



Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

Health, Education & Human Services Committee

MINUTES

September 23, 2026

10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER	Commissioner James Maike called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike
AGENDA - MOTION NO.	26-375
Motion by Brenda Bird, second by Lori Tubbergen Clark, to approve the agenda of August 23, 2026. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
MINUTES – MOTION NO.	26-376
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to approve the Health, Education & Human Services Committee regular meeting minutes for August 26, 2026. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
UPDATE	Kevin Hughes, District Health Department #10
Mr. Hughes provided and discussed with the Board the total permits issued for Newaygo County from April 1st until June 30th.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Steven Cain, Veteran Affairs
The following departmental updates were reported:	
VA awards \$24.4 million to Michigan groups to combat veteran homelessness – The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$24,397,378 in grants to 19 community organizations. Medical Transportation – Newaygo County Dept of Veterans Affairs has two volunteer drivers to assist veterans in need of rides to medical appointments. Veteran drivers provided 184 Rides for Veterans in FY 2026. Veterans Affairs Committee – In FY 2026, the Veterans Affairs Committee has processed 30 Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund applications, 8 Peace Time Relief Fund applications, and 7 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund applications.	
MOTION NUMBER	26-377
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to recommend to the Finance Committee 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 an and all necessary documents. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Brad Hinken, COA Director
The following departmental updates were reported:	
- The Grant Meal Site has opened. Due to electrical breakers tripping, operations are paused until electricians hired by the city clear the facility. - The Senior Project Fresh program continues to do well. Exceeded the goal and 618 people have received the benefit.	

NEW BUSINESS MOTION NO	26-378
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to recommend to the Finance Committee 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 – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT	Administrator Christopher Wren
Administrator Wren provided and discussed with the Board analytics from the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool pertaining to Newaygo County.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
MISCELLANEOUS	None
ADJOURNMENT – MOTION NO.	26-379
Motion by Lori Tubbergen Clark, second by Brenda Bird, to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m. Ayes – Lori Tubbergen Clark, Brenda Bird, James Maike. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
COUNTY CLERK CERTIFICATION	Jason Vanderstelt, County Clerk
CHAIRPERSON CERTIFICATION	James Maike, Committee Chair
DATE	October 21, 2026