

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN DEROCHA
 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:
 - Special Meeting held November 25, 2025
 - Regular Meeting Minutes held on December 2, 2025
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS:
 - Resolution Honoring Rose Pietila
5. PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minutes per person)
6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:
 - Total Expenditures paid via check & EFT Transfers for the period November 26, 2025 through December 11, 2025 were \$1,358,705.99 (does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); biweekly payroll for the period ending December 6, 2025 was \$940,386.45.
 - Check #236036, dated 12/12/2025, for \$439.07 ~ payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
 - a. Funding Extension Request - Brent Clark of Janzen House
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
10. ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. Janzen House Grant Funding Extension Request
 - b. Purchase of Two Chargers Under the Public Safety Line Item
 - c. Marquette County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - d. 2% Fund Allocations
 - e. Appointments to Boards and Committees
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
 - a.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
14. CLOSED SESSION
15. ADJOURNMENT

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83788008284>

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Webinar ID: 837 8800 8284



Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

SPECIAL MEETING – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025 – 11:00 A.M. – ROOM 41, MARQUETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

1. CALL TO ORDER – SALUTE TO THE FLAG – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- Call to Order by Chairperson Joe Derocha at 11:00 a.m. – Room 41 Marquette County Courthouse, Marquette. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Present: Comm. Numinen, Comm. Nordeen and Comm. Alholm and Chairperson Derocha. - Absent & Excused: Comm. Adamini *** At 11:05 am Comm. LaLonde arrived missing the Approval of Agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board Action: Comm. Numinen moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**4. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS****5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Margaret Brumm, Marquette**, was confused as to the reason for the special meeting.
- **Chad Kubick, Kubick Aviation President**, reviewed the Kubick Company history with the Sawyer Regional Airport, as well as their duties as the FBO. He requested the board retract the termination notice.
- **Jordanne Schwandt, COO Kubick Aviation**, requested the Commission to consider Kubick be heard regarding the recent termination notice. The company values the Sawyer Airport and the Marquette County Community.
- **Jacob Gaudette, Kubick Aviation Director of Finance**, explained that the responsibility and risk associated with serving as FBO is held by Kubick. He requested Commissioners to review the company's financial books.
- **Craig Coccia, Forsyth Twp. Resident**, is a local aviator who is also is a director on Forsyth Forward, he stated that privately run FBO's operate better than government run FBO's per his experience.
- **Mathias Munger, Kubick Supervisor**, feels county-run FBO is the wrong direction, questioned if the county could lose AIP Funding.
- **Greg Durant, Marquette**, explained the purpose of airport authority boards.
- **Jesse Bell, local aviator**, lending his support to Kubick Aviation to continue as the FBO.
- **Abby Shearholds**, voiced her support for Kubick Aviation to continue as the FBO.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**7. PUBLIC HEARING****8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT****9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****10. ACTION ITEMS****a. Discussion of the County of Marquette Assuming the Fixed Base Operations (FBO) at the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport**

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to refer this issue back to the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Board of Advisors in order to provide the Commissioners with more information. Second by Comm. LaLonde. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. LaLonde. Nays: Comm. Numinen, Comm. Nordeen, Chairperson. Derocha. Motion failed (2-3).

Board Action: Comm. Numinen moved to adopt the recommendation from the Marquette Sawyer Regional Board of Advisors to terminate the contract with Kubick Aviation Services. Second Chairperson Derocha. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Numinen, Chairperson Derocha, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen. Nays: Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-1)

11. LATE ADDITIONS**12. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- **Craig Coccia, Forsyth Twp. Resident**, stated his surprise at the outcome of the meeting.
- **Jordanne Schwandt, COO Kubick Aviation**, stated Kubick Aviation Services has been trying in good faith to fulfill their responsibilities.
- **Mathias Munger, Kubick Supervisor**, briefly addressed the insurance issue.
- **Chad Kubick, Kubick Aviations President**, stands behind the Kubick Aviation Services and their ability to fulfill their responsibilities as well as paying required bills. He addressed the challenges communicating with the County Board, and with finding an A&P Mechanic.

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- **Greg Durant, Marquette**, addressed the improvements that are needed, and stated that general aviation does not get the support that corporate aviation receives.
- **Jesse Bell, local aviator**, expressed concerns regarding the type of service the County could provide as FBO.
- **Jacob Gaudette, Director of Finance Kubick Aviation**, stated he has observed disunity, confusion, and lack of transparency today by the Board Members.
- **Margaret Brumm, Marquette**, feels this issue could have been handled better.

With no more public comment to come before the board this portion of the meeting is closed.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. Nordeen** stated he had no issues with Kubick's performance, the decision was based on finances. He feels the board did well talking through this difficult decision.
- **Comm. Alholm** agreed with Comm. Nordeen's comments. Clarifying it was not her alone that disbanded the Airport Advisory Board, that it was a County Board decision.
- **Comm. LaLonde** explained that even though at times the whole board does not share the same views, she feels the Commissioners are united, and did well talking through this decision.
- **Chairperson Derocha** explained that all contracts with the County of Marquette are being reviewed, not just the Kubick Aviation contract. As Commissioners we hold a financial obligation to the tax payers of Marquette County. As Commissioners our goal is to be as transparent as possible when dealing with difficult issues.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:38 p.m.


Cory Beth Grigg
Marquette County Chief Deputy Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

**REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 02, 2025 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231,
HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH DEROCHA AT 6:00 P.M.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call:** Present: Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha.
Absent & Excused: Comm. Numinen & Comm. Adamini

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the agenda with corrections of removing action item 10a and adding: 14) CLOSED SESSION: MCL 15.268(d) “to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.” & **MCL 15.268(h)** “consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.” Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted. (4-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on November 18, 2025 with a correction to 10c, adding “opposed Comm. LaLonde” under board action. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

4. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT *with no public comment to come before the board this portion of the meeting is concluded.*

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

- **Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to approve Total Expenditures paid via check & EFT Transfers for the period of November 14, 2025 through November 25, 2025 were \$978,425.66; biweekly payroll for the period ending November 22, 2025 was \$892,031.24. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

- a. **Undersheriff Lowell Larson with the November 2025 stats:**

Corrections: Average Jail Population=86; Board Out=38; Release on Jail Management Plan=3; Homeless=28; Federal Inmates=2

Law Enforcement: Calls for Service=278; Case Reports=57; Crashes=53; Civil Papers Served=121; Received=148

Special Operations: Personal Injury Crashes=2; Water/Ice Rescue=1; Structure Fires=2; Missing Person=0; Injured Person Extractions=1; ORV/Snowmobile/Boat Crashes=0

Front Office: Handguns Registered=93; Warrants=29; Protective Orders Entered=29; Sex Offenders Verified=25; Background Requests=66

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Severe Weather Policy - Removed**
- b. **800MHz Radio Programming & Equipment**

Brian Hummel, Director of Emergency Management, was present to explain that the Sheriff's Office seeks to equip twelve 800MHz radios with batteries and other required radio accessories in the amount of \$8,616.33. Costs include: Equipment: \$5,616.33 (Batteries, Chargers, Microphones); State Radio Activation Fees: \$3,000 (\$250 per radio x 12 radios). Road Patrol and Emergency Management will split the costs with FY2025 funds already budgeted to each program. Contract pricing available through the State of Michigan's MiDEAL program. The twelve radios are used but in like-new condition and received at no cost to the department. Finding quality used equipment has saved the department approximately \$65,000 in this instance. These radios will support activities such as court security and large community events.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve \$8,616.33 for the purchase of radio equipment and radio programming through the State of Michigan's MiDEAL program. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

c. Inmate Communication Provider

Brian Steede, Captain, was present to explain that an RFP was sent out on July 28, 2025 with a sealed bid deadline set for August 28, 2025. Questions on the proposal must have been submitted by August 14th at 2:00 PM. The areas that we indicated as being most important by us were law library, educational materials, e-messaging, Docusign, visiting on tablets, ability to email / message Attorney, digital mail, start-up cost, live monitoring of calls and video visits, investigative tools, GPS location of tablet, commissary ordering, and maintain a low cost for family/friends.

On August 28, 2025 at 11:00 AM, I announced the closure of the bids and began opening them with Lt. Jason Kangas as a witness. The following were the results of the bid opening in the order that we opened them:

1. Securus, Plano, TX

- Met all the items we set as most important; Current provider; Customer service has been better as of late but was lacking for several years; Didn't provide us with the latest technology available (didn't notify us of what they had available until the RFP went out); Video visitation rate - \$0.30 / minute, 20% commission rate; Telephone calls - \$0.21 / minute, 45% commission rate

2. ICSolutions, San Antonio, TX

- Met all of the items identified as most important; No initial costs; Video visitation rate - \$0.25/ minute, 25% commission rate; Telephone calls - \$0.21 / minute, 50% commission rate

3. CTel, Irving, TX

- Doesn't currently meet all the identified areas of importance

4. Smart Communications, Seminole, FL

- Met all of the items identified as most important; No initial costs; Highly recommended by more than 10 references that I checked with (including several in Michigan); Has off site mail processing center that would reduce the entry and exposure to contraband for Corrections Staff; Video visitation rate - \$0.21 / minute, 25% commission rate; Telephone calls - \$0.21 / minute, 67.7% commission rate

5. Combined Public Communication, Coldspring, KY

- Doesn't currently meet all the identified areas of importance

6. PayTel, Greensboro, NC

- Doesn't currently meet all the identified areas of importance

7. Stellar (CidNet), Stoughton, WI

- Didn't meet all of the items we identified as most important

**. We believe that Smart Communications has a greater benefit to the inmate of the Marquette County Jail, their families, the Public Defender and to local Law Enforcement community than other similar inmate communications providers. Smart Communications offers a rate of \$0.21 per minute for both inmate phone calls and remote video visitation. The proposed commission rate on video visitation is 25% and on phone calls is 67.7%. With our current contract with our vendor we receive 20% commission rates on video visitations and nothing on phone calls. We will still allow for free visiting onsite as we currently offer.*

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to switch inmate communications provider to Smart Communications. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0).

d. K.I. Sawyer Water Department Drinking Water Project USDA Payment Request

Duane DuRay, Marquette County Administrator, explained that staff is requesting County Board approval for the third drawdown of \$1,171,048.75 from the USDA loan funding. This drawdown reflects Pay Applications 8, 9, and 10 from Smith Construction, as well as four invoices from GEI Consultants. All pay applications and invoices are attached for review.

If approved, this draw will cover the following expenses:

- Smith Construction — Construction Costs: \$1,095,000.70
- GEI Consultants — Engineering Costs: \$76,048.05
- Total Request: \$1,171,048.75

This will be the second of several routine requests, as regular fund draws from USDA are required throughout the duration of the project.

Board Action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the third drawdown from the USDA loan funding; and the County proceed with paying Smith Construction, Inc. \$1,095,000.70; & GEI Consultants, of Michigan, P.C. \$76,048.05 with a total amount of \$1,171,048.75. Second by Comm. Nordeen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. LaLonde, Chairperson Derocha. Nays: none. Absent: Comm. Adamini & Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0).

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Tim Lee, Marquette**, provided a handout to the board questioning if KI Sawyer AFB could be developed as a hyper scale AI data center.

With no further public comment to come before the board this portion of the meeting is concluded.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. LaLonde** recently attended meetings regarding CAAM, Head Start Funding, and PFAS.
- **Comm. Nordeen** would like to see the topic of Marquette County Jail housing back on the agenda after the 1st of the year.
- **Alex Berger, Civil Counsel**, happy to see the K.I. Sawyer Water Project moving forward.
- **Chairperson Derocha** would like to see a complete package regarding the jail, before rolling the plan out to the public.

14. CLOSED SESSION: MCL 15.268(1)(d) “to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.” & **MCL 15.268(1)(h)** “consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.”

Board Action: Comm. LaLonde moved to go into closed session for the reasons stated above. Second by Comm. Nordeen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Absent: Comm. Adamini & Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0).

*****A Short Recess to Clear Chambers Occurred*****

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to authorize staff to amend a lease with a vendor at no further cost thru the end of the lease term of September 2026. Second by Comm. LaLonde. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. LaLonde, Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Abstained: Comm. Nordeen. Absent: Comm. Adamini & Comm. Numinen. Motion Passed (3-0).

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.


Cory Beth Grigg
Marquette County Chief Deputy Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners