Mt. Garfield Road are both open. Bard Road west of Weber culvert also failed and we are working with the Water Resources Commissioner on permitting, etc. Blackmer Road is in the works. Board already took action to crush this road and we are working with a contractor to get a new recipe for the bases of the road and to get this project scheduled. Crews are working on berm removal in Twin Lake area. Muskegon area as of the meeting is about 75% completed in Casnovia Township and 80% completed in Ravenna Township. This is in part due to the rental of a Harley Rake, which has allowed crews to complete about 9 miles a day. The old way they were able to get about 3 miles/day completed. Chip seal is tentatively scheduled to start after Memorial Day and should take about 20-25 days to complete. Board approved Jablonski to mow and that should get started before Memorial Day. Grading has been hit or miss. Drainage has been the priority. He indicated that he has been watching hydrology of the Muskegon River and believes it is inevitable that we will have to close Maple Island Road at the Muskegon River.

Chairman Walter did inquire if we ended up sending any crews up to the UP to assist with snow removal and Mr. Nichols advised that we did not. They called off our crews at last minute. He noted that the information was presented for the information of the Board and that no action was required.

**#2026-064 RECOMMENDATION FOR MDOT TED CATEGORY F PROGRAM
WHITE LAKE DRIVE WEST OF US-31
FRUITLAND & WHITEHALL TOWNSHIPS & CITY OF WHITEHALL**

The Director of Engineering recommended, moved by Sabo, supported by DeWolf, that the Board authorizes staff to make application under the current call for projects to the MDOT TED Category F Program for fiscal year 2028 for a project on White Lake Drive west of US-31.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**#2026-065 RECOMMENDATION FOR MDOT SAFETY GRANT
LOCAL SAFETY PROGRAM/VARIOUS GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENTS**

Mr. Bouman recommended, moved by Buckner, supported by DeWolf, that the Board authorize staff to make application under the current call for projects to the MDOT Local Safety Program for fiscal year 2028.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-066 RECOMMENDATION FOR ENGINEERING FOR NEW DRAIN REQUEST

The Managing Director recommended, moved by DeWolf, supported by Kennedy, that the Board authorize the Managing Director to expend \$8,500.00 for preliminary engineering services to determine if a new county drain is warranted in the vicinity of Quarterline Road near and including the new developments at the old Fruitport Golf Course in Fruitport Township.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, DeWolf, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-067 PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEM ONLY)

Chairman Walter opened the meeting to comments from the audience.

Kim Arter shared that she is in receipt of some special assessment district petitions and looks forward to working with the road commission on getting these chip seal projects on the schedule this year.

Stephanie Barrett expressed that she is very pleased with the communication and working relationship that she has had with the Road Commission.

Paul Bouman shared that MDOT will tentatively be starting work on Apple Avenue at Crockery Creek the week of April 27th requiring a road closure at that location. He also noted that Airline Road will be closed for a few days between Quarterline and Ellis Roads for a watermain project; however, due to the high-water levels now, they will likely have to close the road again at some point in the future to complete the watermain project at the same location.

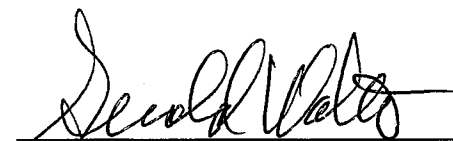
Scott Saigeon gave a brief overview of some upcoming Engineering Projects: Three bridge projects -- Farr Road over Norris Creek has already started and will last about 4 months; Ryerson Road over Cedar Creek and Evanston Avenue over Black Creek; Old US-31 between Fruitvale and Skeels will be closing in mid-May to late May for construction; Ravenna Road from Mortimer to Apple Avenue will start about the first week of June; and Evanston Avenue from Mill Iron Road to Wolf Lake Road will start about mid-summer.

Chairman Walter asked if there were any further comments and there were none.

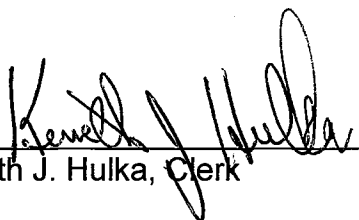
#2026-068 ADJOURN

With no other business before the Board, moved by Sabo, supported by Buckner, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried


Gerald J. Walter, Chair

Attest



Kenneth J. Hulka, Clerk

/amj