

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH DEROCHA
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:
 - Regular Meeting held on February 17, 2026
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARD
5. PUBLIC COMMENT (Time limit 5 minutes total)
6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:
 - Total expenditures paid via check & EFT transfers for the period February 13, 2026 through February 26, 2026 were \$443,796.39 (this amount does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); and biweekly payroll for the period ending February 14, 2026 was \$945,293.09.
 - Check #237431, dated 2/20/2026, for \$163.57 ~ payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric.
 - Electronic Transfers totaled \$10,000.00
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT
 - a. Sheriff's Department February Stats
 - b. Chairperson's Remarks
 - c. Sheriff Zybert
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
 - a. Planning Division Annual Report
 - b. Health Officer Letter of Appreciation
10. ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds Approval
 - b. Health Officer Contract Recommendation
 - c. ARPA Allocations
 - d. 5000 Gallon & 3000 Gallon Jet A Refueler Truck Recommendation
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
 - a.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT (Time limit 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/82820789492>

Phone one-tap:

+16465588656,,82820789492# US (New York)

+16469313860,,82820789492# US

Join via audio:

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

Webinar ID: 828 2078 9492

**REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 17, 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. Numinen, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha. Absent & Excused: Comm. Adamini

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted. (5-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the Regular Meetings held on February 3, 2026. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (5-0)

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Debbie White**, Marquette, requested Marquette County create a policy for Federal Agencies.
- **John Gumaer**, stressed the importance of immigration enforcement along with elections.
- **Katelynn Jensen**, Marquette, requested the Board limit ICE and form a policy.
- **Shirley Kriegel**, Marquette, stated detention center issues and fear among Marquette citizens.
- **Ryan Stock**, Marquette, supports a resolution against ICE and requested Marquette County become a sanctuary county.
- **Ruby Miller**, Marquette, stated she does de-escalation training for voter engagement and supports a resolution to assist tension de-escalation surrounding the latest immigration issues.
- **Jenna Keller**, Marquette, urged against the deputization of county employees for both DHHS & ICE; also advocating for the protection of protesters in Marquette County.
- **Nancy Uschold**, Marquette, supports a resolution protecting our rights as citizens and protects our constitution along keeping our residents safe from undue harm by Federal Agents.
- **Rev. Meg Trimm**, Marquette, supported drafting a resolution to limit DHHS & ICE – asks commissioners to vote with their conscious and gave a faith perspective.
- **Jen Hill**, Marquette, thanked Jerry Messana for his service through COVID and wished him a happy retirement; also supported a resolution limiting DHHS & ICE in our community.
- **Andrew Dalian**, Marquette, encouraged the board to create a resolution/policy limiting ICE in our community; and gave statistics.
- **Steven Kreigel**, Marquette, requested no ICE Agents in Marquette County.
- **Nancy Irish**, Marquette, shared a story of her time in Brazil, and how countries have always admired the U.S. and now that seems to have changed.
- **Peter Zenti**, Marquette, stated issues regarding masks by ICE agents.
- **Sally Howe**, Marquette, shared a story of her grandfather in WWII and spoke about the detention centers; and preserving our democracy; also supported a resolution/policy be created for Marquette County.
- **Margaret Brumm**, Marquette, suggested the county draft a 90 day resolution stating all law enforcement, local, state and federal must wear identification (badge to include number, name, agency) not allow masks/visible faces; creating a dress code of sorts for law enforcement.
- **Jordan Russell**, Gwinn, urged the rhetoric on both sides of the immigration issue needs to be toned-down; and focus more on empowering our community.
- **Lynn Durant**, Marquette, requested to speak during privileged comment.
- **Donovan Young**, Ishpeming, urged the county to pass a resolution limiting county funding of ICE & DHHS; and gave a perspective from the on-going issues surrounding Minnesota as an attack on our democracy.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

- **Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to approve Total Expenditures paid via check & EFT Transfers for the period of January 30, 2026 through February 12, 2026 were \$1,379,558.75 (does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); biweekly payroll for the period ending January 31, 2026 was \$919,401.45. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (5-0)
- **Board action:** Comm. Numinen moved to approve check #237230, dated 2/13/2026, for \$480.46 ~ payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0) Abstained: Comm. Alholm

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

Lyn Durant, Materials Management Update, our area is comprised of six counties; Marquette County has six seats on the committee as mandated by the State. The Materials Management Committee discusses matters of Recycling, Composting & Waste Management over the next few years. A draft plan to be ready by June.

**Commissioner Nordeen left the meeting for another appointment.*

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a. Register of Deeds 2025 Statistics

Tonya Nelson, ROD, was present and outlined the document recording activity of 2025 & Transfer Tax Collections (State V County), and recent Contract Cost Comparisons.

Board Action: Comm. Alholm moved to accept for file the 2025 ROD Annual Report. Support by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

b. Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Comm. Meeting Dates

c. Letter of Appreciation from Noquemanon Ski Marathon Director

d. Letter from Public

Board Action: Comm. Numinen moved to accept for file Informational Items (b-d). Support by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Board Approval of MDHD 2026

Jerry Messana, Director of the Health Department, was present to explain the following: The Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) is seeking approval of the recently revised Plan of Organization to meet compliance with our agency's accreditation with the state. The local public health accreditation process occurs on a 3-year cycle, with our next accreditation site visit being performed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MHHS) in mid-March of 2026.

As part of the local public health accreditation process, MCHD is required to submit a current Plan of Organization document, which has been signed as approved by the Health Officer and the chairperson of the agency's local governing entity, being the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, every three years. The 2026 Marquette County Plan of Organization has been reviewed and approved by the Marquette County Board of Health during its January 28, 2026 meeting.

The 2026 MCHD Plan of Organization has been drafted to contain only the specific content needed to be compliant with the accreditation requirements of MDHHS. The only significant changes to the 2023 MCHD Plan of Organization, above basic program related updates, are the removal of the Blood Borne Pathogen Policy

and the Hazard Communication Policy. These items remain as policies of MCHD; however, they are no longer required to be part of the Plan of Organization for the current accreditation cycle.

A current and approved Plan of Organization is required to be submitted as Pre-materials for review by MDHHS immediately. Our department has begun this process by submission of the draft Plan of Organization pending local governing entity approval which is before you tonight.

To complete this process, the Chair of the Board of Commissioners will need to sign and return to MCHD the full Local Health Department (LHD) Plan of Organization Approval Form. MCHD will then submit the completed form to MDHHS for accreditation approval.

****To obtain a full copy of the 2026 Plan of Organization contact the Health Department.***

Board action: Comm. Numinen moved to approve the MCHD 2026 Plan of Organization, and Chairperson Derocha will sign all necessary documents, for submission to MDHHS for accreditation approval. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

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

Duane DuRay, Administrator, was present to explain the following: Staff is requesting county Board approval for the fourth drawdown in the amount of \$133,471.18 from USDA loan funding. This request reflects Pay application No. 11 submitted by Smith Construction, along with two invoices submitted by GEI Consultants. All submitted materials have been reviewed by staff for consistency with project scope, contractual requirements, and eligible project costs under the USDA funding provisions. If approved, the requested draw down will cover the following project expenses:

Smith Construction	Construction Costs	\$103,167.52
GEI Consultants	Engineering Costs	\$ 30,303.66
Total Draw Request		\$133,471.18

Approval of this drawdown will reimburse documented project expenditures incurred to date and determined by staff to be consistent with project progress. This represents the fourth USDA loan draw request associated with the project. Additional draw requests are anticipated as construction activities continue toward project completion and will be submitted for review in accordance with established County approval processes. Supporting documentation is enclosed for consideration.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the K.I. Sawyer Water Department Drinking Water Project USDA Payment Request in the amount not to exceed \$133,471.18. Second by Comm. Numinen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen, Comm. LaLonde and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Absent: Comm. Nordeen and Comm. Adamini.

11. LATE ADDITIONS:

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm**, Marquette, explained local Health and Safety Code involving dress code for Law Enforcement. Ms. Brumm also stated she is willing to work for different public offices as an Ombudsman.
- **Rev. Meg Trimm**, Marquette, spoke about creation of safe spaces and helping your community to thrive.
- **Jeff Chiodi**, Chairperson of the Marquette County Soil Conservation District, stated one of the long serving members Bernie Header has retired and will truly be missed, he gave over 60 years of service to this organization.
- **Amanda Holman**, Negaunee, stated Marquette County has a good relationship with Law Enforcement throughout our County and thanked the board for listening to all the concerns and having empathy regarding ICE.
- **Katelynn Jensen**, Marquette, encouraged the community to attend local meetings; this is how our communities are built!

- **Lynn Durant**, Marquette, kudos to Jerry Messana and thanked him for his good works during COVID and wished him a happy retirement.
- **David Arnold**, Marquette, supports a resolution for Homeland Security Rights; and thanked the board for prioritizing Marquette County residents.
- **Eric Sibley**, Negaunee, requested an update on the FBO progression; processes and having transparency on lease activity.

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

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. Numinen** stated from the last meeting social media were threats and name calling; those voices do not shut down my voice and it seems by looking at the amount of folks here tonight, it doesn't shut down your voices, which is good; rational discussions are positive. Positives always drowned out the negative voices. In summary, I have broken down four items being requested pertaining to ICE: 1) No Masks 2) Use of Body Cameras 3) Uniforms with Identification 4) Use of Force Limitations; and ultimately Accountability. Working together and moving forward to create a reasonable policy, the public should come to public meetings, watch and listen, comment all this is part of democracy!
- **Comm. LaLonde** stated she is in lock step with Comm. Numinen's comments. As elected officials, we are here to represent you and welcomed we hear your voices. Also, thanked Jerry Messana for his good work at the Health Department. Also, would like to see folks show up about our health insurance and pharmacy needs!
- **Comm. Alholm** thanked the crowd for showing up and voicing your opinions, and we are developing a plan. Also, thanked Jerry Messana for all his good work!
- **Chairperson Derocha** thanked all for showing up for the public comment portion of the meeting. It was nice to hear folks state we need to turn the temperature down. We are working with the Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor's Office and Civil Council to see what we can accomplish for the policy/resolution. The County Board will follow the constitution and letter of the law!

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:36 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners