

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
Regular Session
December 18, 2025

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, December 18, 2025, 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 Shackleton lead 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, Administrative assistant Cady Bauers, Undersheriff Ryan Hering, and Health Officer Karen Senkus. 1 member of the public logged in via zoom.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the 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 accept the following minutes as presented:

- Regular Meeting – November 13, 2025

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, for the correspondence be acknowledged and forward as appropriate. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2025-26

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-26
Resolution Opting Out of the Requirements of PA 152 of 2011

Whereas, bargaining is strictly the responsibility of the county commission on behalf of the good citizens it serves; and

Whereas, PA 152 of 2011 erodes the responsibilities of duly elected local county commissioners and the trust held between those commissioners and their constituents; and

Whereas, PA 152 of 2011 constitutes an attempt by the legislature to dictate the terms on which counties bargain with their employees; and

Whereas, PA 152 of 2011 is a new foray by the state into dictating the terms of healthcare at the local level; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of PA 152 of 2011, Section 8(1), Chippewa County exercises its right to opt out of the requirements of the Act for the plan year beginning January 1, 2026 by two-thirds majority vote of this Board in support of this resolution.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Commissioners Knepper, Shackleton, Traynor, and Chairman Martin

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Lieurance

RESOLUTION 2025-26 DECLARED ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-27

See Exhibit 1

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2025

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – 2026 Opioid Settlement Funds

The Opioid Settlement Committee has reviewed and scored the applications received for the 2026 funding cycle; with a total of seven applications received seeking a total of \$183,292.00 in

funding. Through review four recipients were selected based upon the direct service that will be provided to residents within Chippewa County and in collaboration with other community agencies The Opioid Settlement Committee is seeking total distributions of \$138,000.00 for FY2026 for the following recipients:

- CLM Community Action \$45,000.00 to incorporate a case manager at West Bridge Apartment Complex to work with individuals and families struggling with opioid addiction.
- Great Lakes Recovery Centers \$45,000.00 to work with MyMichigan Health and the Chippewa County Jail to provide services to individuals struggling with opioid addiction.
- Face Addiction Now (FAN) \$29,500.00 to provide education and outreach to community members through a variety of means including educational sessions, distribution of lock boxes, naloxone, and group meetings, etc.
- Chippewa County Mental Health Court \$18,500.00 to provide support to individuals with opioid addiction through case management services.

These requests have been vetted by legal counsel and are aligned with the settlement guidelines laid out in Exhibit E and have been reviewed by MAC's Technical Advisor for the Opioid Settlement Funds. Discussion covered many aspects of the Committee including the Committee structure, number of members, where other entities are in responding to the Opioid Settlement and the direction that the current Committee in having these programs, they are currently funding to become sustainable by the entities in the future. Thank you to the Opioid Settlement Committee and the Health Department's Karen Senkus for their work on the FY2026 funding.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the FY2026 Opioid Settlement Requests as presented and requested from the Opioid Settlement Committee; for \$138,000.00 in total to four recipients: CLM Community Action \$45,000.00; Great Lakes Recovery Centers \$45,000.00; Face Addiction Now (FAN) \$29,500.00 and Chippewa County Mental Health Court \$18,500.00; requests which have been fully vetted by legal counsel. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Health Department – Medical Officer Liability Insurance Extension to 7/1/2026 - \$4,745.75

The Health Department received a renewal extension quote from U.P. Insurance Agency, Inc., to cover the Medical Director's liability insurance through 7/1/2026 at the cost of \$4,745.75.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the liability insurance extension through July 1, 2026, for the Medical Director through U.P. Insurance Agency, Inc., at the cost of \$4,745.75. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Office – ATC Around the Clock Healthcare Services – Inmate Healthcare

The Committee reviewed information provided from the Sheriff's Office Administration, who was asked to search for a more affordable alternative for inmate medical services. Sheriff's Administration is proposing to use ACH for the month of January 2026 and then transition to ATC Around the Clock Healthcare Services beginning February 2026 which will provide the same services at an estimated saving of \$150,000.00 over the twelve-month period.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize ATC Around the Clock Healthcare Services Option 2 for Inmate Healthcare starting February 1, 2026, at an annual cost of \$539,552.00 and to cancel the ACH contract effective the same date. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Prosecuting Attorney

Grade 14 to 16 for Assistant Prosecutor

Chief Assistant Prosecutor to 5-year level

The Committee reviewed a memo from Prosecuting Attorney Rob Stratton regarding wages of the attorney positions in his office as he received a recent resignation from his Assistant Prosecutor even after a recent increase in wages for the County attorneys. Prosecutor Stratton addressed the wages in comparable counties, workload and the responsibilities of the office. The request is to change one of the Assistant Prosecutor positions from Grade 14 to Grade 16 and to put the Chief Prosecutor position up to the 5-year level based on the needs of the office. The wage increase would be effective at the beginning of the next payroll. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize changing one Assistant Prosecutor position to a Grade 16 with the \$10,000.00 special pay and to place the Chief Prosecutor at the 5-year pay level with the special pay of \$17,500.00. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Information Systems – Hosting FEMA Course MGT 303 through EUPISAC

The Committee was asked to approve the formal request to Texas A&M “Texas Engineering Extension Services (TEEX) and to the State of Michigan for Chippewa County and the EUPISAC (Eastern Upper Peninsula Information Sharing & Analysis Center) group to host a FEMA course MGT 303 “Cyber Vulnerability Assessment” on July 28-29, 2026, with Lake Superior State University providing the location for the course. There is no cost to the county for requesting the course.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the formal request be released to Texas A&M for Chippewa County and the EUPISAC to host a FEMA Cyber Vulnerability Assessment course on July 28 and 29, 2026. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Information Systems – Phone License Transfer Fee – DSTech \$9,648.00

The Committee reviewed a quote from DSTech in the amount of \$9,648.00 to transfer the Zultys license fees and recreate the Health Department users, phones and call routing to the County system. This will include firewall, VPN, switch changes to connect the County and Health Department networks.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the DSTech quote of \$9,648.00 to transfer the Health Department users to the County system. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Office of Emergency Services – Mobile CAD SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2% Funding - \$5,000.00 accept and budget

The Committee reviewed confirmation that Chippewa County received an award from the SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2% funding of \$5,000.00 to be used for the Mobile CAD licensing of \$5,000.00 for a one-time license coverage. The Committee thanked Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for including Chippewa County in the Fall 2025 2% Distribution Cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize accepting and budgeting \$5,000.00 in 2% distributions from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Fall 2025 distribution cycle to be used for Mobile CAD licensing. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Office of Emergency Services – New CAD – Tyler Technologies- approve and authorize expenses

The Committee reviewed a letter from Central Dispatch Director Greg Postma regarding the new CAD (Computer Aided Dispatching) system that the UP911 Authority has selected; requesting the Finance Committee acknowledge and approval the County's continued partnership with Chippewa County Central Dispatch and the UP911 Authority and to authorize proceeding with the acquisition of Tyler Technologies utilizing the BAFO (best and final offer) for CAD services. Tyler Technologies was selected as the best fit for the UP911 Authority after much research and many years involving eight PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point) across the UP and Northern Lower Michigan. The cost breakdown is as follows: 2026 - \$150,000.00; 2027 - \$118,000; 2028 - \$61,000 and 2029 - \$63,000. The UP911 Authority is still seeking appropriation requests from the State of Michigan, and this new system is the same that is going to be used by the State of Michigan, which will help calls from center to center.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the new CAD (Computer Aided Dispatching) system from Tyler Technologies using the BAFO and to stay in partnership with the UP911 Authority; with annual cost of \$150,000.00; \$118,000.00, \$61,000.00 and \$63,000.00 starting in FY2026 through FY 2029. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Survey & Remonumentation – BCC 26-17 \$122,687.00 (County Contribution of \$15,000.00

The Committee reviewed the 2026 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation. The grant is from 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2026, in the amount of \$107,687.00 with Chippewa County contributing \$15,000.00 for a total FY2026 project amount of \$122,687.00. Fifty-four (54) corners will be completed in FY2026. Grant BCC 26-17 is

between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Chippewa County, Chairman Jim Martin is the authorized signer.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, Supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize signature for Grant No. BCC 26-17 between the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Chippewa County, and the 2026 Grant Application to be submitted to the Office of Land Surveying and Remonumentation in the grant amount of \$107,687.00. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Organizational Meeting Monday, January 5, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

No action necessary, the meeting will be posted.

Administration – Building Department Vehicle Guidelines and Reporting

The Committee was updated on the Building Inspector's change to have a county vehicle assigned to him; the Sheriff's Office transferred a Ford Explorer for Building Inspector use; the Committee reviewed the vehicle use guidelines, vehicle log and the monthly vehicle maintenance log. The vehicle has been stickered with a County logo.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize the Building Inspector Department Vehicle guidelines and reporting, for the vehicle assigned, a Ford Explorer. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Sub-Compact Tractor for Maintenance

The Committee reviewed four quotes for a sub-compact tractor being purchased primarily to help with the snow removal at the Court Street County Complex: as well being available to the Sheriff's Office. The quotes were discussed at length with the quotes including engine size, snowblower attachment, hard cab, block heater, box blade and 3-point hitch options and prices. The quotes were received from Northshore Tractor Ltd., Gaylor-Thompson Sales & Services, Skinners Garage Inc., and Ginop Sales, Inc. The tractor from Skinners is a new 2023 with 11% off the price.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the purchase of a new 2023 Kubota BX2380 with 48" commercial snow thrower, hard cab, loader, block heater, box blade, 3-point hitch from Skinners Garage Inc. at the discount price of \$34,723.35. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – MERS 457 Participating Agreement – change for Correction CBA

The Committee reviewed the updated MERS 457 Participation Agreement for the Corrections Division Number 401057, changing the division option to be a match contributions agreement up to a 10% match.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper to approve and authorize the MERS 457 participation Agreement for Division 401057 (Corrections) as presented authorizing a match contribution of up to 10% match. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Administration – Weight Loss Pharmacy RX Save Card – Fund \$300 option

The Committee was updated again on the changing environment of the GLP-1 weight loss drugs; with lower prices Rx Save Card is suggesting that we approve Zepbound and Wegovy at a \$300.00 funding level; which will leave the employee's who still need to have the prior authorization with a \$149.00 co-pay for Zepbound and \$49.00 for Wegovy. The County can change our funding level with 30-day notice as discussion by the Committee though there were bigger changes coming in the first quarter of 2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to choose the \$300 funding level for the weight loss drugs through RX Save Card. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – November– County and Health Department and Budget Amendments for FY2026 (amendments to be handed out) and Finance – FY2026 Budget General and Special Funds

The Committee reviewed the year-end budget amendments, including general and special funds revenue and expenditure changes including larger changes for the child care fund, salaries and fringes for MCL 45.421 payouts; monies to MERS from the DTRF and general fund, tractor purchase, Wayside opt-out settlement, inmate medical.

Finance – FY2026 Budget General and Special Funds

Contracts within budget

1. **MSUE 4-H Agent - \$56,920.00**
2. **Probate-Family Court Legal Contracts (3) - \$165,762.00 (\$55,254 each)**
3. **JAVS Maintenance and Support District and Circuit Court**
4. **Colligo GIS for Central Dispatch - \$3,000.00**
5. **RAVE Emergency Notification System - \$4,600.00**
6. **Test Genius – Critical - \$1,300.00**
7. **Spectrum Health-medical Examiner Facility Use**

Annual Software Support \$290,720.00

Information Systems requests \$303,042.00.00 General Fund, \$222,252.00

Equipment Requests \$523,007.24

1. **General Fund \$351,871.24**
2. **Special Funds \$171,136.00**

FY26 Non-Union Pay scale

Fee Changes

1. **Medical Examiner – Cremation permits \$35.00**

The Committee was given an overview of the proposed FY2026 Budget, the general fund budget was presented showing an overall net revenue of \$53,159.00. The Committee was updated on changes and requests of the Departments and Agencies that variances from the prior year, including allocations to the EUP Regional Planning, Chippewa County EDC, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, and the Soil Conservation District. Contracts from within the budget were also disclosed on the agenda including the MSUE 4-H Agent, the (3) Legal services contracts from Probate-Family Court; JAVS Maintenance and Support for District and Circuit Courts; Colligo – GIS; RAVE Emergency Notification, Test Genius – Critical; and Spectrum Health-Medical Examiner Facility Use. Personnel changes for FY2026 included on the Non-Union pay scale for approval, including grade changes for Sheriff's Office Administration, County Administration, Animal Shelter full-time staff, the Prosecuting Attorney position and District Court changes including one position from a grade 7 to grade 8 and another from grade 8 to grade 9; the software, hardware and equipment requests, including three vehicles; two utilizing the State of Michigan rate with no bidding required; one which will be bid out. An increased fee was also presented for cremation permits. The County will continue to look for new revenues and continue looking to reduce expenditure to maintain the necessary staffing and to provide the necessary services to the County. The FY2026 Budget Resolution will be presented to the full Board for final approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to recommend the approval of November County bills and payroll: general claims \$915,196.10, other fund claims \$7,033,312.80, payroll \$885,089.17 and Health Department claims \$106,136.29 total claims \$8,939,734.36; as presented and to approve the year-end budget amendments, including a MERS payment from fund balance to cover MERS divisions with unfunded liability. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Collective Bargaining Negotiations pursuant MCL 15.268 (c)

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the Collective Bargaining Agreements between Chippewa County:

- Michigan Nurses Association from 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2029; covering the Health Department nursing staff and nurse practitioner
- Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council from 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2029; covering Dispatchers
- Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), from 1/1/2026 to 12/31/2028; covering the Sheriff's Office Road Patrol

All as negotiated and tentatively agreed to by both parties, and authorizing the 457 adoption agreement changes for Nationwide as negotiated. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, for the Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee minutes on December 16, 2025, be accepted. On a

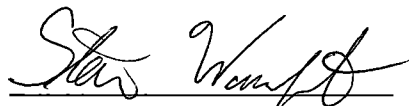
voice vote, the motion carried.

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

Commissioner Lieurance stated that UPCAP addressed Chippewa County lost funding for UPHP health services and is working to get other programs out to the people who are eligible. UPCAP also addressed the \$656 million in clawback funds should not affect any of their programs because it was money that was left over from the last budget. Commissioner Knepper mentioned Louis Vallance, who led the resolution regarding Amtrak, asked the Commission to be part of a new organization called Snowbelt Transit Commission for Transit and Rail Advocacy. Commissioner Knepper also mentioned many counties wanting to get ahead of the future data center newcoming and using up the local resources. He mentioned to possibly meet with the EDC or townships sometime in the future about the impact of these data centers. Discussion followed regarding the positive and negative impacts on the data centers could have.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to adjourn, accordingly. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 5:19 P.M.


Steven Woodgate, Clerk


James Martin, Chairman