

REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 20, 2026 – 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. Adamini & Comm. Numinen

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted. (4-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes held on January 6, 2026. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to adopt the Closed Session Meeting Minutes held on January 6, 2026. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

4. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Matthew Block, Sands Twp. Resident and Pilot for NetJet**, explained FAA data & Stats from the Sawyer Regional Airport. Mr. Block spoke in Opposition of the County taking over as FBO.
- **Eric Sibley, Director of Aviation, B.P. Capital, LLC**, explained the importance of understanding airport refueling among other necessary functions required by the FBO. Mr. Sibley requested the board reverse their decision to become the FBO.
- **Jesse Bell, Bell Financial Services**, respectfully requested the board to pause their decision or reverse their FBO decision. Questioned the depth of the boards due diligence before making this decision to take over as FBO.
- **Mark Hangen, CEO of Easy Ice**, has filed a Lawsuit in Federal Court injunctive relief to stop this process until due diligence has been done!
- **Abby Schierholz, Pilot**, voiced concerns with personnel training along with hiring staff to work for the County run FBO. Opposes the decision to become a county run FBO.

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

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to approve Total Expenditures paid via check & EFT Transfers for the period of December 31, 2025 through January 15, 2026 were \$1,954,740.40; (does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); biweekly payroll for the period ending January 3, 2026 was \$991,284.51. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (4-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve check #236477, dated 1/9/2026, for \$448.55 ~ payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (3-0) Abstained: Comm. Alholm

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

- **Marquette County Clerk 2025 Statistics**, Clerk Talsma pointed out with a staff of five employees, the amount of work that is completed on a daily basis is quite amazing. This dedicated staff works diligently performing fantastic customer service on a daily basis!

	01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024	01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025	Difference
Births	758	683	-75
Deaths	702	769	+67
Marriages	382	393	+11
Permitium Online Orders For Vital Records	2156	2442	+286

Concealed Weapons	1301	1589	+288
Notary	136	134	-2
Doing Business As	145	166	+21
Passports	882	1012	+130
Divorces	170	147	-23
Finger Prints	363	420	+57

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to accept the Clerk's 2025 Status Report. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

• **Lyn Durant, Chair of the Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee,** Quite a few Eagle Webinars this year for the committee, the public will have a year to take a survey on Recycling. Ms. Durant handed out a Municipal Quarterly Recycling Rate for 24 vs 25. The recycling rates are available in the Clerk's Office upon request.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. 2026 Permit Fee Increase Reminder & Recommendation Re: Administrative Fees

Paul Knox, Building Official, was present to explain the following: As a reminder, the Resource Management/Building Codes Department will be implementing step two of the permit fee increase previously approved by the County Board on October 8, 2024. Furthermore, with proper approval, the Department would like to implement the following change regarding Administrative Fees:

As initially approved in the 2018 budget session, an Administrative Fee is only for licensed professionals working in absence of a permit. Homeowners would not be subject to this fee. This fee was implemented in order to be less "heavy handed" than the requirements of Public Act 230 MCL 125.1523. The desired effect is to gain compliance from Contractors without burdening the judicial system.

As part of the approved fee increase in 2025, the Administrative Fee was increased from \$150 to \$300. For the 2026 fee increase, the Department would like to modify the Administrative Fee to a progressive violation format: The initial violation would be \$150, second violation would be \$300, and the third violation would be \$500. Upon the fourth violation, the Contractor would be held to the requirements of Public Act 230 MCL 125.1523. January 1st of each year, the Administrative Fee violation count would reset to zero. This decision was made after careful consideration and review of the past year's data.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to modify the Administrative Fee to a progressive violation format as outlined above. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

b. Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) Experience Support Grant Application

Amy Stephens, Planner II, was present to discuss the following: Marquette County has identified a funding opportunity, which would help complete and enhance the work that has been done at Little Trout Lake Park. The Michigan Arts and Culture Council is offering grant opportunities for nonprofits and municipalities alike to enhance arts and culture resources throughout Michigan communities. The Experience Support grant requires a 25% cash match, the county intends on applying for a Project Support Grant totaling \$25,000, \$20,000 of MACC funds, with \$5,000 being the required cash match from Marquette County. The Planning Division has funds available at this time from a generous donor to cover the match required. The application for the FY26 Mission Support Grant closes on January 22nd at 5 pm EST. If the MACC Experience Grant is awarded, the County will: Install a percussive sculptural art piece at the Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trailhead at Little Trout Lake Park in K.I. Sawyer, and enhance a growing recreation area to include a connective pavement painting from the SLCG trailhead to the Little Trout Lake trail.

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to support the Marquette County Planning Division application for the Michigan Arts and Culture Council Experience Support Grant Application to fund cultural assets at Little Trout Lake Park. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (4-0)

c. Purchase of two Dodge Chargers –FY26 Capital Project

Lt. Gill of the Sheriff's Office was present to discuss the following: regarding the purchase and outfitting of two Dodge Charger Pursuit Vehicles. The funds will be utilized under the FY26 Capital Improvement Line Item that was previously approved. An RFP was completed and no bids were received. The department was able to find two new 2023 AWD Charger Pursuit vehicles that would meet the RFP specs. The dealership has a very limited stock and is likely to run out soon.

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to purchase two 2023 AWD V6 Dodge Charger Pursuit Vehicles + Up fitting not to exceed \$109,727.44; Tele-Rad Modems/Antennas in the amount not to exceed \$3,585.00 and Tele-Rad Mobile Radio in an amount not to exceed \$6,682.93 = \$119,995.37. Funding will come out of the FY26 Capital Project Fund. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

d. Runway Deicing /Anti-Icing Solid Compound Recommendation

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to discuss the following: During winter operations, airport maintenance staff will use various tools to maintain the runway surface in an acceptable condition for air carrier operations. One tool utilized in this objective is an airport-specific Sodium Formate/Acetate solid runway-deicing agent. This agent provides excellent results in maintaining safe airfield conditions. To replenish the airport reserves of solid runway deicing agent, staff solicited proposals to purchase a minimum of two 1,000 lb. sacks (2 sacks per pallet) of solid runway deicing compound. Additionally, the proposals required a price hold of 150 days. The bid opening date for this bid solicitation was January 20th at 10:00am. Staff will present bid tabulation results to the commissioners at the 01/20/2026 board meeting and make a recommendation for a specific vendor.

As a way to streamline the ordering process for the remainder of the winter season and to align with available storage space, the airport is requesting the board approve the purchase of up to thirty 1,000 lb. sacks or fifteen pallets on an as-needed basis. The total pre-approved expenditure will be determined based on the presented bid tabulation results.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to award New Deal Deicing in an amount not to exceed \$40,364.70 and authorize the Airport Manager to execute the purchase. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

e. Runway Deicing/Anti-Icing Liquid Compound Recommendation

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to discuss the following: During winter operations, airport maintenance staff will use various tools to maintain the runway surface in an acceptable condition for air carrier operations. One tool utilized in this objective is an airport-specific potassium acetate based liquid runway deicing agent. This agent provides excellent results in maintaining safe airfield conditions. As a way to streamline the ordering process for the remainder of the winter season and to align with available storage space, Staff is requesting the board approve the purchase of up to two orders of 4,400 gallons each on an as-needed basis. The ullage space required when ordering the liquid means the airport has less than 600 gallons on hand when ordering first becomes possible, making the purchase of this critical ice mitigation tool a time sensitive matter each time.

Staff solicited bids for this product with a bid opening date of January 20th at 11:00am. Staff will present bid tabulation results to the commissioners at the 01/20/2026 board meeting and make a recommendation for a

specific vendor. The total pre-approved expenditure will be determined based on the presented bid tabulation results.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to award Pelican Chemicals Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$51,480.00 and authorize the Airport Manager to execute the purchase. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

f. Quadrant Consulting Group, LLC 2026 Agreement Recommendation

Duane DuRay, Administrator, was present to explain the following: In 2023, Marquette County entered into an engagement with Quadrant Consulting Group, LLC ("Quadrant"), initially to assist the County's negotiations with Cliff's Natural Resources. Since that time, Quadrant has and continues to assist with additional needs for Marquette County. A list of assistance provided in 2025 noted below.

Quadrant's agreement with the County expired at the end of 2025. This memo is seeking County Board direction regarding its engagement with Quadrant in 2026. The consulting agreement provided to the Board as a reference. Please note: the consulting agreement can be modified if the County Board feels it does not address specific needs to both in activities and cost. The monthly price requested for this service is \$5,000.

Examples of 2025 issues:

- Lobby funding for the North CAD Group (UP 911) computer aided dispatch system replacement
- Lobby funds for County Land Bank
- Identify economic development opportunities at KI Sawyer
- Identify economic development opportunities for the County in general
- engage and coordinate discussion with County Sheriff and judiciary regarding bond reform and pretrial Release

❖ *Please note that the agreement can be terminated with 30 days with prior written notice.*

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to enter into a consulting agreement with Quadrant Consulting Group, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 annually and authorize the County Board Chairman to execute the agreement. Second by Comm. Nordeen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. LaLonde and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Absent: Comm. Adamini and Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS:

12. PUBLIC COMMENT: *No public comment to come before the board, this portion of the meeting is closed.*

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. LaLonde** stated she has packet material to email to Commissioners regarding: what to do with your pet in a natural disaster. Huge undertaking! As a member of the Pathways Board – DHHS privatizing has been put on hold.
- **Comm. Nordeen** welcomed the State & Local Government Class from NMU.
- **Kami Fassbender, Finance Manager**, thanks Paul Knox on being a good steward with his budget.
- **Chairperson Derocha** stated there is no public debate on the public comments tonight!

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:01 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners