

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dakota called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, July 13, 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 June 8, 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 Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for June 2026 (\$1,170.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of June 9, 2026 through July 13, 2026 in the amount of \$66,357.01. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of June 9, 2026 through July 13, 2026 in the amount of \$464,205.61. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Commissary Account expenditures for June 2026 in the amount of \$6,029.65. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

ACTION ITEMS:

The Western UP Health Department presented the proposed 2026 Local County Appropriation Request. No action was taken.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Point Abbaye Phase III bid, in the amount of \$353,136.22, received from WR Construction and sign the contract for the project, all pending DNR approval. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call was as follows: Yeas; Niemela, Kent, Menge and DeLeon. Nays; None. Absent; None.

Chairman Dakota reported to the Board the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission is requiring the County to place windows in the Law Library door because inmates from Baraga Correction Facility meet with their attorney in the room and the corrections officers need to have a visual of the inmate at all times. The project will be funded by the MDIC. He also reported that part of the elevator project requires a concrete containment be placed around the newly installed sump pump. Both projects must be completed in a timely manner due to the nature of the funding and state inspections. He reported that Ron Whitman will do both the window project and the concrete project. No action was taken.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve a proposal from RC Mechanical to rebuild the circulator pump on the HVAC system at the Courthouse in the amount of \$3,185.00 to be paid from the General Fund. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to re-appoint Joseph Eckerberg, term ending December 31, 2029 and Rodney Loonsfoot, term ending December 31, 2030. Both representing the KBIC. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports were offered.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH – Board of Trustees, Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

No action was taken on the Resolution Opposing Legislation to Dissolve the U.P. Community Mental Health System into a Single Specialized Regional Mental Health Authority.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kent gave an update on the Warden Station. An announcement will be made in 2 months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Levi Niemela commended the Board for their hard work.

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, August 10, 2026. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brad Dakota, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk