

BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2025-5:00 P.M.

16 N. Third Street, L'Anse, MI 49946

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**
Commissioner Niemela, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge, and Commissioner DeLeon
- 2. APPROVE AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Regular Meeting – September 8, 2025 and Special Meeting - September 26, 2025 and Closed Session Minutes – September 8, 2025, September 26, 2025.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Agenda Items Only**
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT- INFORMATION ONLY – NO MOTION REQUIRED**
 - a.
- 6. APPROVAL OF BILLS**
 - a. BCMH Trustee Per Diem- \$1,140.00 (September 2025)
 - b. Approval of County Commissioner and Department Bills, \$35,151.08
 - c. Approval of Prepaid Bills, \$879,793.33
 - d. Approval of Sheriff Dept. Commissary Checking Account, \$4,233.50
- 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 8. ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Equalization Director, 2025 Apportionment
 - b. Courthouse & Grounds, Advertise for Snow Removal
 - c. Emergency Management, Appointment of Emergency Manager
 - d. 911 Director, Appointment
 - e. BC DHHS Board, Appointment
 - f. Proclamation, Jill Tollefson
- 9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
- 10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
 - BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes
- 11. RESOLUTIONS**
 - a. Resolution supporting the establishment of a Behavioral Health Hospital in the U.P.
- 12. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**
- 13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 14. ADJOURNMENT**



18341 US Hwy 41 L'Anse, MI 49946

906-524-3300 www.bcmh.org

Board of Trustee Meeting Attendance - September 2025

Monthly Stipend:

Shirley Younggren	\$ 0.00
Jim Loman	\$100.00
Carole LaPointe	\$100.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$100.00
Jayne Walbridge	\$100.00
Kate Beer	\$100.00
Burt Mason	\$100.00

Board Briefing of 9-11-2025:

Shirley Younggren	\$ 0.00
Jim Loman	\$30.00
Carole LaPointe	\$30.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$30.00
Jayne Walbridge (online)	\$30.00
Kate Beer	\$30.00
Burt Mason	\$30.00

Med Control Authority Mtg: none

Shirley Younggren	\$ 0.00
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Regular Board Meeting of 9-16-2025:

Shirley Younggren	\$30.00
Jim Loman	\$30.00
Carole LaPointe	\$30.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$30.00
Kate Beer	\$30.00
Jayne Walbridge	\$30.00
Burt Mason	\$30.00

Special Board Meeting of 9-29-2025:

Shirley Younggren	\$ 0.00
Jim Loman	\$30.00
Carole LaPointe	\$ 0.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$30.00
Kate Beer	\$30.00
Jayne Walbridge	\$30.00
Burt Mason	\$30.00

600
180
210
150
1140

Checks Written 9/1/2025 to 9/30/2025

Printed 10/6/2025 10:28:15 AM

Number	Date	ID	Comment	Amount
2763	9/4/2025		Stellar Services	\$848.70
2764	9/20/2025		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2765	9/20/2025		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2766	9/21/2025		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2767	9/24/2025	2769	KBIC TRIBAL COURT	\$387.00
2768	9/24/2025		97th District Court Baraga County	\$500.00
2769	9/28/2025		97th District Court Baraga County	\$300.00
2770	9/29/2025		Baraga County Treasurer	\$1297.80
				\$4233.50

BARAGA COUNTY APPORTIONMENT-2025

As Adopted By The Baraga County Board of Commissioners on: October 14, 2025

UNIT	TAXING JURISDICTION	2025 Total TAXABLE Valuation As Of 5/27/2025		AUTHORIZED MILLAGE RATE		EST 2025 TAX LEVY
ARVON TOWNSHIP	(A) County Operating		61,350,811.00	8.5295		523,291.74
	(V) County Seniors			0.9923		60,878.41
	(V) Road			1.9846		121,756.82
	(A) Township Operating			0.9098		55,816.97
	(V) Fire			1.4862		91,179.58
	(V) Ambulance/EMS			0.5944		36,466.92
	(V) Township Roads			0.9908		60,786.38
	(A) State Education Tax			6.0000		368,104.87
	(A) CCISD Operating			0.3970		24,356.27
	(V) CCISD Voc. ED			0.9797		60,105.39
	(V) CCISD Special Education			1.9001		116,572.68
					Total PRE	1,519,316.02
(07-010) Arvon	(V) School Operating		39,615,527.00	13.0000	(Non-PRE)	515,001.85
ARVON TOWNSHIP TOTAL				37.7644		2,034,317.87
BARAGA TOWNSHIP	(A) County Operating		142,360,206.00	8.5295		1,214,261.38
	(V) County Seniors			0.9923		141,264.03
	(V) Road			1.9846		282,528.06
	(A) Township Operating			0.9962		141,819.24
	(V) Ambulance			1.5000		213,540.31
	(V) Fire			1.5000		213,540.31
	(A) State Education Tax			6.0000		854,161.24
	(A) CCISD Operating			0.3970		56,517.00
	(V) CCISD Voc. ED			0.9797		139,470.29
	(V) CCISD Special Education			1.9001		270,498.63
	School Sinking Fund			2.9970		426,653.54
				27.7764		3,954,254.03
					Total PRE	
					(Non-PRE)	
(07-020) Baraga Schools	(V) School Operating		55,772,367.00	17.9820		1,002,898.70
BARAGA TOWNSHIP TOTAL				45.7584		4,957,152.73

BARAGA COUNTY APPORTIONMENT-2025

UNIT	TAXING JURISDICTION	2025 Total TAXABLE Valuation As Of 5/27/2025		AUTHORIZED MILLAGE RATE EST 2025 TAX LEVY	
COVINGTON TOWNSHIP	(A) County Operating		25,146,329.00	8.5295	214,485.61
	(V) County Seniors			0.9923	24,952.70
	(V) Roads			1.9846	49,905.40
	(A) Township Operating			0.9762	24,547.85
	(V) Township Recreation			1.0000	25,146.33
	(V) Township Fire			1.0000	25,146.33
	(V) Township Ambulance			1.0000	25,146.33
	(A) State Education Tax			6.0000	150,877.97
	(A) CCISD Operating			0.3970	9,983.09
	(V) CCISD Voc. ED			0.9797	24,635.86
	(V) CCISD Special Education			1.9001	47,780.54
	L'Anse School Sinking Fund			0.9900	24,894.87
	(V) School Debt			2.5000	62,865.82
			Total PRE	24.7594	710,368.71
(07-040) L'Anse Area Schools	(V) School Operating		12,321,002.00	18.0000	221,778.04
COVINGTON TOWNSHIP				42.7594	932,146.74
L'ANSE TOWNSHIP	(A) County Operating		116,232,307.00	8.5295	991,403.46
	(V) County Seniors			0.9923	115,337.32
	(V) Roads			1.9846	230,674.64
	(A) Township Operating			0.9873	114,756.16
	(V) Township Fire			0.9873	114,756.16
	(V) Township Ambulance			1.4809	172,128.42
	(A) State Education Tax			6.0000	697,393.84
	(A) CCISD Operating			0.3970	46,144.23
	(V) CCISD Voc. ED			0.9797	113,872.79
	(V) CCISD Special Education			1.9001	220,853.01
	L'Anse School Sinking Fund			0.9900	115,069.98
	(V) School Debt			2.5000	290,580.77
			Total PRE	27.7287	3,222,970.77
(07-040) L'Anse Area Schools	(V) School Operating		55,849,256.00	18.0000	1,005,286.61
L'ANSE TOWNSHIP TOTAL				45.7287	4,228,257.38

BARAGA COUNTY APPORTIONMENT-2025

UNIT	TAXING JURISDICTION	2025 Total TAXABLE Valuation As Of 5/27/2025	AUTHORIZED		EST 2025 TAX LEVY
			MILLAGE RATE		
SPURR TOWNSHIP	(A) County Operating	37,035,935.00	8.5295		315,898.01
	(V) County Seniors		0.9923		36,750.76
	(V) Roads		1.9846		73,501.52
	(A) Township Operating		0.9545		35,350.80
	(V) Township Fire		2.4697		91,467.65
	(V) Township Cemetery		0.3457		12,803.32
	(V) Township Garbage		2.2227		82,319.77
	(V) Township Roads	259,766	1.9758		73,175.60
	(A) State Education Tax		6.0000		222,215.61
	(A) MARESA Operating		0.2018		7,473.85
	(V) MARESA Operating		3.5000		129,625.77
	(V) School Sinking Fund		1.7386		64,390.68
(52-015) N.I.C.E Community Schc	(V) School Operating		Total PRE	30.9152	1,144,973.34
SPURR TOWNSHIP TOTAL		24,777,587.00	(Non-PRE)	18.0000	445,996.57
				48.9152	1,590,969.90
Baraga Village	General Operating	16,838,239.00		10.1560	171,009.16
L'Anse Village	General Operating	54,290,848.00		13.2010	716,693.48
L'Anse DDA	General Operating	8,138,631.00		1.6644	13,545.94
(07-010) Arvon Township School	Personal Property	48,439.00		0.0000	0.00
(07-020) Baraga Area School	Personal Property	525,639.00		5.9820	3,144.37
(07-040) L'Anse Area School	Personal Property	2,929,171.00		6.0000	17,575.03
(52-015) NICE Community School	Personal Property	0		6.0000	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	BARAGA COUNTY				14,664,812.61
(A) Allocated Millage					
(V) Extra-voted Millage					

BARAGA COUNTY APPORTIONMENT-2025

BARAGA COUNTY APPORTIONMENT SUMMARY 2025		EST. REVENUE
TAXING JURISDICTION		
County Operating		3,259,340.20
County Seniors		379,183.22
County Roads		758,366.44
Arvon Township Operating		55,816.97
Arvon Township Fire		91,179.58
Arvon Township Ambulance/EMS		36,466.92
Arvon Township Roads		60,786.38
Baraga Township Operating		141,819.24
Baraga Township Ambulance		213,540.31
Baraga Township Fire		213,540.31
Covington Township Operating		24,547.85
Covington Township Recreation		25,146.33
Covington Township Fire		25,146.33
Covington Township Ambulance		25,146.33
L'Anse Township Operating		114,756.16
L'Anse Township Fire		114,756.16
L'Anse Township Ambulance		172,128.42
Spurr Township Operating		35,350.80
Spurr Township Fire		91,467.65
Spurr Township Cemetery		12,803.32
Spurr Township Garbage		82,319.77
Spurr Township Roads		73,175.60
State Education Tax		2,292,753.53
CCISD Operating		137,000.59
CCISD Voc. Ed.		338,084.33
CCISD Special Education		655,704.85
MARESA Operating		7,473.85
MARESA Operating		129,625.77
Arvon Township School		515,001.85
Baraga Area School		1,002,898.70
Baraga School Sinking Fund		426,653.54
L'Anse Area School		1,227,064.64
L'Anse Area School Debt		353,446.59
L'Anse Area School Sinking Fund		139,964.85
NICE Community School		445,996.57
NICE Community School Sinking		64,390.68

MINUTES:

BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, August 19th, 2025 5:00 PM - BCMH Main Conference Room (ABCD)

Present: Cathy Wadaga, Jayne Walbridge, Shirley Younggren, Burt Mason, Jim Loman, Kate Beer

Admin/Guests: Rob Stowe, Kelly Engle, Gregg Fisher, Todd Peltola, Bill Menge, Emily Dault, Todd Ingram

Absent: None

1. Call to Order – Beer

Ms. Beer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda ** - All

Motion: Loman, Second: LaPointe - All in favor, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Board Briefing of July 10th , 2025*
- b. Closed Session of July 10th, 2025*
- c. Board of Trustees Meeting of July 15th, 2025*

4. Medical Staff –Beer

- a. Medical-Dental Staff Meeting Minutes of July 9th, 2025**

Motion: Loman, Second: Wadaga - All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Medical-Dental Staff Executive & Credentials Committee

- i. Medical Staff Appointments, Reappointments, and Deletions of August 2025** - Belpedio

Motion: Wadaga, Second: LaPointe - All in favor, motion carried.

5. Financial Update - Jestila

- a. Approval of July 2025 financial statements**

Mr. Stowe presented the financial report in Ms. Jestila's absence.

Total patient revenue for the month was \$4.958 million, current year-to-date revenue at \$46.3 million. Year-to-date operating expenses were \$27.2 million, with \$2.84 million for the month. Net income was \$45,646 for July and just over \$400,000 year-to-date, reflecting positive operating revenue both for the month and year-to-date.

Respiratory services continue to show strong growth, with 6,458 procedures to date compared to 5,701 in 2024, 3,553 in 2023, and 1,889 in 2022. Stowe highlighted this as an example of how creating capacity within the organization supports growth. The Convenient Care Clinic has also experienced strong growth, and wound clinic visits are trending upward, with an annualized volume of 1,076 compared to 931 in 2024, 673 in 2023, and 442 in 2022.

On the annual report, total revenue for fiscal year 2024 was \$56 million, compared to \$44 million in 2023, \$40 million in 2022, and \$35 million in 2021. Stowe noted that this fiscal year may outperform last year's results.

A motion was made by Younggren and seconded by Mason to approve the July 2025 financial statements. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

6. Bayside Update - Stowe

a. Approval of June 2025 and July 2025 Bayside financial statements**

Emily Dault presented the June 2025 financial statements to the board. The income statement showed operating expenses at \$4.8 million, under the budgeted \$5 million. Cash flow from operating activities reflected a decrease of \$76,000. She also presented the July 2025 statements. Operating expenses remained below budget, with net income of \$29,180 and expenses \$150,000 under budget. Cash flow made up the \$76,000 from June. Dault noted that many areas of improvement in cost savings have already been identified. Census in July was 52, with a capacity of 59. The facility is not yet able to admit new patients, pending a state revisit.

A motion was made by Wadaga and seconded by Younggren to approve the June and July 2025 Bayside financial statements. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

7. Oracle Update - Stowe

Stowe shared with the board a spreadsheet outlining the projected costs for migrating to Oracle. He requested board authorization to sign an agreement prior to August 30th, contingent on his ability to include contract language ensuring that any grant funding received could be applied to the project. If the contract language is acceptable, the board authorized him to proceed with signing.

Dr. Ingram reported that charting time has already decreased significantly with the AI tool, from 15 minutes down to 4 minutes, and provider notes are now more complete and capture additional information. The AI has been working very well for providers, and in the new system, it will also be available to nurses, increasing efficiency across all departments.

A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Wadaga to authorize Stowe to sign the agreement under the stated conditions. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

8. Wound Care Update - Peltola

Peltola reported that UP Engineering submitted the information requested by the state-level building inspector last week. Approval is expected by the end of this week. If

approval is not received, efforts may be escalated through Senator McBroom and Karl Bohnak for assistance.

AirGas would like us to extend the pad three feet out and add a gravel pad, so we will move forward with that. AirGas also confirmed they expect to have their equipment onsite by mid-September, so the project should not be delayed. Overall, the project remains on track.

9. Mayo Telestroke Update - Engle

Engle reported that the program is on track, with onsite training scheduled for September 4th and go-live set for September 10th.

10. Physician Group Update - Van Ess

Van Ess reported that space is becoming tight, so a storage room is being converted into office space for midlevel providers, with completion expected in the coming weeks. Payton Holma will begin within the next month and a half. Stowe and Van Ess are also in discussions with three potential new providers, with conversations progressing well. One candidate is a family practice resident in Marquette who has completed a fellowship in palliative care and hospice. She will be visiting next week, with the possibility of serving as hospice and home care medical director as well as taking on a role at Bayside Village. She has also expressed interest in conducting home visits for elderly patients.

Dr. McBride has been onsite for the past two weeks, seeing between 17–20 patients each day he is here. His official start date is in September.

Van Ess also shared information on the Chronic Kidney Disease grant. The original grant was for \$25,000; however, Blue Cross has indicated a stronger grant opportunity through Copper Shores titled *“Improving Healthcare for Seniors in the U.P.”* This new grant would provide \$50,000. Additional information is being gathered to support the application, which is due September 12th.

11. Quality Update –Peltola

Peltola reported that a pizza fundraiser will be held tomorrow to support an employee in Dietary. A basket raffle is also planned for next month.

12. Management Update (attached)

- a. CEO Report*: Marketing, Employee Recognition, Home Care and Hospice, Corporate Compliance, Senior Life Solutions, Human Resources, Pharmacy
- b. CFO Report*: Finance, Revenue Cycle, Purchasing, Information Technology, DME
- c. DON Report*: Acute, Emergency, Surgical Services, Ambulatory, Social Services, Utilization Review/Infection Prevention, Education
- d. Director of Provider Services Report*: Physician Group, Telemedicine, Specialty Clinic
- e. Director of Ancillary Services Report*: Imaging, Laboratory, Therapies
- f. Director of Quality Management Report*: Maintenance, Housekeeping, Dietary/Dietician, HIPAA/Risk

13. Other

Emily Dault reported that the wheelchair van is officially complete. Once Copper Country Ford receives the vehicle, the hospital will be able to purchase it—hopefully before the end of the fiscal year. The lift installation will be handled by a company in Green Bay.

14. Public Comment

Menge shared that patients visiting the convenient care clinic on Sundays are unable to obtain medications locally and must travel to Houghton. He suggested this may be something to look into.

15. Next Meeting: September 16th, 2025 5:00pm –BCMh Main Conference Room

16. Adjournment –Beer

Ms. Beer adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Motion: Younggren, Second: Wadaga - All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Carole LaPointe, Secretary CL/lmb

ABOUT BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL: BCMH is a 15 bed critical access hospital. Founded in 1952, BCMH is a thriving rural healthcare system focused on addressing the needs of community members of Baraga County. Employing over 200 people, BCMH houses a family medicine clinic, walk-in convenient care clinic, specialty clinics, surgical services, 24/7 emergency services, imaging, rehab, laboratory, and social services.

MISSION: BCMH partners with patients to educate, coordinate, treat, and manage the health of the community.

VISION: To improve the well-being of the community.

CORE VALUES: PREACT- Patients First, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Compassion, Teamwork

ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY: BCMH educates the community, coordinates care, and treats and manages disease.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION, OCTOBER 14, 2025**

WHEREAS, There are currently five Behavioral Health Hospitals in the entire State of Michigan, none of them located in the Upper Peninsula, and

WHEREAS, The need for such a facility is very high in the Upper Peninsula but the only facilities available to meet this need are below the Bridge, and

WHEREAS, Local law enforcement agencies in the Upper Peninsula are frequently tasked with transporting citizens with severe mental health issues to one of these downstate facilities, and

WHEREAS, These mental health transports involve many hours and hundreds of miles taking much needed manpower off the streets and incurring great expenses for local units of government, and

WHEREAS, Every Upper Peninsula law enforcement agency has been contacted and every one has acknowledged the tremendous waste of manpower and the risks inherent in transporting individuals with mental health issues over great distances by law enforcement officers who are untrained in how to handle these special need individuals, and

WHEREAS, Contact has been made with every county, village, township, tribal and college law enforcement agency throughout the Upper Peninsula and they unanimously support the establishment of a Behavioral Health Hospital in the Upper Peninsula, and

WHEREAS, Collaboration amongst the local governments in the Upper Peninsula is critical to convincing the legislature in Lansing to support funding and maintaining a Behavioral Health Hospital in the Upper Peninsula, and

WHEREAS, Collaboration amongst the local governments in the Upper Peninsula is also critical to creatively identifying and securing funding necessary to augment any forthcoming state funds necessary to adequately build and operate a Behavioral Health Hospital that can be shared and benefited from by all.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Baraga County Board of Commissioners supports the establishment of a Behavioral Health Hospital in the Upper Peninsula, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Baraga County Board of Commissioners stands ready to work collaboratively with other local units of government in the Upper Peninsula in order to accomplish that goal by lobbying our representatives in Lansing to provide funding, and by identifying our own resources that may be used to make such a facility a reality.