

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dakota called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, November 10, 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 Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the agenda, as presented. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only:

No Public Comment on Agenda Items Only were offered.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Ashley E. Kristo.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approved the following FY2026 Budget Amendments:

BARAGA COUNTY

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

BA # 01-2026

For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2026

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

Remonumentation Grant	101-000-639.00	\$	(80.00)
Remonumentation Grant	101-000-636.00	\$	80.00
Public Safety CPE	101-000-543.00	\$	3,500.00

Public Safety CPE	101-000-550.00	\$ (3,500.00)
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GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURES

Court Juvenile Officer Grant	101-294-705.04	\$ 9,161.00
SS/ Medicare	101-294-715.00	\$ (1,340.00)
Health Ins	101-294-716.00	\$ (5,116.00)
HSA	101-294-716.02	\$ (1,597.00)
Life Ins	101-294-717.00	\$ (23.00)
MERS Pension	101-294-718.00	\$ (1,085.00)

GENERAL FUND – JOURNAL TOTALS

\$	-	\$	-
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BARAGA COUNTY

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending 09/30/2026

**BA # 01-
2026**

Account Name	Account Number	Revenue Increase - (Decrease)	Expense - Increase- (Decrease)
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SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - REVENUES

CCF Chargebacks	292-000-565.00	\$27.00
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**SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS -
EXPENDITURES**

CCF Salary and Wages	292-662-703.00	(\$9,161.00)
SS/ Medicare	292-662-715.00	\$1,374.00
Health Ins	292-662-716.00	\$5,109.00
HSA Expense	292-662-716.05	\$1,597.00
Life Ins	292-662-717.00	\$23.00
MERS Pension	292-662-718.00	\$1,085.00

SPECIAL REVENUES - JOURNAL TOTALS

\$27.00	\$27.00
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REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for October 2025 (\$1,120.00). On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve the payment of the Claims and Accounts for the period of October 15, 2025 through November 10, 2025 in the amount of \$60,342.98. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills and Trust and Agency Accounts for the period of October 15, 2025 through November 10, 2025 in the amount of \$107,636.09. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the Sheriff's Dept. Checking Account expenditures for October 2025 in the amount of \$14,792.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business.

ACTION ITEMS:

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to appoint the following individuals to the Jury Commission for a six-year term to expire April 30, 2031: Richard Johnson, Shelley Soli, and Jay Elmlad.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the amended FY2026 Indigent Defense Contract with Tri-County Public Defenders. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

On bid for the FY2026 snow removal season was received from KCo Site Development as follows: Admin Bld, \$27.00, Courthouse, \$45.00, and Sheriff's Office, \$52.00 all per visit. Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to accept the FY2026 snow removal bid received from KCo Site Development as received. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Chairman Dakota updated the Board on the 911 Director/Emergency Manager position. A committee from the 911 Committee was formed to review the job descriptions and advertise for interested person. The Board discussed the possibility of collaborating with another county. No action was taken.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve the County employees annual Christmas Party to be held from 12:00 – 4:00 on Friday, December 19, 2025. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes
- BCECC Board of Trustees, Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner Niemela made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to adopt the following Resolution:

TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL EXEMPTION OPTION AS SET FORTH IN THE
2011 PUBLIC ACT 152,
THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

- 1) Section 3 – “Hard Caps” Option – limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
- 2) Section 4 – “80%/20% Option – limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the government body;
- 3) Section 8 – “Exemption” Option – a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the Baraga County Board of Commissioners has decided to adopt the annual Exemption option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Baraga County Board of Commissioners elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the annual Exemption option for the medical benefit plan coverage for calendar year 2026.

On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

The Commissioners discussed the Fall UPACC Conference.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:08 p.m. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brad Dakota, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk