

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dakota called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, August 11, 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:

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

Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Commissioner Menge requested for an addition to the Agenda. Baragaland Senior Citizens is seeking a Letter of Support for the Senior Meals Program. Commissioner Kent withdrew his motion. Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Action Item d.) Letter of Support, Baragaland Senior Citizens, Inc. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting held on July 14, 2025. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only:

Fran Whitman voiced concerns over the FLOCK Safety, License Plate Recognition product.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Jill C Tollefson.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the following General Fund Budget Amendments (02-2025):

BARAGA COUNTY

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2025

Account Name	Account Number	Revenue Increase - (Decrease)	Expense - Increase- (Decrease)
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GENERAL FUND - REVENUES

Swampland Tax	101-000-429.00	\$3,000.00
Local Comm Stabilization Authority	101-000-441.00	\$36,000.00
Prison Inmate Defense	101-000-569.00	\$7,000.00
Treasurer Fees	101-000-611.00	\$2,400.00
Sheriff Transport Services	101-000-617.01	\$10,000.00
WUPPDR Housing Rehab Program	101-000-678.00	\$23,210.00

GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURES

Legal Fees	101-101-807.00	\$6,000.00
Transcript Fees	101-131-806.00	\$2,000.00
Legal Fees	101-131-807.00	\$14,000.00
Travel Expense	101-136-860.00	\$1,000.00
Probate Court Guardian Adlitem Expense	101-148-806.00	\$8,000.00
Probate Court Legal Fees	101-148-807.00	\$5,000.00
Travel Expense	101-148-860.00	\$1,700.00
Audit	101-170-960.03	(\$2,255.00)
Virtual Server Contract	101-170-960.20	\$350.00
Technology	101-170-960.24	\$2,000.00
MERS Pension	101-215-718.00	\$6,600.00
Longevity	101-225-708.00	\$400.00
Payment In Lieu	101-225-716.01	(\$2,500.00)
BS&A Support	101-225-810.00	\$90.00
Longevity	101-229-708.00	\$125.00
MERS Pension	101-229-718.00	\$4,000.00
Software Support	101-236-810.03	\$300.00
Postage	101-253-729.00	\$275.00
Longevity	101-301-708.00	\$1,220.00
Vehicle Expense	101-301-742.00	\$2,700.00
Advertising	101-301-901.00	\$230.00
Repairs & Maintenance	101-301-930.00	\$1,250.00
Longevity	101-351-708.00	\$1,900.00
HSA Expense	101-351-716.05	\$1,225.00
Fire Number Materials	101-434-730.00	\$500.00
WUPPDR	101-600-960.31	\$5,000.00
Veteran's Burial	101-681-833.00	\$500.00
Post Employment Ins	101-850-960.72	\$20,000.00

GENERAL FUND – JOURNAL TOTALS	\$81,610.00	\$81,610.00
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On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for July 2025 (\$990.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of July 15, 2025 through August 11, 2025 in the amount of \$27,449.03. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of July 15, 2025 through August 11, 2025 in the amount of \$453,328.82. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account expenditures for July 2025 in the amount of \$9,900.87. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Dakota apologized for missing the July meeting. He thanked the Board for waiting for him to be in attendance so that he could cast his vote. He opened the table for Board members to present their opinions/concerns regarding the FLOCK Safety, License Plate Recognition product. He then opened the topic for public comment. Sheriff Brogan stated how the LPR product had recently aided the Sheriff's Department in locating a stolen vehicle and brought a juvenile home safely. Much discussion followed. Commissioner DeLeon made a motion to enter into an agreement with FLOCK Safety to purchase the License Plate Recognition software/camera system. The motion died for lack of support. Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to reject the purchase of the FLOCK Safety, License Plate Recognition software/camera system. On Roll Call Vote, the motion carried. Roll Call Vote was as follows: Yeas: Commissioner Niemela, Commissioner Kent and Commissioner Menge. Nays: Commissioner DeLeon. Chairman Dakota placed his vote on record as a nay vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the annual membership with the Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$150.00. Before the vote Commissioner Kent voiced concerns that the BC CVB is evaluating their role in the involvement of the CVB the operations of the Pinery Ski Trails. Some discussion followed. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to make a \$20,000.00 to the Baraga County RHVF (Health Benefit Trust Account) for FY2025. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the Cost Participation Agreement with the Baraga County Road Commission for MSP State

Disaster Contingency Funds for the disaster relief funds related to the flash flood that occurred on May 15, 2025. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to send a Letter of Support on behalf of the Baragaland Senior Citizens, Inc., Senior Meals program to UPCAP. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No reports were presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

No Resolutions were presented for consideration.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Menge reported on the MI Choice Program.

Commissioner Kent reported on the U.P. State Fair being held this week.

Commissioner Niemela expressed his appreciation for how the representative government functioned through the FLOCK Safety, LPR issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:13 p.m. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brad Dakota, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk