

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2025
UNOFFICIAL

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dakota called the Regular Meeting to order on Monday, December 8, 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 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 November 10, 2025. On Voice Vote, the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only:

Baraga County Shelter Home Executive Director, Celeste Hendrickson, voiced support for security at the Courthouse for all court hearings.

TREASURERS REPORT:

As presented by Treasurer, Ashley E. Kristo.

REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to approve the BCMH Trustee Per Diem for November 2025 (\$990.00). 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 November 11, 2025 through December 8, 2025 in the amount of \$75,065.44. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to approve the payment of the Prepaid Bills for the period of November 11, 2025 through December 8, 2025 in the amount of \$714,762.88. 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 November 2025 in the amount of \$4,532.00. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business.

ACTION ITEMS:

CCMH Executive Director, Mike Bach, provided the Board with an update. The group discussed the need for a Regional Behavioral Health facility.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to appoint the following individuals to the 2026 Remonumentation Peer Group: Scott Swanson, Steven Hein, Chris Nielson, Joe Foster, Brandon Juntunen, Steve LeClaire, Gerlad Carlson, Jeff West, Thad Goodwin, Kyle Hiltunen. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Kent made a motion, supported by Commissioner DeLeon to make the following appointments to the Baraga County Extended Care Corp.: Michael Koskinen (December 31, 2028), Carla Engle (December 31, 2027), Deanna Foucault (December 31, 2027), Kathy Hokenson (December 31, 2026), Shirley Younggren (December 31, 2026), Carole LaPointe (December 31, 2028), Carole Hokkanen (December 31, 2027), and Rob Stowe and Gail Jestila as Ex Officio. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Menge to appoint Randy Labodda, American Legion Post 144, to the Baraga County Veterans' Affairs Committee, term ending December 31, 2029. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Chairman Dakota provided an update on the Emergency Manager/911 Director position. Sheriff Brogan has proposed one of the deputy positions becomes Emergency Services Liaison. No action taken.

Commissioner Menge made a motion, supported by Commissioner Niemela to approve paying the elevator modernization invoices to Penoke Electric in the amount of \$9,527.00 and Superior Electronics, Inc in the amount of \$3,711.61 out of the LATCF funds. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner DeLeon made a motion, supported by Commissioner Kent to approve a quote for a replacement security camera system at the Courthouse from Baraga Telephone Company in the amount of \$6,170.00 to be paid from LATCF funds. Much discussion followed regarding the security needs at the Courthouse. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

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

RESOLUTIONS:

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kent discussed the need to have the facility fire extinguishers reviewed periodically and mentioned that the keys should be properly tagged for all doors in the facilities in case emergency services need access.

Commissioner Kent asked if it makes sense to continue putting money into the Courthouse and if it doesn't make more sense even for security purposes to build a new facility attached to the Sheriff's Department. He suggested a feasibility study be done.

Commissioner Kent reported that he discussed the idea of one point of contact and one building inspector be shared between all townships in Baraga County.

The Board discussed the short-term rental issue.

Catherine Andrews wished the Board a Merry Christmas and thanked the Board and Clerk Goodreau for their work. Ms. Andrew also thanked the Sheriff for securing the Courthouse when there is a trial.

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 5:56 p.m. On Voice Vote, the motion carried.

Brad Dakota, Chairman

Wendy J. Goodreau, Clerk