



Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES

October 14, 2026

9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER, & PLEDGE	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Bryan Kolk, at 9:30 a.m., with Prayer by Newaygo County Clerk, Jason Vanderstelt, and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner Paul Mellema.
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Charles Trapp, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, Paul Mellema, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Bryan Kolk
AGENDA - MOTION NUMBER	26-395
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve the agenda for October 14, 2026. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
CONSENT AGENDA MOTION NO.	26-396
Motion by Charles Trapp, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve the Consent Agenda dated October 14, 2026, including: the regular meeting minutes dated September 23, 2026; the Semi-Monthly Detail Analysis and Expenses dated October 14, 2026. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
CLOSED SESSION MINUTES MOTION NUMBER	26-397
Motion by Charles Trapp, second by James Maike, to approve the September 23, 2026, closed session minutes. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, James Maike, Charles Trapp, Paul Mellema, Mike Kruithoff, Brenda Bird, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
INTERVIEW	Department of Human Services Board – One (1) 3-Year Term Expiring October 31, 2029
The board interviewed Steven Johnson. Mr. Johnson has served on the DHS Board since 2018.	
ANNUAL UPDATE	Newaygo County Soil Conservation – Stephanie Dood, Executive Director
Conservation Districts are local, trusted partners in natural resource management. With 72% of Michigan's land privately owned, local conservation efforts are key to protecting our natural resources. Discussed options for increased funding.	
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT	Finance Committee
CHAIRPERSON	Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark
Lori Tubbergen Clark, Chairperson, reported the following actions (see below):	
MOTION NUMBER	26-377-1
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Charles Trapp, to approve the Commission on Aging entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan to distribute respite certificates during FY 2027 and authorize the Board Chair to sign any and all necessary documents. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	

MOTION NUMBER	26-378-1
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Paul Mellema, to approve the Medical Examiner Contract with Paul A. Wagner, D.O., and Mid Michigan Medical Examiner Group, LLC, to provide medical examiner services for the period of October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2030, and authorize the Board Chair to sign any and all necessary documents. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
MOTION NUMBER	26-383
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by James Maike, to renew Newaygo County's annual membership dues to the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the amount of \$1,000.00; money to come from the General Fund: Board of Commissioners – Subscription – Dues. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
MOTION NUMBER	26-384
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by James Maike, to ratify the agreement for the FY 2027 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Program grant in the amount of \$6,000, and authorize the Sheriff to sign any and all necessary documents. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
MOTION NUMBER	26-385
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Charles Trapp, to approve the fiscal year 2027 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Law Enforcement Program grant agreement in the amount of \$25,500.00 and authorize the Sheriff to sign any and all necessary documents. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
MOTION NUMBER	26-386
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve the Cooperative Reimbursement Program agreement with the State of Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services for Title IV-D services effective October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2028, for a total amount of \$2,909,901.00, and authorize the Chief Judge, Prosecutor, and Board Chair to sign any and all necessary documents electronically. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Charles Trapp
• Attended the Material Management Plan meeting last week. Still working on moving forward through the process.	
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner James Maike
• The tower at the welcome center was successfully removed with no injuries. Thank you Parks Director Asa Vermeulen and Drain Commissioner Dale Twing for their assistance.	
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Brenda Bird
• Attended the Croton Township Board meeting and they spoke regarding concerns with ITC. They are also working hard in preparation for the upcoming election.	

MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark
• Attended the City of Newaygo Council meeting and State Representative Gina Johnsen was in attendance.	
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Bryan Kolk
• Attended the Elected Officials/Department Head meeting and is impressed with how well the County works together.	
ADMINISTRATORS REPORT	Administrator Christopher Wren
• The State of Michigan has officially announced the IPAF grant and Newaygo County was awarded 4.3 Million dollars for Public Transportation.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Leonard Franklin, Wilcox Township Resident
• Spoke regarding the ITC/METC's Copperton Project adding 255 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Newaygo County. ITC is holding listening sessions in the county on October 19th at Hope Hall in White Cloud and October 20 at the Dogwood Center in Fremont from noon to 7 p.m. Would like the Board of Commissioners support at the meetings.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Keith Jensen, Grant Resident
• Spoke regarding the ITC/METC's Copperton Project adding 255 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Newaygo County. ITC is holding listening sessions in the county on October 19th at Hope Hall in White Cloud and October 20 at the Dogwood Center in Fremont from noon to 7 p.m. Would like the Board of Commissioners support at the meetings.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Don Swick, Ashland Township Resident
• Spoke regarding the ITC/METC's Copperton Project adding 255 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Newaygo County. ITC is holding listening sessions in the county on October 19th at Hope Hall in White Cloud and October 20 at the Dogwood Center in Fremont from noon to 7 p.m. Would like the Board of Commissioners support at the meetings.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Donald Clary, Everett Township Resident
• Spoke regarding the ITC/METC's Copperton Project adding 255 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Newaygo County. ITC is holding listening sessions in the county on October 19th at Hope Hall in White Cloud and October 20 at the Dogwood Center in Fremont from noon to 7 p.m. Would like the Board of Commissioners support at the meetings.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Dennis Sprick, Newaygo County Resident
• Spoke regarding the ITC/METC's Copperton Project adding 255 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Newaygo County. ITC is holding listening sessions in the county on October 19th at Hope Hall in White Cloud and October 20 at the Dogwood Center in Fremont from noon to 7 p.m. Would like the Board of Commissioners support at the meetings.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Jaxon Deur, Republican Nomination for State Representative 101st District
• Spoke regarding the ITC/METC's Copperton Project adding 255 miles of 345 kV transmission lines in Newaygo County. ITC is holding listening sessions in the county on October 19th at Hope Hall in White Cloud and October 20 at the Dogwood Center in Fremont from noon to 7 p.m.	

MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner James Maike
Plans to be in attendance for ITC meetings in Lake County. Committed to assisting with this issue.	
MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner Brenda Bird
Has attended an ITC listening session and recommends all to attend as they are very informative.	
MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner Paul Mellema
Interesting information from the Sheriff's Department that 46% of vehicle accidents in 2025 involved deer.	
MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner Mike Kruithoff
Thank you to all that attended today regarding the ITC issue and plans to continue to assist with this issue.	
MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner Charles Trapp
Thank you to all that attended today regarding the ITC issue and plans to continue to assist with this issue.	
CLOSED SESSION MOTION NO.	26-398
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Mike Kruithoff, to enter into closed session at 10:56 a.m. to discuss Deputies Union Negotiations. <u>Roll Call Vote</u>: James Maike – aye, Brenda Bird – aye, Paul Mellema – aye, Mike Kruithoff – aye, Lori Tubbergen Clark – aye, Charles Trapp - aye, Bryan Kolk – aye. Motion carried.	
OPEN SESSION MOTION NO.	26-399
Motion by James Maike, second by Brenda Bird, to return to open session at 11:23 a.m. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, James Maike, Charles Trapp, Brenda Bird, Mike Kruithoff, Paul Mellema, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
MOTION – ADJOURNMENT	26-400
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Lori Tubbergen Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
COUNTY CLERK CERTIFICATION	Jason VanderStelt, County Clerk
CHAIRPERSON CERTIFICATION	Bryan Kolk, Board Chair
DATE CERTIFIED	October 21, 2026