

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dakota called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, June, 2026 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:

Chairman Dakota 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, and William Menge, District 4 and Lee DeLeon, District 5.

Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on May 11, 2026. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT-Agenda Items Only:

Chairman Dakota opened the meeting up for public comment. No Public Comment on Agenda Items was offered.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Report received, as presented.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for May 2026 (\$1,150.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of May 12, 2026 through June 8, 2026 in the amount of \$89,997.30. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of May 12, 2026 through June 8, 2026 in the amount of \$245,822.26. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Commissary Account expenditures for May 2026 in the amount of \$14,660.83. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with BCMH for the 911 Director/Emergency Manager position. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The position has been filled and the individual began her work today.

Mike Back, Executive Director, Copper Country Mental Health was present to explain the Resolution presented to the Board for consideration at the May 11, 2026 meeting.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, it is critical to ensure that rural communities are treated consistently, thoughtfully, and proactively in state policy decisions that affect access to behavioral health services; and,

WHEREAS, varying definitions of "rural" across MDHHS programs create instability for providers and counties and can impact funding eligibility, disrupt service planning, and ultimately affect access to care; and,

WHEREAS, rural stakeholders are often engaged late in the policymaking process, limiting the ability to address practical challenges before implementation; and,

WHEREAS, the attached boilerplate language addresses the above issues by establishing a single, consistent definition of rural, partially rural, and frontier areas across all department programs, and by creating a formal Rural Consultation Caucus to ensure rural perspectives are incorporated before major policy decisions are finalized.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Copper Country Mental Health Board urges the Michigan Legislature to include the attached boilerplate language in the FY2027 state budget.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to send a copy of this Resolution to Senator Ed McBroom and Representative Karl Bohnak.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to award and sign the 2026 Remonumentation contracts to CHN Surveying and UP Engineers & Architects. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the addition of the following fees for the County Clerk's Office: Election Records Charges: Custom Voter Lists – Up to 2,500 names, \$25.00 and 2,500 – 10,000 names, \$50.00. Fees do not include the cost of media, if requested. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

The Board received an appeal to a FOIA request (Justin Meyers, dated 5/12/2026) for records held within the Equalization Department. The request was denied as there is a fee schedule set forth in the Equalization Department for the requested records (MCL 15.234(10)). Mr. Meyers appealed the denial (May 22, 2026) to the Baraga County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Kent made a motion supported by Commissioner Niemela to deny Mr. Meyers' appeal to the denied FOIA request (dated May 22, 2026) for assessor records in the Baraga County Equalization Department. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve increasing the Probate Court legal fees line item by an additional \$15,000.00 for FY2026 with the funds coming from the GF Fund Balance. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the FY2027 Community Corrections Plan and funding application. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to appoint Chairman Dakota to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for FY2027. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the budget (\$77,000.00) for Round 2 of the Materials Management Plan grant process. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve and sign the 2026 Tax Rate Request (L-4029) as presented by Equalization Director Elizabeth Anderson. On Voice Vote, the motion carried. The L-4029 will be placed on file in the County Clerk's office.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela place on record the approval of a Letter of Support for the NPS Land Acquisition – North Country National Scenic Trail. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the 2026-2027 business membership with the Baraga County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$175.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports were offered.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH – Board of Trustees, Minutes
- US Department of Interior, KBIC Land Acquisition (Pelkie School)

RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to make a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP) is committed to supporting the health, safety, and well-being of residents throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, access to timely and effective emergency medical services (EMS) is essential in rural regions such as the Upper Peninsula, where long transport distances and limited staffing resources create unique challenges; and

WHEREAS, current Michigan licensing requirements can restrict the level of pre-hospital care provided by ambulance services, even in instances where appropriately trained paramedics are present and capable of delivering higher levels of care; and

WHEREAS, Michigan House Bill 5249 (2025-2026), sponsored by Representative Dave Prestin, would amend the Public Health Code to establish an "ambulance operation adaptive care license," allowing certain Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance services to provide limited Advanced Life Support (ALS) care when properly staffed, equipped, and operating under medical oversight; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would give rural EMS providers greater flexibility to utilize the full scope of training of available personnel, improving response capabilities and enabling earlier, potentially lifesaving interventions for patients; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5249 is designed to strengthen rural EMS systems while maintaining appropriate safeguards, including licensing standards, oversight of medical control authority, and quality assurance measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP) hereby expresses its strong support for Michigan House Bill 5249 (2025-2026) and its efforts to enhance the delivery of emergency medical services in rural communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that UPCAP encourages the Michigan Legislature to advance and enact this legislation to ensure rural EMS providers have the flexibility and tools necessary to deliver timely and appropriate care to residents across the Upper Peninsula and throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to: Members of the Michigan Legislature representing the Upper Peninsula, the Michigan Senate and House

Committees on Health Policy, bill sponsor Representative Dave Prestin and other relevant stakeholders, as determined appropriate by UPCAP leadership.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Catherine Andrews thanked the Board for their support of the North Country Trail.

Clerk Goodreau and the Board thanked Sheriff Brogan and Undersheriff Miller for assuming the rolls of Acting 911 Coordinator and Acting Emergency Manager for the last 9 months.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to adjourn the meeting until Monday, June 8, 2026. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brad Dakota, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk