



Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Building, 325 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 16th day of April 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Scott Shackleton, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

**ABSENT:** Jim Martin and Justin Knepper

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Traynor and seconded by Commissioner Lieruance.

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION #26-15**

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE ELECTORATE THE FOLLOWING MILLAGES; RENEWAL OF ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, AMBULANCE AND FIRE PROTECTION AND RECYCLING AND A NEW MILLAGE FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, as authorized by the General Property Tax Act, 1983 PA 206 MCL 211.1 *et seq.*, counties may levy dedicated millages upon property within the county to finance lawful public services such as road maintenance, ambulance, and fire protection, recycling programs, and health care services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners believes that residents should have an opportunity to consider four ballot proposals to authorize tax levies to provide funding for the following important public services as described in this resolution; and.

**WHEREAS**, road maintenance and improvements are important for the safety of residents and visitors and to maintain property values; and

**WHEREAS**, the voters of Chippewa County approved a Road Maintenance and Repair millage in 2021 that will expire on December 31, 2027, if not renewed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Road Commissioners is required to maintain approximately 1,300 roadways under its jurisdiction and it will not be able to maintain adequate staffing levels and road maintenance if a renewal millage is not approved; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Road Commissioners has asked the County Board of Commissioners to present a ballot proposal to voters to renew the Road Maintenance and Repair millage for a period of five years, beginning in 2027 through 2031, at the rate of 0.9624 mills,

which has been reduced from the 2021 voter approved millage of 0.9879 mills due to Headlee rollbacks and would raise an estimated \$1,493,004.41 in the first year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Road Commission has also asked if the Road Maintenance and Repair millage is not approved in the August 4, 2026, election, that the proposal be placed on November 3, 2026, ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, fire protection services within Chippewa County are provided by city, township, tribal and volunteer organizations. Ambulance service is provided by local and regional EMS authorities, and the County operates a Central Dispatch to receive and dispatch 911 calls and coordinates multi-agency responses and supports countywide emergency planning and response; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022 the voters approved a 0.4275 millage for Ambulance and Fire Protection for providing funds ambulance and fire protection with the levy distributed 35% for administration, training and communication operations and 65% distributed annually to the City of Sault St. Marie and the townships within the County based on the pro-rata value of their taxable valuations. This millage will expire on December 31, 2026, if a new millage is not approved; and

**WHEREAS**, a renewal of the Ambulance and Fire Protection millage at 0.4189 mills for a period of four years, 2026 through 2029, inclusive, commencing December 1, 2026, would raise an estimated \$649,867.12 in the first year; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Recycling program provides a valuable service to residents by accepting household recyclable items at a recycling center and helps to protect the environment through the proper disposal of these items; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 voter approved millage of .5000 mills, which has been reduced by Headlee Rollbacks, will expire on December 31, 2026, if a new millage is not approved; and

**WHEREAS**, a renewal of the Recycling Program millage at 0.4900 mills for a period of four years, 2026 through 2029, inclusive, commencing December 1, 2026, would raise an estimated \$760,175.53 in the first year and help continue the operation of this valuable program; and

**WHEREAS**, based on U.S. Census data, approximately 5,600 people in Chippewa County are uninsured, which is almost 18% of the residents in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, uninsured residents tend to delay health care until conditions are serious and use more costly emergency rooms as a last resort. Providing funding to help uninsured residents seek preventative care results in healthier residents, fewer medical crises and a decline in preventable hospitalizations and reduction in medical debt; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has determined that a County-wide dedicated millage to provide health care services to uninsured and underinsured County residents and for community-based outreach and education to all residents regardless of health care coverage,

through a contract with the Community Health Access Coalition (CHAC), will benefit all residents within the County and reduce the costs of medical service for residents and providers; and

**WHEREAS**, a new millage of 0.150 mills for a period of four years, 2026 through 2029, inclusive, commencing December 1, 2026, would raise an estimated \$232,706.59 in the first year; and

**WHEREAS**, under the General Property Tax Act, specifically MCL 211.24f, the County Board of Commissioners is authorized to submit ballot proposals to levy millages for a stated public purpose as long as the ballot clearly discloses the millage rate, the duration, and the purpose of the tax; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners approves four millage ballot questions to the voters: 1) for road maintenance and repair, 2) ambulance and fire protection; 3) recycling programs, and 4) health care services; and directs the County Clerk to submit the proposals for placement on the August 4, 2026 State Primary Election ballot.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if 1) the road maintenance and repair proposal, 2) ambulance and fire protection, 3) recycling programs and 4) health care services does not pass on the August 4, 2026 election ballot, the County Clerk is directed to submit the 1) road maintenance and repair proposal, 2) ambulance and fire protection, 3) recycling programs and 4) health care services on the November 3, 2026 State General Election ballot.

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
RENEWAL OF  
ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS DEDICATED MILLAGE**

This millage is to renew the millage that will expire after the 2026 tax levy and that has been reduced from the 2021 voter approved millage of 0.9879 mill as a result of Headlee rollbacks. Shall the existing authorized Road Maintenance and Repairs Millage within the County of Chippewa, Michigan, be renewed at 0.9624 mills (\$0.9624 per \$1,000 of taxable value) upon all taxable property within Chippewa County for a period of five years, 2027 through 2031, inclusive, with the first levy commencing December 1, 2027, for the purpose of road repairs and maintenance within Chippewa County and streets within the City of Sault St. Marie and the Village of DeTour? If approved, in the first year this millage would raise an estimated \$1,493,004.41.

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
RENEWAL OF  
AMBULANCE AND FIRE PROTECTION DEDICATED MILLAGE**

This millage is to renew the millage that will expire in 2026 and that has been reduced from the 2022 voter approved millage of 0.4280 mills as a result of Headlee rollbacks. Shall the existing authorized Ambulance and Fire Protection Millage within the County of Chippewa, Michigan, be renewed at 0.4189 mills (\$0.4189 per \$1,000 of taxable value) upon all taxable property within Chippewa County for a period of four years, 2026 through 2029, inclusive, commencing December 1, 2026 for the purpose of supplementing funding for public services of County-wide ambulance and fire protection with the levy to be distributed as follows: 35% for County administration, training and communication operations and 65% to be distributed annually to the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Townships of Chippewa County (Bay Mills, Bruce, Chippewa, Drafter, Detour, Drummond, Sugar Island, Superior, Trout Lake, Whitefish, Hulbert, Kinross, Pickford, Raber, Rudyard and Soo) based on the pro-rated value of their respective taxable valuations? If approved, in the first year this millage would raise an estimated \$649,867.12.

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
RENEWAL OF  
RECYCLING PROGRAM DEDICATED MILLAGE**

This millage is to renew the millage that will expire in 2026 and that has been reduced from the 2022 voter approved millage of 0.5000 mills as a result of Headlee rollbacks. Shall the existing authorized Recycling Millage within the County of Chippewa, Michigan, be renewed at 0.4900 mills (\$0.4900 per \$1,000 of taxable value) upon all taxable property within Chippewa County for a period of four years, 2026 through 2029, inclusive, commencing December 1, 2026, for the purpose of the continued operation of the Chippewa County Recycling Program, which allows residents to drop off common household recyclables at a recycling center, and if approved, in the first year this millage would raise an estimated \$760,175.53.

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS  
DEDICATED MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

Shall the County of Chippewa, Michigan, be authorized to levy a new millage of 0.150 mills (\$0.150 per \$1,000 of taxable value) upon all taxable property within Chippewa County for a period of four years, 2026 through 2029, inclusive, commencing December 1, 2026 for the purpose of improving access to primary, behavioral and preventative health services, care coordination and navigation for uninsured and underinsured residents of Chippewa County, support services addressing health-related social needs, and community-based health outreach and education programs within the County, with such services to be provided through a contract between Chippewa County and Community Health Access Coalition (CHAC), a non-profit organization within Chippewa County that provides health care services? If approved, in the first year this millage would raise an estimated \$232,706.59.

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: Scott Shackleton, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

Nays: None

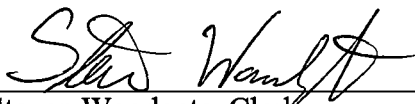
Absent: Jim Martin and Justin Knepper

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

STATE OF MICHIGAN    )  
  )SS.  
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Chippewa, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of April, 2026, and I further certify that the meeting was held and the minutes therefore were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 16th day of  
April 2026.

  
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Steven Woodgate, Clerk  
County of Chippewa