

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session  
August 13, 2026

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, August 13, 2026 in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 4:31 P.M. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Knepper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Justin Knepper, Damon Lieurance, Scott Shackleton, James Traynor and Chairman Jim Martin

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator Kelly Church, Clerk Steven Woodgate, and 8 members of the public. 8 members of the public logged in via zoom.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to add Resolution 2026-33 to the agenda items and approve the amended agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Regular Board Meeting – July 16, 2026

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE**

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to receive the correspondence and forward to appropriate offices. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tim Moher spoke about EUPTA needing an advisory committee.

Sarah Karasinski expressed her thoughts on some Commissioner commissioners' comments during the last board meeting.

Matt Keller spoke about EUPTA needing an advisory committee.

Phyllis Reed and Lori Miller spoke about the interlocal agreement requiring EUPTA to have an advisory committee.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Kelly Church provided for informational purposes only – *no action items*.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 2026-32**

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Lieurance and supported by Commissioner Knepper.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 6105  
(Lake Level Assessment Funding Reform)**

**RESOLUTION 2026-32**

WHEREAS, Chippewa County administers lake level special assessment districts under Part 307 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan, through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is responsible for paying its proportional share of lake level assessments for state-owned lands; and

WHEREAS, the current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) formula does not provide sufficient funding for the State's required lake level obligations, resulting in repeated shortfalls that shift costs onto local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, counties across Michigan have raised concerns that the State's underpayment creates an unfunded mandate and places an unfair financial burden on local lake level districts; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 6105, sponsored by Representative Kunse, would correct this inequity by ensuring the State fully funds its statutory lake level responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) has identified HB 6105 as a priority fix needed to protect county budgets and prevent local taxpayers from subsidizing State obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its full support for House Bill 6105 and urges the Michigan Legislature to enact this corrective legislation without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Representative Dave Prestin, Senator Ed McBroom, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the Governor's Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County encourages swift legislative action to ensure fair, predictable, and fully funded lake level assessments for all Michigan counties.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

|         |                                                                            |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AYES:   | Commissioners Knepper, Lieurance, Shackleton, Traynor, and Chairman Martin |
| NAYES:  | None                                                                       |
| ABSENT: | None                                                                       |

**RESOLUTION 2026-32 DECLARED ADOPTED**

**RESOLUTION 2026-33**

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Shackleton and supported by Commissioner Lieurance.

## RESOLUTION 2026-33

### SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING

*Rosemary Blashill*

LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners join together with the residents of Chippewa County, to express their appreciation and to honor **ROSEMARY BLASHILL** following her death for her decades of services to Chippewa County.

**ROSEMARY BLASHILL** was a special community citizen and leader; we recognize this outstanding individual of the community who was representative of all that is good in leadership, responsibility, enthusiasm and inspiration. Such characteristics embody the attributes of success in any area of work and contribute to the well-being of many others.

**ROSEMARY BLASHILL** throughout her distinguished career of service, established a reputation as a true servant to her community, serving a countless number of people's health care needs. Her legacy of public service should be remembered and used as an example for the future; she saw the needs of her community and found solutions.

**ROSEMARY BLASHILL** worked diligently and tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of the residents of Chippewa County and the Eastern Upper Peninsula through her efforts with the Chippewa County Health Department, LMAS and Hospice and Home Health Care to name a few.

**ROSEMARY BLASHILL** was known throughout Chippewa County and the Eastern Upper Peninsula as a determined problem solver, with a drive to find answers for those in need; through the implementation of new programs and services.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, we hereby honor the memory of **ROSEMARY BLASHILL**, who passed away on August 5, 2026, for her many years of service, this document is signed and dedicated in her honor and her contributions to Chippewa County and the citizens she served.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

|         |                                                                            |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AYES:   | Commissioners Knepper, Lieurance, Shackleton, Traynor, and Chairman Martin |
| NAYES:  | None                                                                       |
| ABSENT: | None                                                                       |

**RESOLUTION 2026-33 DECLARED ADOPTED**

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 11, 2026**

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Health Department – 2025 Annual Report (Acknowledge & Accept)**

The Committee acknowledged and accepted the Chippewa County Health Department's 2025 Annual Report which reviews the program activities and breaks down the services showing the number of services provided through the year. The Health Department Mission Statement is to provide and facilitate services and to monitor and regulate activities that may have an impact on the health of our community.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to acknowledge and accept the Health Department's 2025 Annual Report, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Health Department – Public Health Services Program Promotional Items – Local health Sharing Support \$10,912.24**

The Committee reviewed a purchase order request to purchase various promotional items including family basics first aid kits, hand sanitizers, and pens from 4Imprint for the Health Department's Public Health Services Program and will be paid from the Local Health Sharing Support grant.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the 4Imprint purchase order in the amount of \$10,912.24 to purchase first aid kits, hand sanitizers and pens; and to be paid from the Local Health Sharing Support grant, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Surveyor – Bid Summary 2027 Chippewa County Plat Book and set price**

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the 2027 Chippewa County Plat Book preparation, production and publication. One quote was received from Mapping Solutions who is being recommended by the Chippewa County Surveyor. Rockford Map Publishers did reach out to indicate that they would not be bidding since the RFP specification to show parcels 2 acres and greater does not fit their standard format. The Surveyor is also seeking to increase the plat book price to \$45.00 per book plus shipping and handling when mailed, the previous price was \$39.00 per book. The plat books will be tentatively scheduled for publication in September 2027, which will allow for the 4-H to sell advertising in late spring/early summer 2027.

**It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the quote from Mapping Solutions in the amount of \$16,000.00 to prepare, produce and publish 1000 copies of the 2027 Chippewa County Plat Book, and to establish a price of \$45.00 per book plus shipping and handling when mailed. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.**

### **Prosecuting Attorney – Local Prosecutor Support Grant – Intent to Award \$131,903**

#### **Grant Agreement and Budget**

The Committee reviewed the Notification of Intent to Award the Chippewa County Prosecutors Office with a total of \$131,903 through the Michigan Department of Treasury – Revenue Sharing and Grants Division. The grant award includes the grant agreement and budget; items budgeted included expert witness expenses, copier, office furniture, office supplies, retention bonuses, internship costs for wages, signing bonuses, computers, digital services and additional training and travel reimbursements. Discussion followed, as an RFP will need to be released for the server and tape back-up and how the retention and signing bonuses will be handled through payroll, with the employers' expense being covered by the grant, with no cost to the general fund and to make the necessary budget amendments for both the revenue and expenses of the grant.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve, authorize and accept the Local Prosecutor Support Grant in the amount of \$131,903, to pay for the items listed on Appendix A including witness fees, office furniture, equipment and supplies; intern costs, retention and signing bonuses; computers and digital storage plus training and travel; the motion also included the budget amendments as needed. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

**Administration – Superior Seal Coating \$7,770.00 (Between the County Building and Courthouse)**

The Committee reviewed a quote from Superior Seal Coating for sidewalk leveling and to remove, level and replace paving bricks at the northwest corner of the County Building; with the sidewalk repairs by Superior Seal Coating and the brick work to be completed by A &K Outdoor Services, total price \$7,770.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and accept the quote from Superior Seal Coating in the amount of \$7,770.00 to repair and level the sidewalk and bricks at the northwest corner of the County Building, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

**Administration – Summit Fire Protection**

**Inspections – Courthouse \$1,150.00 and County Building \$420.00**

**Annual Monitoring – Courthouse \$780.00 and County Building \$780.00 – plus \$950.00 if cell dialer needed**

**County Building – Add Horn Strobe per fire chief inspection (1 for FOC and 2 for locker rooms) up to \$7,149.00**

The Committee was updated on the various quotes and information from Summit Fire Protection for the Courthouse and County Building needs, to have both inspected and to have annual monitoring changed to Summit Fire Protection; inspections costs of \$1,570.00; annual monitoring of \$1,560, with an additional one-time cost of \$1,900.00 if cell dialer installation is needed. The Committee also reviewed an installation proposal for the County Building to add three horn strobes, as needed in the Friend of the Court Office and one in each of the Sheriff's Office locker rooms at a cost of up to \$7,149.00, which will depend on the where the closest power supply can be used. Discussion followed with the Committee being notified that following the inspections we can expect recommendations for up to \$15,000.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve Summitt Fire Protection to complete the inspections at the Courthouse and County Building, to add their annual monitoring and cell dialer if needed and to add the three horn strobes in the County Building as noted by the Fire Chief; for a total price not to exceed \$12,179.00, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

**Administration – Bid Summary Sheriff's Office Tractor**

The Committee reviewed the one bid received from Gaylor-Thompson Sales and Service, for the purchase of a 2026 Deutz-Fahr 5080 D Keyline, 80 gross HP, with a 78" Erskine commercial snow blower at the price of \$80,000.00, if purchased before 8/31/2026 or \$83,000.00 after 8/31/2026. This tractor will be used at the Sheriff's Training Office and Animal Shelter; the Sheriff's Office will provide the staff to keep up with the snow removal including the Shelter area. A budget amendment will be necessary for the general fund purchase.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the purchase of the 2026 Deutz-Fahr 5080 D Keyline 80 Gross HP tractor from Gaylor-

Thompson Sales & Services prior to August 31, 2026, at the price of \$80,000.00, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

#### Finance - Claims and Accounts – July County

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to recommend the approval of July bills and payroll: general claims \$399,518.56, other fund claims \$1,690,160.88, payroll \$959,133.66 total claims \$3,048,813.10, to approve budget amendments for the Health Departments TB Control, EPSDT Clinic, SHACC Not Eligible, Septage Waste Management, TYPE II (Noncommunity Water), The Book Ladder, LMCH, and Pink Ribbon programs, as presented and to acknowledge the various monthly financial reports. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED. (4-0, with Commissioner Lieurance abstained)

| 8/11/2026                    |                   | Chippewa County              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              |                   | Budget Amendments            |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
| Special Funds - Revenue      |                   |                              | Original Budget | Amended Budget | Change       | Description                                                                                                                              |
| 221-608-605.000              | Health Department | TB Control                   | \$ -            | \$ 1,000.00    | \$ 1,000.00  | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-624-675.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 4,500.00    | \$ 4,500.00  | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-635-605.000              | Health Department | SHACC Not Eligible           | \$ -            | \$ 385.00      | \$ 385.00    | This budget was not included in the original budget                                                                                      |
| 221-823-543.601              | Health Department | Septage Waste Management     | \$ 3,100.00     | \$ 3,385.00    | \$ 285.00    | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-825-605.000              | Health Department | Type II (Noncommunity Water) | \$ -            | \$ 6,000.00    | \$ 6,000.00  | C/S & contracted services were missed in original budget                                                                                 |
| 221-896-584.000              | Health Department | The Book Ladder              | \$ -            | \$ 5,000.00    | \$ 5,000.00  | This budget was not included in the original budget                                                                                      |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                | \$ 17,160.00 |                                                                                                                                          |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
| Special Funds - Expenditures |                   |                              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
| 221-608-705.000              | Health Department | TB Control                   | \$ -            | \$ 450.00      | \$ 450.00    | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-608-715.000              | Health Department | TB Control                   | \$ -            | \$ 350.00      | \$ 350.00    | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-608-965.000              | Health Department | TB Control                   | \$ -            | \$ 200.00      | \$ 200.00    | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-618-727.000              | Health Department | LMCH                         | \$ (900.00)     | \$ 3,100.00    | \$ 4,000.00  | This is an increase in the 618 departments budget, as the original budget showed a \$k revenues                                          |
| 221-624-705.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 450.00      | \$ 450.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-715.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 445.00      | \$ 445.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-727.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 1,500.00    | \$ 1,500.00  | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-788.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 500.00      | \$ 500.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-850.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 55.00       | \$ 55.00     | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-860.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 150.00      | \$ 150.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-820.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 300.00      | \$ 300.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-855.002              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 650.00      | \$ 650.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-624-965.000              | Health Department | EPSDT Clinic                 | \$ -            | \$ 450.00      | \$ 450.00    | This Dept was missed in the original budget                                                                                              |
| 221-635-705.000              | Health Department | SHACC Not Eligible           | \$ -            | \$ 150.00      | \$ 150.00    | This budget was not included in the original budget                                                                                      |
| 221-635-715.000              | Health Department | SHACC Not Eligible           | \$ -            | \$ 110.00      | \$ 110.00    | This budget was not included in the original budget                                                                                      |
| 221-635-965.000              | Health Department | SHACC Not Eligible           | \$ -            | \$ 125.00      | \$ 125.00    | This budget was not included in the original budget                                                                                      |
| 221-823-727.000              | Health Department | Septage Waste Management     | \$ 100.00       | \$ 350.00      | \$ 250.00    | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-823-850.000              | Health Department | Septage Waste Management     | \$ -            | \$ 15.00       | \$ 15.00     | Increase in CY budget based on YTD activities                                                                                            |
| 221-825-801.000              | Health Department | Type II (Noncommunity Water) | \$ -            | \$ 6,000.00    | \$ 6,000.00  | C/S & contracted services were missed in original budget                                                                                 |
| 221-840-955.002              | Health Department | Pink Ribbon Fund             | \$ 800.00       | \$ 7,800.00    | \$ 7,000.00  | Not originally budgeted at this amount but based on requests in 2026, we are requesting an increase in expenditures related to this fund |
| 221-896-727.000              | Health Department | The Book Ladder              | \$ -            | \$ 5,000.00    | \$ 5,000.00  | This budget was not included in the original budget                                                                                      |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                |              |                                                                                                                                          |
|                              |                   |                              |                 |                | \$ 28,160.00 |                                                                                                                                          |

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, for the passage of these minutes of Finance, Claims, and Accounts Committee Meeting of August 11, 2026. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

#### COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

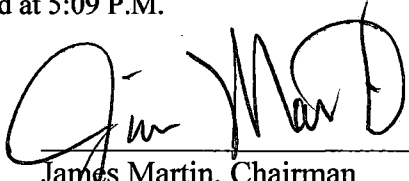
Commissioner Lieurance said the Veterans Affairs is a shining light for our county and encouraged any veterans in need to talk with them.

Commissioner Knepper encouraged all the departments to reach out to local companies for purchases.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Knepper, supported by Chairman Lieurance, to adjourn, accordingly. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 5:09 P.M.

  
Steven Woodgate, Clerk

  
James Martin, Chairman