

AMENDED 6/12/2025

**CHIPPEWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Session
May 15, 2025

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners met at a regular session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, in the 91st District Courtroom.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. with a quorum present. The meeting was also available via zoom. Commissioner Lieurance lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Commissioners Present: 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, CCHD Health Officer Karen Senkus, and 3 members of the public. 15 members 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 Lieurance, to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Board Meeting – April 17, 2025

On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to acknowledge correspondence received in Clerk's Office and distribute as appropriate. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phylis Reed, President of Neebish Island Improvement Association, invited the Commission to visit Neebish Island and thanked the Commissioners for listening.

Lori Miller from Neebish Island thanked the Commission for listening and told the Commission to consider evaluating the EUPTA Board members.

A man from Neebish Island asked for a forensic audit of EUPTA.

Lyric Hissler spoke on behalf of Neebish Island wanting consistent ferry trips and service.

Louis Vallance thanked the Commission for putting the Amtrak Resolution on the agenda.

Matt Keller, president of Neebish Island Pioneer Association, would like representation to access Neebish Island better.

Sara Karasinski voiced her concerns about EUPTA and access to Neebish Island.

Sarah Tyner, a resident of the Washington DC area, stated the need to have extended Neebish Island ferry service.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

Opioid Settlement Steering Committee

Applicants: Shawn Baker, Michelle Benson, Brook Bergsma, Derek Causley, Melissa Colby, Kelly Freeman, Lucas Gardiner, Natasha Halonen, Justin Knepper, Trista LeBlanc, Maggie Merchberger, Mary Michaels, Sabrina Neveu, Clara Saint, Karen Senkus, Patrick Shannon

Commissioner Shackleton asked Administrator Church to present her recommendation.

Administrator Church's recommendation was to appoint all of the steering committee applicants and assign them terms of office based on their alphabetical order with the first person in line have an office with a term through 2026 and the second person have an office through the term of 2027.

It was moved by Commissioner Lieurance, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to follow Administrator Church's recommendation and appoint all applicants for the Opioid Settlement Steering Committee with assigned terms of office based on their alphabetical order with the first person in line have an office with a term through 2026 and the second person have an office through the term of 2027. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2025-06

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

Chippewa County RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06

Correctional Officers' Week

May 5th – 12th, 2025

Whereas each year the first full week of May, our nation takes time to recognize and honor the dedicated individuals who serve in one of the most challenging and often overlooked

professions: corrections. Known officially as National Correctional Officers and Employee Week, this observance pays tribute to the correctional officers and all correctional staff who work tirelessly to maintain safety, enforce court mandates, and rehabilitate individuals within our criminal justice system; and

Whereas Correctional Officers work on the front lines of our correctional facility, ensuring the safety of staff, inmates, and the public. The role is critical not only in enforcing rules and regulations but also managing crises and serving as the daily stabilizing force, often which can be unpredictable, and

Whereas the safety and well-being of every citizen in Chippewa County is of the utmost importance, and the correctional officers who work in our correctional facilities dedicate themselves to this critical task each shift they work; their job demands vigilance, courage, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility, and,

Whereas in an environment that may become intimidating, aggressive, or even hostile, correctional officers are skilled professionals that are trained to maintain composure while preserving safety and property, and restraining people that may be dangerous to themselves or other; and,

Whereas these honorable hard-working men and women are committed public servants, and without their expertise and service, the Chippewa County correctional facilities would be unable to operate as successfully and efficiently as they do today; and,

Whereas during this week, we join with the citizens of Chippewa County to recognize every correctional officer that serves or has served with Chippewa County. We thank them for the essential role they play in helping to protect the people of Chippewa County, now,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners declares the week of May 5, 2025, through May 12, 2025, to be Correctional Officers' Week in Chippewa County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

RESOLUTION 2025-06 DECLARED ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-07

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

Chippewa County Resolution 2025-07

Resolution Approving the MPSCS Integration Amended and Restated Agreements

At a meeting of the County Board of the County of Chippewa (the "County"), Chippewa County, Michigan, held on May 15, 2025, located at Sault Ste. Marie, MI at 4:30 P.M.

WHEREAS, Chippewa County Central Dispatch (CCCD) intends to Enter into amended and restated integration agreements with the Michigan Public Safety Communication System (the "MPSCS") and

WHEREAS, the CCCD Dispatch Director has presented a proposed amended and restated integration agreements which have been reviewed and approved as to form by the Chippewa County Central Dispatch 911 Advisory Board, and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Central Dispatch 911 Advisory Board has recommended that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners APPROVE the amended and restated integration agreements as presented.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners Resolves the following:

Section 1. The Chippewa County Board of Commissioner does approve the MPSCS amended and restated integration agreements, as presented, and does authorize the **RESOLUTION 2025-07 – Resolution Approving the MPSCS Integration Amended and Restated Agreements**

Dispatch Director to sign the Agreements on behalf of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners and bind Chippewa County Central Dispatch to the terms of the Agreements.

Section 2. The Dispatch Director is authorized to approve minor modifications to the language of the final signed Agreements, upon the advice and recommendations of the Chippewa County Central Dispatch 911 Board of Directors.

Section 3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

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

RESOLUTION 2025-07 DECLARED ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-08

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

**Chippewa County
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08**

Support Bringing Amtrak to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

At a meeting of the County Board of the County of Chippewa (the "County"), Chippewa County, Michigan, held on May 15, 2025, located at Sault Ste. Marie, MI at 4:30 P.M.

WHEREAS The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners the governing body for Chippewa County Michigan representing Chippewa County, including the city of Sault Ste Marie, the university community of Lake Superior State University and citizens of Chippewa County Michigan the Amish community of Chippewa County

WHEREAS Chippewa County residents and visitors don't have access to the national transportation network, this prohibits economic development access to quality healthcare access to educational opportunities and employment opportunities.

WHEREAS SO IT BE RESOLVED THAT Chippewa County Board of Commissioners asks for access to the national transportation network for Chippewa County residents and visitors so we urge that Amtrak (National Passenger Rail Corporation) and MDOT office rail and WISDOT office of Rail the USDOT extend the Hiawatha train north of Milwaukee to the Upper peninsula of Michigan utilizing CN rail tracks and refurbished abandoned rail lines to have stops in Sault Ste Marie with St Ignace being the terminus of this route. With a 930 AM arrival in Chicago using Schedule 332. Northbound schedule shall be Schedule 339. Leaving Chicago at 5 08 PM. As soon as possible.

WHEREAS Chippewa County is home to a major tourist destination the Soo Locks plus an international border which will provide additional passenger catchment for excellent return on the investment.

SO, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ON THIS DATE, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners supports bringing Amtrak to Chippewa county in an expedited fashion.

This resolution shall be sent to the USDOT, Amtrak, MDOT and WISDOT The Northwoods Rail Transit Commission. Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers and Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers The governors of Michigan and Wisconsin and US house rep Jack Bergman and US senators Peters Slotkin and Johnson (WI). Michigan legislative members Wisconsin legislative members and MAC Michigan Association of counties for urgent approval support and quick service implementation.

RESOLUTION 2025-08 – Resolution of Support for Bringing Amtrak to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Commissioner Knepper discussed he would like the language of the resolution modified omitting some of the specific details.

It was moved by Commissioner Knepper, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to table Resolution 2025-08 until next month to modify the language. With a voice vote, the motion carried.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DETOUR TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S PIDP GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE STONE MOUNTAIN HARBOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

May 15, 2025

Mr. Wade Moreland
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
Office of Port Infrastructure Development
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Support for Detour Township Economic Development Corporation's PIDP Grant Application for the Stone Mountain Harbor Development Project

Dear Mr. Moreland:

I am writing to express my strong support for the DeTour Township Economic Development Corporation (EDC) application regarding the Stone Mountain Harbor Development Project, which is currently under review by the Maritime Administrator's Port Infrastructure Development Program. This vital initiative is poised to significantly advance the Great Lakes Maritime Industry, creating a robust competitive marketplace while offering employment opportunities and fostering strategic partnerships with maritime companies.

Furthermore, this project is essential for encouraging young people and their families to stay in the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP), ultimately leading to stimulated economic growth and a renewed appreciation for the rich maritime heritage along the St. Mary's River.

The proposed development of a port will enable the transportation of mined aggregate via large vessels, up to 1,000 feet in length, to various destinations across the Great Lakes region. In addition to accommodating the movement of other important commodities, the port will serve as a dredged material recycling hub and act as an essential "safety valve" for the Soo Locks during emergencies. Stone Mountain Aggregates will extract the stone, which will then be transported to Stone Mountain Harbor for efficient loading onto vessels navigating the St. Mary's River.

A project of this size is a win-win situation for not only DeTour Township, but the entire Eastern Upper Peninsula and Chippewa County, as a whole; to promote trade and bring new businesses to our area. Being able to promote our area to recruit and retain business in Chippewa County is a priority.

Investing in this project means investing in the future of our community, the sustainability of our maritime economy, and the legacy of the Great Lakes region. Thank you for considering this grant application. We are confident that, with your support, we can continue to advance our shared goals of economic vitality, safety, and resilience in U.S. maritime infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Jim Martin
Chair

It was moved by Commissioner Traynor, supported by Commissioner Shackleton, to adopt the letter of support for DeTour Township Economic Development Corporation's PIDP Grant Application for the Stone Mountain Harbor Development Project. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE, CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES May 13, 2025

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Finance, Claims and Accounts Committee was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Chippewa Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Shackleton called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment

Correspondence and Informational Items

The Committee reviewed the County Treasurer's Investment reports, the VISA billing, travel requests, and the OPEB/DTRF quarterly report. No action required.

AGENDA ITEMS

Health Department – Pink Ribbon Program -Update Policy 1.99013, set limit to \$3,500.00.

The Committee reviewed the request from Health Officer Senkus to update and place a cap reimbursement on the “Pink Ribbon” funds policy of \$3,500.00, Administrative Policy #1.99.013.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize changing Administrative Policy #1.99.013 “Pink Ribbon” funds to have a reimbursement cap of \$3,500.00, to help allow the funds to provide support for more residents of Chippewa County. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – Pink Ribbon Requests

Request #25-01 - \$3,500.00

Request #25.02 - \$713.71

The Committee reviewed two Pink Ribbon reimbursement requests #25-01 and #25-02 for payment.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize Pink Ribbon request #25-01 for \$3,500.00 and request #25-02 for \$713.71, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Health Department – Write-offs - \$50,243.09

Public Health \$10,917.16

SHACC \$6,209.82

Home Health \$21,415.30

Hospice \$11,700.81

The Committee reviewed the annual write-offs for the Health Department; these write-offs are for services provided through 9/30/2024 (more than 365 days old). The Health Department continues to monitor all aspects of their services accounts receivable daily.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the Chippewa County Health Department write-offs for services provided through 9/30/2024 as follows: Public Health \$10,917.16; SHACC \$6,209.82; Home Health \$21,415.30 and Hospice \$11,700.81. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

NorthCare Network FY26 Liquor Tax Fund Requests – Limited to \$32,991.98

- **CCHD – Harm Reduction Program - \$13,691.00**
- **50th Circuit Court Drug Court - \$19,300.17**

The Committee was given a brief review of the reduced monies for the FY26 Liquor Tax request; the amounts for FY26 were based on percentages of funds received last year and the Public Defender withdrew their request for FY26.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to accept and forward FY26 Liquor Tax Funds requests as presented and referenced above to NorthCare Network – Substance Use Disorders. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

50th Circuit Court - Drug Court – Michigan Drug Court Grant Program \$85,000.00

The Committee reviewed the request from the 50th Circuit Court Drug Court Program of \$85,000.00 from the State of Michigan; these amounts usually come back with lower amounts than requested; the courts then work with the coordinators to budget the funds for the program.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the submittal of the 50th Circuit Court – Drug Court Grant Program for \$85,000.00, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Veterans Affairs - MVAA move \$12,000.00 wages to outreach.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Committee from April 29, 2025, where a motion passed to move \$12,000.00 from wages in the MVAA grant to outreach for the Veterans.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the MVAA grant change, moving \$12,000.00 from wages to outreach, per the request and motion of the Department of Veterans Affairs. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Sheriff's Office – Accept, Authorize and Budget – TC Energy Build Strong Grant \$5,840.00 for Life Saving Board Equipment

The Committee reviewed a grant recipient notice to the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office from TC Energy's Social Impact team indicating a \$5,840.00 award from the Build Strong application submitted by Captain Justin Fruchey. The grant money will be used to purchase boat lifesaving equipment; and the funding will run through the Marine Program 101-331.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to approve and authorize the acceptance of the TC Energy Build Strong Grant in the amount of \$5,840.00 to purchase boat lifesaving equipment and approve a budget amendment in 101-331 Marine Department. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Animal Shelter – Release Request for Proposals for Veterinary Services

The Committee reviewed the request for proposals for Veterinary Services that cover weekly shelter visits, sterilization, and general consultation.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to authorize and approve the release of the Veterinary Services request for proposal, as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – Central Server Bid Summary and request to approve quote.

The Committee reviewed the bid summary for the central server; two quotes were received timely and met all requirements; the quotes were over budget and Information Systems were asked to see if better pricing was available. A quote from Avalon Technologies of \$15,138.98 plus new software transfer of \$1,000.00 from Core Technology; is savings of \$6,549.56 and only \$1,000.00 over the budget. The Committee was asked to approve the bid from Avalon Technologies based on the savings and recommendation from Information Systems and Administration.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve the quote from Avalon Technologies of \$15,138.98 for the server; and \$1,000.00 for the software needed for the transfer from Core Technology to complete the central server project. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Information Systems – FedRAMP Package Access Request – Authorize signature to meet CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Systems) requirements.

The Committee reviewed FedRAMP Package Access Request Form and the Federal Contractor Non-Disclosure Agreement; this package is a process that allows federal agencies to access and utilize security packages for cloud services authorized by the General Services Administration. It is essential for agencies to ensure that the cloud services and mobile-device management meet the necessary standards and are compliant with federal regulations. Information System's Anthony Zakic will be the Authorizing Official Designated Representative (AODR) for Chippewa County.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize signature for the FedRAMP Package Access Request and the Non-Disclosure Agreement. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Building & Grounds – Wolverine Power System – Replace Generator Radiator \$15,425.04

The Committee reviewed the updated quote from Wolverine Power Systems, to replace the County Building's generator's radiator at the cost of \$15,425.04. The Building and Grounds Committee previously reviewed this project, for replacement in the spring, making sure no additional problems had happened with the generator. When getting the quote, Wolverine Power Systems noted that parts on this generator are becoming obsolete, and that the only option was rebuilding until they were able to find this unit. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Traynor, to approve the quote from Wolverine Power Systems to replace the generator's radiator at the cost of \$15,425.04. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Medical Examiner – Medical Examiner Services – Kyle Raycraft, M.D.

The Committee reviewed an agreement between Chippewa County and Kyle Raycraft, M.D. for Dr. Raycraft to provide backup Medical Examiner services in Chippewa County, at the rate of \$125.00 per decedent, plus costs related to travel required for on scene investigation including mileage paid at the IRS approved rate.

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper, to approve and authorize the Medical Examiner Services Agreement between the County and Kyle Raycraft, M.D., as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Finance - Claims and Accounts – April – County and Health Department

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to recommend the approval of April County bills and payroll: general claims \$441,240.10, other fund claims \$4,922,321.95, payroll \$605,720.45, and Health Department claims \$291,512.87 and payroll \$132,274.69 total claims \$6,393,180.06 and to acknowledge the monthly financial reports received by email. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Committee Comments

Commissioner Knepper commented on the recent Neebish Island email, addressing the questions of responsiveness by EUPTA Board members and more detailed minutes; he also brought up the recent foreclosure of the motels and apartments, which are causing renters to be displaced and those renters not having any support or services to help them. Discussion followed, including the laws, posting requirements, a recent lawsuit that was dismissed, clarification that it was not the County nor Judge that turned off the utilities and that legal counsel had advised the County not to put the utilities in the County's name. The foreclosure sale date is August 18th.

Chairman Comments

No additional comments were offered.

Adjourn

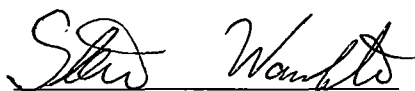
It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Knepper for meeting minutes of Finance, Claims and Accounts May 13, 2025 be accepted and approved. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORT ON MEETINGS AS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND GENERAL COMMENTS

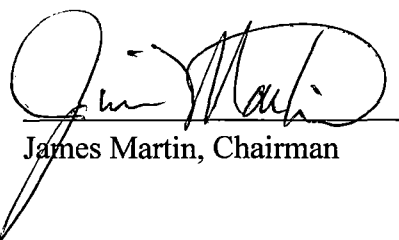
Commissioner Traynor said the wolf legislation has been approved and is waiting to be signed by the President. He also mentioned Kinross Township does not have a place to put their fire trucks since the proposal did not pass. Discussion followed about possibilities and places to put their fire trucks. Commissioner Knepper spoke about the impact on the community with the motels being foreclosed upon and what could be done to help the tenants. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lieurance mentioned he attended the Upper Peninsula County Commissioner Conference. He said there was representation from all elected offices and they are waiting to hear from the federal government on the grants and resources that will be available. Chairman Martin stated the County Board is not in charge of EUPTA and is hoping the State will find a way to provide funds for the Neebish Island Ferry services. Commissioner Knepper mentioned the EUPTA Board is not elected by the citizens, so the only option is for the Neebish Island citizens is to come to the County Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Shackleton, supported by Commissioner Lieurance, to adjourn, accordingly. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 5:53 P.M.



Steven Woodgate, Clerk



James Martin, Chairman