

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025
“Unofficial”

CALL TO ORDER:

Clerk Goodreau called the Regular/Organizational Meeting to order on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., Baraga County Courthouse, 16 N. Third Street, L’Anse, MI 49946.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Clerk Goodreau led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Clerk Goodreau took roll call with the following results:

Present: James Niemela, District 1, Brad Dakota, District 2, Craig Kent, District 3, William Menge, District.

Absent: None.

District 5, Vacant.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON:

Clerk Goodreau called for nominations for Board Chairperson. Commissioner Kent nominated Commissioner Dakota. Clerk Goodreau made a second call for nominations. No new nominations were presented. Clerk Goodreau made a third call for nominations. No new nominations were presented. Commissioner Menge supported Commissioner Kent’s nomination of Commissioner Dakota as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for a 2 – year term ending 12/31/2026. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Clerk Goodreau handed the meeting over to newly elected Chairman Dakota.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON:

Chairman Dakota called for nominations for Board Vice-Chairperson. Chairman Dakota nominated Commissioner Kent. Chairman Dakota made a second call for nominations. No new nominations were presented. Chairman Dakota made a third call for nominations. No new nominations were presented. Commissioner Menge supported Chairman Dakota’s nomination to elect Commissioner Kent as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for a 1 – year term ending 12/31/2025. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Agenda, as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the amended minutes for the Regular meeting held on November 4, 2024, the Regular meeting held on December 9, 2024 and the Special meeting held on December 23, 2024. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:

Chairman Dakota opened the meeting up for public comment.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for November 2024 (correction - \$990.00) and December 2024 (\$990.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of December 9, 2024 through January 13, 2025 in the amount of \$51,426.56. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of December 9, 2024 through January 13, 2025 in the amount of \$350,210.54. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Commissary Account expenditures for December 2024 in the amount of \$6,892.49. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to appoint Gale Eilola to the Copper County Mental Health Board (community member) for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2027. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Due to the resignation of Chad Cichosz from District 5 the position became vacant effective 1/1/2025. The Board must appoint within 30 days (January 31, 2025). Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to advertise in the L'Anse Sentinel for letters of interest and hold a special meeting on January 29, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to make the appointment. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Chairman Dakota tabled the Chairman committee appointments until the District 5 seat is appointed. Appointments will be made at the February 10, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to table the Board appointments until the District 5 seat is appointed. Appointments will be made at the February 10, 2025 meeting. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to appoint Treasurer, Jill C. Tollefson as CFO and Clerk, Wendy J. Goodreau as CAO. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the County Treasurer's depositories as follows:

- Baraga County Federal Credit Union
- Incredible Bank
- Michigan Class Investment Pool
- Superior National Bank

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to allocate an advance payment of \$5,000.00 to help cover costs prior the EGLE's awarding the County MMP grants. WUPPDR will reimburse the funds once the grant is awarded. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve Bianco Plumbing to replace the hot water heater at the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$15,500.00. The funds are to be paid from LATCF. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Baraga County Road Commission Manager, Doug Mills provided an update to the Board regarding an application for a planning and design work grant, "RAISE" as well as an update on 2023 disaster recovery funds which have been earmarked from the State of Michigan. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to submit a letter of support for the Baraga County Road Commission grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding under the FY2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity "RAISE" program. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Baraga County Road Commission is expecting to receive a special one-time appropriation to support Baraga County with disaster recovery costs associated with flood related disaster expenses through the FY2024-25 Michigan State Police Budget. Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to send correspondence to MSP indicating the County of Baraga will transfer the funds to the Baraga County Road Commission upon receipt from Treasury. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports received.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH – Board of Trustees, Minutes
- Letter from Mike Whitman RE: Baraga County Road Commission

RESOLUTIONS:

No action was taken on the Resolution in Support of HB 5430 – Expansion of the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

No Commissioner Comments received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comments received.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Dakota to adjourn the meeting until Monday, February 10, 2025. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brad Dakota, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk