

**BARAGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2026-5:00 P.M.

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Niemela, Commissioner Dakota, Commissioner Kent, Commissioner Menge

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – December 8, 2025

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Agenda Items Only**

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT- INFORMATION ONLY – NO MOTION REQUIRED**

**6. APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. BCMH Trustee Per Diem- \$990.00 (December 2025)
- b. Approval of County Commissioner and Dept. Bills, \$
- c. Approval of Prepaid Accounts, \$
- d. Approval of Sheriff Dept. Commissary Checking Account, \$

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. 911 Director/EM Manager Position

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Election of Vice-Chairman – 1 Year Term
- b. Chairman Appointments
  - BHK Board
  - Western UP Health Department
  - Western UP Substance Abuse and Family Planning Board
  - Finance Committee (2)
  - Personnel Committee (2)
  - Equalization Committee (2)
  - BC Recreation Committee (board member)
  - BCMH Board of Trustee – Liaison (1)
- c. Board Appointments
  - UP RC& D Council
  - UPWARD Talent Council Board
- d. Appoint CFO and CAO, Treasurer and County Clerk
- e. Treasurer, approval of depositories
- f. BCMH Board of Trustees – Board appointments
- g. Prosecuting Attorney, new computers

**9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- BCMH Board of Trustees, Minutes
- Mine Inspector, Annual Report

**11. RESOLUTIONS**

- a. Resolution Urging Transparency and a Comprehensive Regulatory Framework in Local Data Center Development
- b. Resolution in Support of Michigan House Bills 5152 and 5153

**12. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**



18341 US Hwy 41 L'Anse, MI 49946

906-524-3300 [www.bcmh.org](http://www.bcmh.org)

**Board of Trustee Meeting Attendance - December 2025**

**Monthly Stipend:**

Shirley Younggren	\$100.00	Shirley Younggren	\$30.00
Jim Loman	\$100.00	Jim Loman	\$30.00
Carole LaPointe	\$100.00	Carole LaPointe	\$30.00
Cathy Wadaga	\$ 0.00	Cathy Wadaga	\$30.00
Jayne Walbridge	\$100.00	Jayne Walbridge	\$30.00
Kate Beer	\$100.00	Kate Beer	\$30.00
Burt Mason	\$100.00	Burt Mason	\$30.00

**Board Briefing of 12-11-2025:**

**Med Control Authority Mtg: none**

Shirley Younggren	\$ 0.00
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**Regular Board Meeting of 12-16-2025:**

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

600  
210  
180  
990

## Baraga County Depositories 2026

- Baraga County Federal Credit Union
- Incredible Bank
- Michigan Class Investment Pool
- Superior National Bank



18341 US Hwy 41 L'Anse, MI 49946

906-524-3300 [www.bcmh.org](http://www.bcmh.org)

December 16th, 2025

Ms. Wendy Goodreau  
Baraga County Clerk  
Baraga County Clerk's Office  
2 S. Main St.  
L'Anse, MI 49946

Dear Ms. Goodreau,

The Baraga County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees respectfully submits the following names to the Baraga County Board of Commissioners for reappointment to the Board of Trustees. One name is submitted for consideration for each vacancy occurring due to term expirations.

Baraga County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees:

Vacancy # 1 (Expiration of term for Cathy Wadaga - Dec 31, 2025 - 6-year term)  
Cathy Wadaga

Vacancy #2 (Expiration of term for Jayne Walbridge - Dec 31, 2025 - 6-year term)  
Jayne Walbridge

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Kathryn Beer  
Board of Trustees, Chairperson  
CB/lmb

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**Fwd:**

1 message

**Joseph O'Leary** <joleary@up.net>  
To: Wendy Goodreau <goodreauw@baragacounty.org>

Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 2:33 PM

Greetings,

As I mentioned by telephone, we were forced to upgrade our computer systems to accommodate the new Karpel software which was mandated for prosecutors' offices statewide. Our old system was simply inadequate to handle Karpel's requirements so working with Karpel and Baraga Telephone we acquired the hardware needed to bring the new system online. I did not include this in my budget request last July because I mistakenly believed the new computers were covered by the PAAC/PAAM grant but I have now learned the grant only covered the software and the initial subscription. The invoice for the Windows 11 installations (\$450) was also not budgeted for as we became aware of it relatively recently. I am therefore asking that the attached invoices be paid from the County's general technology budget.

Thank you for your help.

Joseph

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Prosecutorcopier@up.net  
**Date:** January 7, 2026 at 2:19:20 PM EST  
**To:** joleary@up.net

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ECOSYS M3550idn  
[00:17:c8:45:ce:eb]

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 doc06736520260107141914.pdf  
212K

# Invoice

Baraga Telephone Company

204 State Street  
P.O. Box 9  
Baraga, MI 49908  
(906)353-6644  
(906)353-7550 Fax

Customer Number	CUST-1168
Invoice Number	INV-7983
Date	11/17/2025
Work Order Number	
Sales Representative	Adam Paquet

**Bill To:**

Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney  
12N Third Street  
Lanse, MI 49946

**Ship To:**

Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney  
12 N 3rd St  
Lanse, MI 49946

Ship Via	Terms	Due Date	Sales Rep	Customer PO	Original Order Number
Deliver	Upon Receipt	12/22/2025			INV-7983

Item No	Quantity	B/O	Description	Tax	Sales Price	Disc	Total
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Dual monitors for Heidi and document scanner for Karpel software.

1.00	0.00	Ricoh fi-8170 Professional Document Scanner	NO TAX	750.00	0 %	750.00
2.00	0.00	Dell 27-Inch Monitor 1440P w/ Built-In Speakers	NO TAX	300.00	0 %	600.00
1.00	0.00	ViVO Dual Monitor Stand	NO TAX	100.00	0 %	100.00

**Thank You!**

Subtotal:	1,450.00
Freight:	0.00
Total Tax:	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,450.00</b>

If balance is left unpaid after 120 days the  
remaining balance will be placed onto your  
monthly reoccurring invoice.

**Amount Due:** 1,450.00

# Invoice

Baraga Telephone Company

204 State Street  
P.O. Box 9  
Baraga, MI 49908  
(906)353-6644  
(906)353-7550 Fax

Customer Number	CUST-1168
Invoice Number	INV-7949
Date	11/17/2025
Work Order Number	
Sales Representative	Adam Paquet

**Bill To:**

Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney  
16 N 3rd St  
Lanse, MI 49946

**Ship To:**

Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney  
16 N 3rd St  
Lanse, MI 49946

Ship Via	Terms	Due Date	Sales Rep	Customer PO	Original Order Number
Deliver	Upon Receipt	12/22/2025			QO-2101

Item No	Quantity	B/O	Description	Tax	Sales Price	Disc	Total

New workstation for Heidi.

1.00	0.00	Lenovo ThinkStation P3 (Intel i7-14700, 32GB NO TAX DDR5, 1TB SSD, W11 Pro)		1,500.00	0 %	1,500.00
1.00	0.00	Microsoft Office 2021 Home and Student	NO TAX	160.00	0 %	160.00
1.00	0.00	APC UPS Battery Backup and Surge Protector	NO TAX	85.00	0 %	85.00
1.00	0.00	Labor	NO TAX	170.00	0 %	170.00

Thank You!

Subtotal:	1,915.00
Freight:	0.00
Total Tax:	0.00
Total:	1,915.00

If balance is left unpaid after 120 days the  
remaining balance will be placed onto your  
monthly reoccurring invoice.

Amount Due: 1,915.00

# Invoice

Baraga Telephone Company

204 State Street  
P.O. Box 9  
Baraga, MI 49908  
(906)353-6644  
(906)353-7550 Fax

Customer Number	CUST-1168
Invoice Number	INV-8092
Date	12/8/2025
Work Order Number	
Sales Representative	Adam Paquet

**Bill To:**

Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney  
12 N 3rd St  
Lanse, MI 49946

**Ship To:**

Baraga County Prosecuting Attorney  
12 N 3rd St  
Lanse, MI 49946

Ship Via	Terms	Due Date	Sales Rep	Customer PO	Original Order Number
Deliver	Upon Receipt	12/8/2025			INV-8092

Replaced the hard drive and upgraded O'Leary's old laptop to Windows 11. Also upgraded Heidi's laptop to Windows 11 and configured for remote access.

1.00	0.00	Crucial 1TB Internal SSD	NO TAX	110.00	0 %	110.00
1.00	0.00	Labor	NO TAX	340.00	0 %	340.00

**Thank You!**

Subtotal:	450.00
Freight:	0.00
Total Tax:	0.00
Total:	450.00

If balance is left unpaid after 120 days the remaining balance will be placed onto your monthly reoccurring invoice.

**Amount Due:** 450.00

## **MINUTES:**

### **BARAGA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 5:00 PM - BCMH Main Conference Room (ABCD)**

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

**Admin/Guests:** Rob Stowe, Gail Jestila, Kelly Engle, Tom VanEss, Sue Ingram

**Absent:** None.

#### **1. 4:45 Walking Tour - Hyperbaric Chamber/DaVinci**

Prior to the start of the meeting, the group toured the new hyperbaric chamber room and received a demonstration of the new DaVinci robot.

#### **2. Call to Order – Beer**

Ms. Beer called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

#### **3. Approval of Consent Agenda \*\* - All**

The Consent Agenda was approved as amended with the addition of Item 6c, "Request for Board to Approve Performance Bonus – General Staff." A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Younggren. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Board Briefing of October 16th , 2025\*
- b. Closed Session of October 16th, 2025\*
- c. Board of Trustees Meeting of October 21st, 2025\*

#### **5. Medical Staff –Beer**

- a. Medical-Dental Staff Meeting Minutes of October 8th, 2025\*\*

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

- b. Medical-Dental Staff Executive & Credentials Committee

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

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

#### **6. Financial Update - Jestila**

- a. Financial Update - Jestila shared the financial statements with the Board, noting that cash came in at \$13.5 million. Gross revenue for the month was \$5.74 million, marking the best monthly performance on record. Net income for the year is \$3.959 million higher than projected. An accrual was made for Quarter 3 related to the ERC (Employee Retention Credit), which has not yet been

*Consent Agenda Item \**

*Action Item \*\**

*To be distributed at meeting \*\*\**

received. In addition, a \$1 million positive pension entry was recorded for the defined benefit plan. Overall, it has been a very strong year.

- b. Audit Discussion - Work continues with the Bayside Village audit, and Jess is expected to be onsite on December 16th to present to both Boards. October revenue was the highest ever, with gross revenue of \$5.74 million. It would have been nearly \$6.1 million if not for the required rakeback. Surgery also reported its best month on record, Pharmacy had its third-best month, and both the ER and Lab performed well. The \$5.74 million total reflects an increase of just under 23% compared to October of last year. When adding the \$5 million from the mortgage reserve fund, total assets stand at approximately \$18 million. All numbers remain preliminary until the audit is finalized.
- c. Request for Board to Approve Performance Bonus - General Staff

Stowe discussed the proposed employee performance bonus with the Board and requested a resolution authorizing \$250,000 in bonuses to be paid on December 12th. He noted that salary increases will be discussed at the next Board Briefing.

A motion was made by Mason and seconded by Wadaga to approve a resolution authorizing \$250,000 in performance bonuses to be paid on December 12th. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

## **7. Bayside Update - Stowe**

Stowe reported that the State was onsite today to close out the previous annual audit. The follow-up visit went well, and everything continues to be going well.

## **8. Wound Care Update - Peltola**

Stowe reported in Peltola's absence that Kurt from Healogics is onsite today, along with the clinical lead from the home office, for staff training. The hyperbaric program is expected to begin the second week of December, with the chamber anticipated to arrive on the 2nd or 3rd. The number of active wound patients has more than doubled since Healogics began working with us, and the program continues to grow.

## **9. Mayo Telestroke Update - Engle**

Engle reported that things continue to go well with the telestroke program. There were 13 activations in September and 5 in October.

## **10. Transportation Program Update - Fisher**

Stowe reported in Fisher's absence that the wheelchair van is up and running and has been used multiple times already. A monthly transportation usage total will be reported to the Board moving forward.

## **11. Physician Group Update - Van Ess**

Van Ess provided an update on the Physician Group, noting that staff has been busy with provider credentialing. Work has begun on credentialing Holma, Daya, Abbott, and Menge. It has been an unusual month with several provider vacations, and Dr. Sweers

and Allyssa Sweers are expecting a baby this month. The group is also actively working to recruit additional nursing staff to support the new providers coming on board.

**12. Quality Update –Peltola**

- a. Peer Reviews - Clinic Staff Stats FY2024

Tabled until next month.

**13. 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

**14. Other**

Stowe also shared that he became aware of a local grant writer working on a grant for a hyperbaric chamber near the KBIC clinic. In addition, a provider commented on how much better the new insurance coverage is.

**15. Public Comment: None.**

**16. Next Meeting: December 16th, 2025 5:00pm –BCMH Main Conference Room**

**17. Adjournment –Beer**

Ms. Beer adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

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

**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.

Baraga County  
Wendy Goodreau  
2 South Main  
L'Anse, MI 49946

December 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the elected Baraga County Mine Inspector, I am reporting the following for the year, 2025:

Due to health reasons, I was unable to begin inspections in May as I had originally intended. Health delays finally behind me, I began inspections on October 24th.

My first inspections were in Spurr Township, where I drove the Beaufort Lake Road, Imperial Heights Road, Pink, Green, and Orange Roads, Michigamme Road, and surrounding areas, 154 miles from my home and back (Odometer reading, 15,423 - 15,577) in my truck. Numerous roads signed no trespassing, or private, some gated, were encountered. I did not attempt to enter past these areas with no mine inspector ID on my person. I was also lacking a phone or device to have exact coordinates. The Ohio Mine, however, was easily found and was fenced off with a locked gate, and posted "No Trespassing".

On November 4th, I drove the Arvon Road in my truck, as far as the road would allow, before walking the last couple miles to the Huron Bay Slate Company Quarry, 22 miles from my home and back (Odometer reading 15,799 - 15821). There was a well-traveled road (over time) around a large mound of slate, with the Silver River along one side. No fencing, nor signage was visible to me, as I walked around the mound.

My plan is to resume inspections in May, 2026, and to be better prepared to pinpoint, more precisely, mine locations listed in the binder that was given me, wherever possible.

Respectfully yours,

*Joseph O. Gabe*

Joseph O. Gabe, Baraga County Mine Inspector

20781 Park Road

Skanee, MI 49962

ph: (906)524-6619

**ADOPTED – DECEMBER 9, 2025**  
**AGENDA ITEM NO. 30**

Introduced by the Human Services Committee of the:

**INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION URGING TRANSPARENCY AND A COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK IN LOCAL DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT**

**RESOLUTION #25 – 592**

WHEREAS, data centers are specialized facilities that house the computing and networking systems needed to run applications and to store, process, and manage large amounts of data; and

WHEREAS, the demand to develop new data centers has been rapidly increasing amidst the wide-scale growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI), becoming increasingly more common nationwide and in the State of Michigan, and concerns have arisen around their environmental, economic, and community impacts; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County is committed to achieving emissions reduction and sustainability objectives in alignment with Resolution #20-301, which declared a climate emergency for Ingham County, and Resolution #21-210, which declared Ingham County's commitment to climate justice; and

WHEREAS, Resolution #21-195 re-established the Ingham County Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC) whose duties include making recommendations to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners on the implementation of programming designed to reduce countywide energy use and to promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, large-scale data centers typically require tremendous amounts of water and energy to sustain, straining local utilities and potentially impacting residents' utility bills; creating noise and heat pollution, and other nuisances that negatively affect surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, regulation of data centers should be carefully considered and include acceptable zoning districts, restrictions on distance from residential or other sensitive uses such as schools or transit stations, compatibility with surrounding uses, noise limitations, screening of cooling equipment, disclosure on anticipated energy and water use, plans for job creation, and community outreach requirements; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate environmental, economic, and community risks, it is crucial that Ingham County communities establish a thoughtful and comprehensive framework regulating data centers in partnership with defined stakeholders and the community; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2025 the Ingham County Environmental Affairs Commission passed a resolution urging all relevant local government and electric utility entities serving residents of Ingham County to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework for proposed data centers and conduct projects related to data centers in a highly transparent manner.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners joins the Environmental Affairs Commission in urging all relevant local government and electric utility entities serving residents of Ingham County to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework for proposed data centers and conduct projects related to data centers in a highly transparent manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners urges all relevant local government and electric utility entities serving residents of Ingham County to share detailed plans demonstrating the methods by which data center projects' load demands will be met without increasing costs for other customers or triggering additional fossil fuel generation that could undermine local and state-wide clean energy goals, specifically identifying and making publicly available the following information:

- The source of electricity for all data center projects and whether they align with Michigan's renewable and clean energy standards.
- How much water the proposed facility is anticipated to use daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly and how the proposed facility will mitigate impacts on water quality and availability for nearby residents.
- How the utility in question plans to safeguard existing customers from rate hikes or stranded asset costs if a data center project scales down or leaves.
- What minimum contract length, billing guarantees, or exit fees will ensure local residents are not left paying for infrastructure built to serve any single large user; and
- What measures will be in place to ensure fair cost allocation, environmental compliance, and community benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Clerk is requested to forward copies of this adopted resolution to the Ingham County delegations of the state and federal legislatures, all relevant local governments within Ingham County, leadership of all electric utility providers within Ingham County, and the other Michigan Counties.

**HUMAN SERVICES: Yeas:** Cahill, Trubac, Morgan, Willis

**Nays:** Schafer

**Absent:** Ruest

**Abstain:** Tennis

**Approved 12/01/25**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN HOUSE BILLS 5152 AND 5153**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Register of Deeds is charged with maintaining accurate, accessible, and secure land records that form the foundation of real property ownership, economic development, and public trust in local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, predatory practices have been identified where third-party firms target vulnerable residents who are facing mortgage foreclosure and convince them to sell either their property or their statutory rights to surplus foreclosure proceeds and redemption for a fraction of the true value, often stripping residents of tens of thousands of dollars in home equity; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bills 5152 and 5153 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, providing critical protection for homeowners during mortgage foreclosure proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 5153 would directly stop this predatory model by making a mortgagor's right to surplus money and right of redemption non-assignable and non-transferable after a notice of foreclosure is recorded, except through legitimate testate or intestate succession; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 5152 would further protect homeowners by requiring a mandatory "Notice of Rights" for any conveyance of property after a foreclosure notice is recorded, ensuring the seller fully understands they are waiving their rights to redemption, occupancy, and surplus proceeds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds recognizes that one of the roles of the Register of Deeds Office is to protect the property rights of the public and recognizes House Bills 5152 and 5153 are securing said rights.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds fully supports House Bills 5152 and 5153, which will protect State of Michigan residents from foreclosure fraud, preserve home equity for families, and reduce the burden on local government resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the [Your County] Board of Commissioners are also in support of House Bills 5152 and 5153 which will safeguard [Your County]'s residents during the foreclosure process and lessen the strain on county resources.

ADOPTED this Date, [Day] of [Month], [Year].

[Board of Commissioners Chairperson Signature]

[Your County} Board of Commissioner Chairperson