



Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES

September 23, 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 Mike Kruithoff.
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Charles Trapp, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, Paul Mellema, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Bryan Kolk
AGENDA - MOTION NUMBER	26-366
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by James Maike, to approve the agenda for September 23, 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.	26-367
Motion by Charles Trapp, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve the Consent Agenda dated September 23, 2026, including: the regular meeting minutes dated September 8, 2026; the Semi-Monthly Detail Analysis and Expenses dated September 23, 2026; the August 2026 Check Register; the August 2026 Budget Report. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
APPOINTMENT MOTION NO.	26-368
Motion by James Maike, second by Brenda Bird, to place the names of Jon Patterson and Phil Smalligan in nomination and cast unanimous ballots for appointments to the Central Dispatch Authority Board; each term expires September 30, 2028. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
APPOINTMENT MOTION NO.	26-369
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to place the names of Becky Beets and Steven Witter in nomination and cast unanimous ballots for appointments to the Commission on Aging Advisory Board; Two (2) 3-year terms expiring September 30, 2029. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
APPOINTMENT MOTION NO.	26-370
Motion by Mike Kruithoff, second by Charles Trapp, to place the name of Jon Schneider in nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for appointment to the Economic Development Partnership Advisory Board; One (1) 3-year term expiring September 30, 2029. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
PRESENTATION	Headway Coalition, Tyler Wigent and Christina Yuhasz
Mr. Wigent and Ms. Yuhasz discussed the 2025-2030 Headway Coalitions Strategic Plan. Headway is a community coalition dedicated to reducing the negative impact of substance use through prevention, education, youth leadership and partnerships.	

ANNUAL UPDATE	Newaygo County Economic Development Partnership, Mark Kraus
	The focus of the Right Place is People, Place and Prosperity. Discussed with the board the focus for Economic Development in Newaygo County.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT	Finance Committee
CHAIRPERSON	Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark
Lori Tubbergen Clark, Chairperson, reported the following actions (see below):	
MOTION NUMBER	26-347-1
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Paul Mellema, to submit the Animal Welfare Fund grant application to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) for spay/neuter expenses in the amount of \$10,000.00 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	26-354
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc., contract in the amount of \$329,600 plus Nutrition Services Incentive Program reimbursement, with a County match of \$32,580 for October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029, and authorize the Board Chair, Commission on Aging Director, Commission on Aging Financial Coordinator and Deputy Administrator to sign documents as indicated on the contract. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	

MOTION NUMBER	26-355
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by James Maike, to approve and adopt the Transit Agency Procurement Policy as presented and to authorize the Transit Department Director to administer the policy and make any non-substantive updates necessary to maintain compliance with current MDOT and FTA requirements and to 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	26-356
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Charles Trapp, to approve Master Agreement 2027-0128 between the Board of Commissioners and Michigan Department of Transportation to make federal and state grant funds available to Newaygo County for public transportation 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	26-357
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Charles Trapp, to approve <u>Resolution #09-022-26</u> , the Michigan Department of Transportation Signature Resolution, for Master Agreement 2027-0128. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	

MOTION NUMBER	26-358
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Mike Kruithoff, to ratify the acceptance of additional funds made available by MDOT Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program Project authorization 2022-0111-P5-R1 in the total amount of \$127,525.00, and authorize the Board Chair and Commission on Aging Director 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	26-359
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Charles Trapp, to approve the following 2027 Health Insurance changes, effective January 1, 2027:	
• 2027 premium rates provided by the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool (WMHIP), offering two health insurance plans: Core (Value HSA 3000) and Buy-Up (Value 2000); and • Maintain the same employer contributions to the HSA and FSA: ○ Core Plan: HSA contribution of \$750 single, \$1500 double/family ○ Buy-Up Plan: FSA contribution of \$250 single, \$500 double/family; and • Change the employee bi-weekly deductions: ○ Core Plan: \$0 for all coverage levels ○ Buy-Up plan: \$22.60 single, \$56.06 double, \$79.95 family; and • Authorize the County Administrator 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	26-360
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve Newaygo County's participation in the Dental Pool, with ADN as the dental insurance carrier, effective January 1, 2027; and allow the County Administrator 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	26-361
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Paul Mellema, to approve the 2027 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan renewal for fully insured vision and allow the County Administrator 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	26-362
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Charles Trapp, to approve joining the Medicare Advantage Pool for 2027, transition Medicare-eligible (post-65) retirees from the County's current Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage plan to the Humana Medicare Advantage plan, and allow the County Administrator 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	26-363
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to approve <u>Resolution #09-023-26</u> to opt out of PA 152 for 2027. Ayes – Paul Mellema, Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike, Mike Kruithoff, Charles Trapp, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.	

MOTION NUMBER	26-364
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by James Maike, to approve the Agreement for Extension Services between Newaygo Count and Michigan State University, effective October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, in the total amount of \$240,499 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.	

MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Charles Trapp
	Attended the Board of Public Works meeting, and the Material Management Plan funding was discussed. The Tire Clean Up day on Saturday went very well despite the rain.
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner James Maike
	Attended the MAC Conference and EGLE had a presentation regarding the dams.
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Brenda Bird
	Attended the Englewright Lake Board meeting and all is going well.
MISC. COMMITTEE REPORT	Commissioner Bryan Kolk
	Attended the MAC Conference and both candidates for Governor spoke via zoom.
ADMINISTRATORS REPORT	Administrator Christopher Wren
	The MIDC is out of funding and are awaiting the State to issue funds to continue.
PUBLIC COMMENT	Kelly Wawszyk, ITC
	Discussed the current Copperton Project which is approximately 255 miles of 345kV transmission lines throughout the middle of Michigan, along with the expansion of the Copperton Substation in Midland County.
MISCELLANEOUS	Commissioner James Maike
	Discussed dedication in White Cloud tomorrow for the Train Tressel.
MISCELLANEOUS MOTION NO.	26-371
	Motion by Mike Kruithoff, second by Charles Trapp, to approve the Newaygo County Drug Court (NCDCCP) grant award for fiscal year 2027 in the amount of \$12,607 and authorize the Trial Court Director/FOC, Chief Judge and Board Chair to electronically 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.
CLOSED SESSION MOTION NO.	26-372
	Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Mike Kruithoff, to adjourn to closed session at 11:05 a.m. to discuss Command Unit Union Contract 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.	26-373
	Motion by Mike Kruithoff, second by James Maike, to return to open session at 11:24 a.m. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, James Maike, Charles Trapp, Brenda Bird, Mike Kruithoff, Paul Mellema, Bryan Kolk. Nays – none. Motion carried.
MOTION – ADJOURNMENT	26-374
	Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Mike Kruithoff, 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 14, 2026