

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

**February 18, 2026
10:00 A.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Walter. He asked John Field Reichardt to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#2026-019 ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo.

Excused: Commissioner DeWolf.

Staff: Ken Hulka, Managing Director; Laurita Humphrey, Director of Finance & Human Resources; Scott Saigeon, County Highway Engineer; Andrew Nichols, Maintenance Superintendent; Jay Feltman, Equipment Superintendent; Connie Erickson, Accountant; and Heather Coverly, Maintenance Secretary.

Others: Ottawa County Road Commissioner John Field Reichardt; Township Supervisors Paul Black, Casnovia Township; Chuck Luttrull, Cedar Creek Township; Heather Cooley, Dalton Township; and Steve Patterson, Ravenna Township; William Bergeson, White River Township Planning Commissioner; residents Steve and Sue Geib; Kyle Anderson; and James Westbrook.

**#2026-020 REVIEW OF MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025
AND REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2026**

Moved by Buckner, supported by Sabo, that the Board accept the Minutes of the Work Session of November 19, 2026 and Regular Meeting of January 21, 2026.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-021 PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEM ONLY)

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

#2026-022 REVIEW ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Moved by Buckner, supported by Sabo, to approve Accounts Payable #2026-03, #2026-04 and #2026-05, in the amounts of \$359,796.04, \$431,854.46 and \$103,616.91 represented by Vouchers #2405, #2407, and #2408.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-023 REVIEW PAYROLL PAYABLE

Moved by Kennedy, supported by Buckner, to approve Payroll Payable #2026-02 and #2026-03, in the amounts of \$258,831.55 and \$289,389.723 represented by Vouchers #2404 and #2406.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-024 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.

#2026-025 PRESENTATION ON ANNUAL REPORT / ACT 51

The Director of Finance & Human Resources, Mrs. Humphrey, gave a presentation that included an overview for the fiscal year ending 09/30/2025 of the Annual Report that included the Act 51 Report. Mrs. Humphrey indicated that the presentation was for the information of the Board and that no action was necessary.

#2026-026 PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Eric VanDop of the accounting firm of Brickley DeLong informed the Board that the required audit of Financial and Federal Funds, for the period ending September 30, 2025 has been completed. Mr. VanDop gave a presentation to the Board regarding the findings of the audit and informed the Board that they have issued a "clean audit" finding for the Board in an unqualified opinion letter. This letter states that the auditors did not find any material errors or misstatements in the financial statements of the Road Commission. Mr. VanDop reviewed and explained various points of information contained in the audit report. The financial reports were reviewed including primary roads, local roads and bridges as capital assets. The auditors concluded their report and complimented the Commission staff for their help and cooperation in completing the audit. In addition, Mr. VanDop thanked the Director of Finance and staff for their cooperation during the audit process. Moved by Buckner, supported by Sabo that the Audit Report be accepted and placed on file.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-027 RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF BID ROAD MATERIALS

The Maintenance Superintendent recommended, moved by Buckner, supported by Kennedy, that the Board accept and approve the low bid of the vendor that meets specifications and to grant the Managing Director, and/or its assigns, the authority to purchase materials in a manner that best suits the interests of the Road Commission by purchasing the materials from the vendor that submitted the low bid and each low bid, thereafter. In each case, taking into account the additional cost of trucking and crew downtime as it relates to the proximity of the job site and the material source, along with the availability of the material specified.

#2026-027 RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF BID ROAD MATERIALS
(Continued)

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-028 REPORT ON WINTER MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Mr. Nichols provided an updated report on winter maintenance operations over the past few weeks. He provided totals and noted that we were over 100% of our winter budget on state, primaries and locals; and that we are probably going to have to move some things around to make up for those budgets. He said that to date, we have seen 98 inches of snow. In true Michigan fashion we expect another winter blast within the next few weeks that will put us up over 100 inches. Crews have been taking care of tree canopies within the restrictions due to oak wilt. He said that they have been doing some light grading of gravel roads, but it has been difficult because the gravels are very wet and it causes more problems. They are waiting for dryer conditions. Also working a little on pot hole patching. We are currently under weight restrictions probably through March. He noted that the information was presented for the information of the Board and that no action was required.

#2026-029 RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTION OF MDOT CONTRACT
OLD US-31 PROJECT

The County Highway Engineer recommended, moved by Buckner, supported by Sabo, that the Board authorizes the Managing Director to execute the necessary contract with MDOT and any other related project documents that may be necessary to implement the road improvement project on Whitehall Road (Old US-31) between Fruitvale Road and Skeels Road in Montague Township.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-030 RECOMMENDATION FOR WHITEHALL ROAD SIGNAL PROPOSALS

Mr. Saigeon recommended, moved by Sabo, supported by Kennedy, that the Board authorize staff to contract with ROWE PSC to complete the preliminary engineering work for the Whitehall Road Signal Modernization Project.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**#2026-031 RECOMMENDATION FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE
PICK UP TRUCK**

The Managing Director recommended, moved by Buckner, supported by Kennedy, that the Board approve the purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford F-150 4wd Super Crew XL for \$49,363.00 from Lunghamer Ford of Owosso, Michigan.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

**#2026-032 RECOMMENDATION FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE & ASSEMBLY
STAINLESS STEEL SLIDE-IN V-BOXES**

The Managing Director recommended, moved by Sabo, supported by Buckner, that the Board approve the purchase and installation of two new 201 stainless slide-in spreader bodies from Truck and Trailer Specialties for a total cost of \$69,622.00.

Roll Call

Ayes: Walter, Kennedy, Buckner and Sabo

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#2026-033 COMMUNICATIONS

**A. Lakeside Solar Project in White River Township Update /
Lakeside Solar**

Mr. Hulka noted that the above item was presented for the information of the Board and no action was required on this item at this time.

#2026-034 PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEM ONLY)

Chairman Walter opened the meeting to comments from the audience. Susan Geib indicated that she wanted to follow up from the last meeting on when the new trucks out back will be on the road, as she didn't feel that she got a direct answer last meeting. Jay Feltman told her that they would be going to Truck & Trailer in April and be ready to be on the road for next winter. Additionally, she expressed concern with the safety of many trucks indicating that tail gates are falling off. Jay Feltman informed her that one pin came out of a tailgate and was immediately repaired.

James Westbrook expressed concern about how dangerous his road is (Behler Road). He said that the dust control doesn't work and you can't see while driving the road. Additionally, the grading that is done on the road isn't acceptable. Mr. Walter expressed that the township is responsible for dust control.


Kyle Anderson expressed concerns also about Behler Road. He said that it needs ditching and needs the crown put back into the road. He said that there are horrible pot holes. He said that the problem is made worse by manure trucks going over the bridge there. He said that he thinks the weight limit on the bridge is not acceptable for these trucks, in addition the trucks absolutely destroying the road. Mr. Walter expressed that agriculture has the right to farm and we can't put restrictions on their travel.

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

#2026-035 ADJOURN

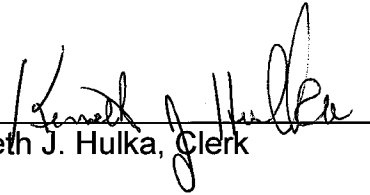
With no other business before the Board, moved by Sabo, supported by Buckner, that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried



Gerald J. Walter, Chair

Attest



Kenneth J. Hulka, Clerk

/amj