



Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

Public Safety/Judicial Committee

MINUTES

September 8, 2026

10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER	Meeting called to order by Commissioner Paul Mellema, Chair, at 10:10 a.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Bryan Kolk, Mike Kruithoff, Paul Mellema
AGENDA - MOTION NO.	26-345
Motion by Bryan Kolk, second by Mike Kruithoff, to approve the agenda of September 8, 2026. Ayes – Mike Kruithoff, Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
MINUTES – MOTION NO.	26-346
Motion by Mike Kruithoff, second by Bryan Kolk, to approve the Public Safety/Judicial Committee meeting minutes of August 12, 2026. Ayes – Mike Kruithoff, Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
LIFE EMS	Jeff Stockhill, Life EMS Ambulance Report
- Supplied the Board with the Life EMS of Newaygo County Ambulance Response Summary from April 1st through June 30, 2026. The Newaygo County operation has one full-time opening for a paramedic. - The Electric Forest Festival was once again staffed with paramedics and EMTs from several Life EMS operations.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Karen Moore, Indigent Defense Assigned Counsel Administrator
Not in attendance	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Wendy Jarvis, Trial Courts Administrator, FOC
The Courthouse renovation is underway and going well.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Not in attendance	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Adam Chiles, Central Dispatch
The following updates were reported: Staffing Updates – Kaitlyn and Maggie will begin the Shadow Phase of their training next week. Training Initiatives – Due to current staffing levels, all non-essential training initiatives remain on hold. Statistics – In August, dispatchers handled 4,384 Calls for Service. The center processed 5,664 total phone interactions, including 1,870 incoming 911 calls.	

DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Abby Watkins, Emergency Services Director
• Annual NIMS Compliancy Audit – Newaygo County EMS is charged with promoting and tracking NIMS compliancy throughout Newaygo County. • Local Emergency Planning Committee Support Agreement Update – On 6/10/2026 the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners approved the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Agreement.	
MOTION NUMBER	26-347
Motion by Bryan Kolk, second by Mike Kruithoff, to recommend to the Finance Committee 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 – Mike Kruithoff, Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Robert Mendham, Sheriff
The following updates were reported by Undersheriff Palmiter: • During the month of August, the Road Patrol handled 1,434 calls for service. There were 169 lodged in the jail. • The Sheriff App will be operational shortly.	
ADMINISTRATOR REPORT	Administrator Christopher Wren
• None.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None
MISCELLANEOUS	None
ADJOURNMENT	26-348
Motion by Mike Kruithoff, second by Bryan Kolk, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Ayes – Mike Kruithoff, Bryan Kolk, Paul Mellema. Nays – none. Motion carried.	
COUNTY CLERK CERTIFICATION	Jason VanderStelt, County Clerk
CHAIRPERSON CERTIFICATION	Paul Mellema, Committee Chair
DATE	October 7, 2026