CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
October 15, 2026

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, October 15, 2026 in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Shackleton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESNET: Administrator Kelly Church, Clerk Steven Woodgate, and 31 members of the public. 14 members of the public logged in via zoom.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, 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 Lieurance, to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Regular Board Meeting – September 17, 2026

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE
It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, for the acknowledgement of the correspondence and forward as appropriate. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Tracy Rye said the County Board is responsible for the health care concerns in the community and what the hospital did to Dr. Chander and Danielle Russo was wrong.
Kristy Autore and Amanda Oaks were concerned about MyMichigan Hospital and the firing of Dr. Chander and Danielle Russo.
Lori Miller, Dr. Chloe Cannon, and Sara Karasinski discussed the conflict of interest with Commissioner Shackleton and former Commissioner Postula serving and voting on both the County Board War Memorial Hospital Board.
Danielle Russo stated MyMichigan Sault is planning to become a critical access hospital and the impact it would have on the community.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Administrator Kelly Church provided for informational purposes only – *no action items.*

There was discussion between the commissioners to move the commissioner comments before the Standing Committee Reports so the public does not have to wait until the end of the meeting to hear the

commissioner's comments. Chairman Martin agreed to move the commissioner comments before the Standing Committee Reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Notice EUP Advisory Committee Applications for Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to send the second notice for the EUPTA Advisory Committee Applications. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board/Committee/Agency/Authority Vacancies Announcement and Public Notice

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the Board/Committee/Agency/Authority Announcement and Public Notice. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-37

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

CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 2026 – 37
APPORTIONMENT OF 2026 MILLAGES

At a meeting of the **CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** held on OCTOBER 15, 2026,

WHEREAS, the County Board has reviewed all of the millages requested by the various taxing entities operating within the County, and has considered the allocated and extra voted millages to which each entity is entitled, and determined that the levy of the millage rates listed on the 2026 MILLAGE REPORT presented to the Board by the Equalization Director and made a part of the minutes, will be necessary for the sound management and operation of the taxing jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, the County Equalization Director has informed the County Board that pursuant to MCL 211.34D, each requested operating millage on said report has been reduced, if necessary, in compliance with Section 31 of Article 9 of the State Constitution of 1963, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. THE 2026 MILLAGE REPORT BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED

2. THE CLERK AND EQUALIZATION DIRECTOR ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO COMPLETE AND FILE ANY REPORT REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, RELATIVE TO THE MILLAGES AUTHORIZED BY THIS BOARD, INCLUDING THE 2026 APPORTIONMENT REPORT.

3. THE MILLAGES SO APPROVED SHALL BE SPREAD AGAINST THE APPROPRIATE TAXABLE VALUES IN THE VARIOUS TAXING UNITS WITHIN THE COUNTY TO PRODUCE THE 2026 TAX ROLLS AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPREADING AND COLLECTING THOSE TAXES SHALL BE CHARGED WITH THE PROCESSING AND COLLECTING OF THOSE TAXES

ACCORDING TO STATUTE.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

RESOLUTION 2026-37 DECLARED ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2026-38
The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Knepper and supported by Commissioner Traynor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-38
County Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds Annually from the Opioid Settlement Fund to the Chippewa County Health Department for the Purpose of Facilitation and Administration Expenses Associated with Leadership of the County's Opioid Settlement Planning Efforts

WHEREAS, Chippewa County Board of Commissioners previously passed Resolution No. 2025-15, allocating $2,500 to the Chippewa County Health Department for purposes of facilitation and administrative support associated with opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, additional staff time and administrative support are necessary to ensure the responsible stewardship, planning, implementation, and oversight of opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2026, Chippewa County has received $634,511.95from the settlements of multiple opioid-related lawsuits, and the total funding anticipated to be received by the County will occur over 18 years and is estimated to be $1.6 million; and

WHEREAS, these funds are available to the County for the purpose of remediating the impacts of the opioid crisis on the residents of Chippewa County, including activities related to prevention, overdose response, treatment, recovery, planning, and evaluation, as authorized under Exhibit E of the settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners held a public meeting to gather community voices related to community needs associated with the drug overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Opioid Settlement Steering Committee (Steering Committee) has been created by the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners will receive recommendations from the Steering Committee on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee's responsibilities include stakeholder and community engagement, needs assessment and resource inventory, identification of funding priorities, development and

administration of competitive funding processes, contract development and management, performance monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and quality improvement activities; and

WHEREAS, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Chippewa County Board of Commissioners hereby rescinds and replaces Resolution No. 2025-15 with this resolution, allowing for appropriate funding and staffing levels to support opioid settlement planning, steering committee facilitation, competitive bid processes, contract execution and monitoring, reporting, and quality improvement to be provided to the Chippewa County Health Department at $4,000.00 annually, starting October 1, 2026 using the Health Department's fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Commissioners authorizes all necessary budget amendments and fund transfers required to implement this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Chippewa County Health Department shall provide periodic updates to the Board of Commissioners regarding the use of these administrative funds and the progress of opioid settlement-funded activities.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

RESOLUTION 2026-38 DECLARED ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2026-39
The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Knepper and supported by Commissioner Lieurance.

Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans
2026-39

WHEREAS, the residents of Chippewa County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served have been essential in preserving the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County seeks to honor individuals who have courageously placed themselves in harm's way to protect our nation and ensure liberty for all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civic groups, , and by serving as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states, collectively helping fellow former service members access more than $52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; with an anticipated 20 percent increase in transitioning service members projected in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies show that 44 -72 percent of service members experience significant stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, as a designated Green Light for Veterans County, Chippewa County hereby declares November 4th through 11th, 2026, as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of those transitioning from active service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through 11th, 2026.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

RESOLUTION 2026-39 DECLARED ADOPTED

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Shackleton said the County Board asked him years ago to try to get on the War Memorial Hospital Board, and he served on that board for many years. He said in all his years of public service, he never did anything except what he thought was best for the people he represented. Commissioner Shackleton said he never voted on anything that was a conflict of interest and abstained if there was. Commissioner Shackleton talked about the history of the hospital including being founded in 1924 as a county-owned hospital, becoming an independent 501C3 in 1986, the County owning the older part of the hospital building and leasing it, affiliating with MyMichigan in 2022, MyMichigan pledging to invest $70 million in facility upgrades, and selling the older part of the hospital building to MyMichigan.

Commissioner Shackleton stated he was not involved in the sale of the old part of hospital building because he moved and had to resign from the County Board at that time. Commissioner Shackleton also stated the only money he ever received from hospital board was a stipend and nothing else. Commissioner Shackleton also said there was a mis-idea that the County sold the hospital to MyMichigan. War Memorial Hospital was an independent corporation since 1986, and since then, the County had no authority, management, or financial interest in the hospital. The only thing the County owned was the old part of the campus they got $100 a year for. Commissioner Shackleton said he is also concerned about what happened to Dr. Chander and Danielle Russo and the future healthcare in the community. Commissioner Shackleton said he did not do anything wrong and has earned a good reputation over his time in public service.

Commissioner Knepper said he had been a commissioner for a year and a half, and his district includes MyMichigan Medical Center. He said he had great experiences with the hospital and has been watching the situation closely. He also said if anybody wanted to meet with him or call, he would be happy to do that. The town he grew up in lost their hospital, and the nearest hospital is now 45 miles away. He wants to know how to encourage the hospital leadership to do the right thing while the hospital stays strong and keeps growing.

Commissioner Lieurance said he received great care at the hospital and was happy for the $2 million transfer of the property and the money being spent wisely. He also said the unfounded inflammatory accusations that get thrown around are very unfortunate. Commissioner Lieurance also said he just got back from a UP Michigan Works Committee, and they have a sizable opioid grant, so maybe the Opioid Committee could look into possibly getting money from the grant.

Commissioner Traynor said when he started out with the commission, the hospital nurses were not being treated the way they should have been. He said the best thing he has done as a commissioner was to make sure the nurses get treated the way they should to keep them here and working.

Chairman Martin said that he had great care with the hospital and the attacks on Commissioner Shackleton are unfounded. Chippewa County is not in business of running a hospital. His constituents in District 2 were adamantly opposed to selling the hospital land because the County would lose control over the hospital. Chairman Martin said he voted no, but looking back, the County controlled just a chunk of land and not the hospital. Chairman Martin also said whatever went on with Dr. Chander is a tragedy, and he wants the best for this town and medical care. He also said there is not much the County can do with MyMichigan. Commissioner Martin said the hospital care has been excellent and he does not want to lose the hospital.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2026

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – Grant Agreement – 2027 MDHHS Local Health Department $1,688,195.00 10/1/26 to 9/30/27

The Committee reviewed the grant agreement from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of $1,688,195.00 for the Local Health Department; this is a joint and cooperative relationship for the delivery of public health services to Chippewa County citizens as described in the

agreement including Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS) and programming. The contract covers October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to accept and authorize the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Local Health Department Agreement, as presented in the amount of $1,688,195.00 covering October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, for Essential Local Public Health Services and programming. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – Policies (New)

2.02.005 – Nominal Charge for Personal and Family Health Services – combining 2.02.001 and 15.00.00 to streamline processes

2.02.006 – 340B Pharmaceuticals – combining 5.07.031 and 15.00.031

The Committee reviewed new policies 2.02.005 Nominal Charge for Personal and Family Health Services and 2.02.006 340B Pharmaceutical; these each combine two policies into one new policy to streamline processes.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the two new Health Department staff policies to streamline services as presented: Policy 2.02.005 – Nominal Charge for Personal and Family Health Services and Policy 2.02.006 – 340B Pharmaceuticals. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – Environmental Health Sanitarian – Classification Change to Part-time

The Committee reviewed a request from Health Office Karen Senkus asking to change the current Environment Health Seasonal Sanitarian to a regular part-time position. Environmental Health needs additional assistance throughout the year and this change will not impact the budget, only the number of hours per week the sanitarian will work. The sanitarian will move to a 24-hour per week average schedule with the possibility of 29 hours per week in the summer months.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the Environmental Health Sanitarian Seasonal position changing to a regular part-time position, as presented to cover the full year and not just the current 6-month period; there will be no impact on the budget. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Prosecutors Server Project – Second Notice

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the Prosecuting Attorney's Server Project, which will be paid from grant funds received and set-up as Special Fund 274. Three bids were received and all met bid requirements; Information Systems staff recommend going with the low bid from Precision Data Products in the amount of $49,674.25.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the low bid of $49,674.25 for the Prosecutor's server project from Precision Data Products and to be paid from grant fund from Special Fund 274. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Service Contracts

WAMDT – Chippewa County Website – 5 Year Agreement

Avalon – Backup Service – 1-year Agreement $19,611.90

The Committee reviewed two service contracts one from WAMDT – for contract No. CHIP-2026-WEB-001 to provide fixed hosting and maintenance of the refreshed County website as follows: Year 1 - $2,400.00; Year 2 - $3,000.00; Year 3 - $3,090.00; Year 4 - $3,183.00 and Year 5 - $3,278.00 which covers until the end of October 11, 2031. The second contract from Avalon Technologies to provide the County with Backup Services for SaaS (Software as a Service) Applications for one year in the amount of $19,611.90 was budgeted for in FY2026 but came in at about $3,000.00 more than expected.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize signing the WAMDT – 5-year agreement to provide fixed hosting and maintenance for the County's website as referenced above and to authorize the Avalon Technologies 1 year agreement in the amount of $19,611.90 to provide the County with backup services, both as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Service Agreement with City of Sault Ste. Marie, extension through June 30, 2027

The Committee was updated on the request to extend the Information Systems Departments technology support services with the City of Sault Ste. Marie through June 30, 2027; with the same payment terms, which include the hourly rate and fringe with a 90-day written notice to terminate.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the extension of the Information Systems Service Agreement between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County, for the County to provide technology support services through June 30, 2027, as presented with no changes to the payment terms and including a 90-day written notice to terminate. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Circuit Court – Purchase – Budget Change – All-in-One print/copy/scan/fax $1,088.00 with $250.00 annual maintenance contract

The Committee reviewed a request from Circuit Court to amend their previously approved shredder to purchase a All-in-One print/copy/scan/fax machine from National Office Products at the cost of $1,190.68 plus an annual maintenance contract of $250.00; this purchase will possibly fix a continued issue with printing equipment in the Circuit Court Office.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the purchase of the Konica Minolta Bizhub 4221I in the amount of $1,190.68 from National Office Products plus the annual maintenance agreement of $250.00 and changing the original equipment purchase of the shedder from the FY2026 budget request. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office –Purchases

Taser Supplies $10,913.59 from Axon Enterprises, Inc.

Kustom Signals (3) Eagle II radars $9,121.20

The Sheriff's Office requested approval of two purchases, one from Axon Enterprises, Inc. for various taser supplies totaling $10,913.59 with expenses to be split between 101-351 Corrections - $5,538.68 and 101-301 Road - $5,374.91 budgets both from 979.000 equipment. The second purchase request from Kustom Signals Inc. to purchase three (3) Golden Eagle II radars at the quoted price of $9,121.20 and to be paid from Special Fund 238-000-979.000.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the Sheriff's Office's two purchase request as requested, taser supplies in the amount of $10,913.59 from Axon Enterprises, Inc, with the cost split between Department 301- $5,538.68 and 351 - $5,374.91 and three (3) Eagle II radars from Kustom Signals Inc in the amount of $9,121.20 to be paid from Special Fund 238. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Public Safety Training & Consulting Hosting Agreement for Corrections Training at the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Training Facility April 12th - 16th, and April 19th – 21st, 2027

The Committee reviewed a request from the Sheriff's Office seeking to host two training courses called 'Supervision of the Corrections Training Officer Program' and 'Corrections Training Officer' taught by Dewolf and Associates. The training would be held at the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office Robert Savoie Search and Rescue Training Facility. The training dates are April 12th through April 16th, 2027, and April 19th through April 21st. The Hosting Agreements were provided and reviewed by the Committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the Sheriff's Office to sign the Dewolf & Associates Hosting Agreement for training between April 12th to 16th and April 19th – 21st, 2027 at the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office Robert Savoie Search and Rescue and Training Facility, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Lenslock, Inc. Lessee's Counsel's Opinion Letter

The Committee reviewed Lenslock, Inc. Lessee's Counsel's Opinion letter which is an agreement (3300850) between Lenslock, Inc. and Chippewa County. Even though the County does not lease any equipment, we purchase it; we still need to confirm the County is organized, in good standing and has the power to execute documents related to Lenslock and that we have properly authorized, signed and delivered the agreements. This reduces the lessor's risk and provides a legal 'assurance' that the lessee can meet its obligations.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize signature on the Lenslock, Inc. Lessee's Counsel's Opinion letter, as presented to confirm the County can legally and validly enter into the agreements with Lenslock. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Convergint – Service Agreement Support Plan 11/1/2026 to 10/31/2029 – 3-year price $39,009.20

The Committee reviewed a request to sign a contract between Chippewa County Sheriff's Office and Convergint, who provides the Correctional Facility maintenance for access control and cameras. This is

for a 3-year contract, which can be paid annually in the amount of $39,009.20, which is a savings of over $3,000.00 compared to the 1-year contract. Convergint provided a detailed service agreement support plan covering Level 1 preventative maintenance and test and inspect various systems.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize signature for the 3-year Convergint Service Agreement Support Plan effective 11-1-2026 to 10-31-2029 at the total cost of $39,009.20, to provide maintenance for access control and cameras in the Correctional Facility. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Central Dispatch – Budget Amendment – Revenue and Expense for travel $6,500.00 from Mackinac County

The Committee reviewed a memo from Director Greg Postma updating the Committee on the new (CAD) Computer-Aided Dispatch System and the required additional travel and increased expenses. Mackinac County, who we provide services for, has sent an additional $6,500.00 to help offset the extra travel expenses associated with the CAD training and implementation project. These monies will ensure that there are enough funds to pay for lodging and travel during the remainder of this year. A revenue and expense budget amendment for Fund 261 was also requested for $6,500.00

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the Special Fund 261 revenue and expense budget amendments for travel and to thank Mackinac County for their additional funding. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Veteran's Affairs – Veteran Service Fund Grant (DMVA) $62,953.00

The Committee reviewed the FY27 County Veteran Service Fund Grant Agreement between Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and Chippewa County as the grantee, this grant covers from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, in the amount not to exceed $62,953. and will fund a part-time grant assistant/veterans' counselor to assist veterans, training and education and travel.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize signature for the FY27 County Veteran Service Fund Grant Agreement between Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and Chippewa County in the amount of $62,953. to hire a part-time grant assistant, for education and training and for travel. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Veteran's Affairs – Advocacy and Representation Agreement

The Committee reviewed a new document presented by the Veteran's Counselor John Miller and authorized by the Veterans Committee for use in the Chippewa County Veterans Office. The document was also vetted by legal counsel prior to seeking its approval. This document describes the responsibilities of the Chippewa County Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veteran in connection with the County's representation, with acknowledgement by the Veteran of the County's role with their claim and our limits of representation and their ability to terminate the County's representation. This form is an authorization slip so the County can access claim files, submit correspondence and communicate directly with the VA and represent the Veteran in hearings or appeals.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve and authorize use of the 'Chippewa County Department of Veterans Affairs Advocacy and Representation Agreement', as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Snowplowing and Removal Bid Summaries
The Committee reviewed the snowplowing and removal bid summaries with 1-year and 3-year options included as follows:

- Central Dispatch $8,500.00 1-year/$27,000.00 3-year – Frontier Contracting LLC
- Courthouse (32 spot lot) $15,000.00 1-year/$45,000.00 3-year – Bakerworks, Inc
- County Building (8 spot lot) $6,500 1-year/$19,500.00 3 Year – Bakerworks, Inc

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve the snowplowing for Central Dispatch with Frontier Contracting LLC for a 1-year contract at a price not to exceed $8,500.00. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the snowplowing and removal at the Courthouse parking lot (32 spaces) with Bakerworks, Inc. for a 1-year contract, $15,000.00 annually and for the County Building (8 spot lot) with Bakerworks, Inc. for a 1-year contract, $6,500.00 annually. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Administration – Policy 314 OPEB Health Care Retirement and Pension Annual Funding to OPEB or MERS Unfunded Liability – MERS UAL $885,268.90
The Committee reviewed the annual contribution breakdown, this year's 90% of the DTRF being $885,268.90; based on the changes to Policy 314, this year the monies will be sent to MERS to help cover the County's unfunded liabilities of $17,481,210 as of 12/31/2025 including the County, the Health Department and the Chippewa County EDC.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the payment from the County's DTRF, per policy this year's amount being $885,268.90 to MERS for the County's divisions with unfunded liability, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – September County
It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to recommend the approval of September bills and payroll: general claims $331,982.93, other fund claims $2,917,719.24, payroll $898,911.92 total claims $4,148,514.19, as presented and to acknowledge the various monthly financial reports. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, for Finance, Claims, and Accounts Committee Meeting minutes be approved. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS
There was discussion on presenting the public statement of Chippewa County's Historic Relation with War Memorial Hospital for acceptance at this board meeting or present it at the next board meeting. Chairman Martin allowed the following public statement to presented at this board meeting:

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Chippewa County's Historical Relationship with War Memorial Hospital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chippewa County recognizes the community's concern following the recent termination of one well-known physician and a related resignation from MyMichigan Medical Center Sault. We fully share the community's need to have continued access to high-quality healthcare.

Recent events have renewed questions regarding the County's former ownership of War Memorial Hospital and our role in current decision-making. The following history clarifies the distinction between the County's former oversight and the current, independent operational responsibilities of MyMichigan Health.

Historical Ownership and Governance

- **1924–1986:** War Memorial Hospital was established in 1924 as a county-owned facility dedicated to serving the residents of Chippewa County.
- **1986 Reorganization:** In 1986, War Memorial was spun off into an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. At that time, operational control separated from Chippewa County. The County retained ownership of the original hospital property and leased it to the operating entity for $1 per year. The lease allowed the County to recommend three members to the hospital board; however, to respect the independent 501(c)(3) structure under applicable laws, these were recommendations rather than direct appointments. The hospital operated under this arrangement for over three decades.
- **2022 Affiliation:** In 2022, War Memorial's management and Board of Directors elected to affiliate with Mid-Michigan Health (now MyMichigan Health). The County's role was limited to adjusting the property lease to accommodate the new organizational structure.

Property Transfer and Recent Investments

Prior to and following the affiliation, MyMichigan Health pledged to invest $70 million in facility improvements over a 10-year period. MyMichigan approached the County to state that if the County-owned portion of the campus was to be included in these major capital upgrades, MyMichigan would need to hold direct property ownership rather than investing substantial capital into leased real estate.

On July 13, 2023, via Resolution 2023-17, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners approved the fair-market sale and property transfer of the titled hospital parcels to MyMichigan Medical Center Sault.

Terms of the Agreement:

- **Financial Consideration:** A $2 million cash payment to Chippewa County, which was placed into a dedicated fund to support retirement benefits for County Health Department employees.
- **Capital Commitment:** A binding pledge from MyMichigan Health to complete $70 million in campus facility improvements over ten years, along with specific ongoing commitments regarding local health services.

Current Operations and Community Commitment

Chippewa County has not possessed direct ownership or management oversight of the hospital since 1986. MyMichigan Health holds sole responsibility for the administration of MyMichigan Medical Center Sault, including all personnel, employment, and operational decisions, subject to applicable laws and remaining contractual agreements.

Nevertheless, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners remains deeply invested in the health and well-being of our residents. While the County exercises no more administrative oversight of the hospital than it does over any other independent non-profit organization in our region, we strongly urge hospital leadership to take all necessary steps to ensure our community receives the highest quality healthcare—both today and in the years to come.

Chippewa County Board of Commissioners

10/14/2026

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to accept the public statement of Chippewa County's Historic Relation with War Memorial Hospital. With a voice vote, the motion granted.

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 6:50 P.M.

Steven Woodgate, Clerk

James Martin, Chairman