

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 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 minutes held on March 3, 2026
 - Closed Session minutes held March 3, 2026
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARD:
 - Gerald Messana Retirement Resolution
5. PUBLIC COMMENT (Time limit 5 minutes total)
6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:
 - Total expenditures paid via check & EFT transfers for the period
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
 - CUPPMPC Meeting Notice
10. ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. Resignation of Stephen Adamini, District 3 County Commissioner (no packet material)
 - b. Sibley FOIA Appeal (no packet material)
 - c. MERS Plan Amendment
 - d. 2025 4th Quarter Budget Amendments
 - e. ARPA Allocation (no packet material)
 - f. Aviation Fuel Supply Agreement
 - g. K.I. Sawyer water Dept. Drinking Water Project Payment Request
 - h. Pathways Appointments (2)
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/87512669904?pwd=h2FtBhqAIJlksJxvLAB54dCF0tsxCQ.1>

Passcode:956081

Phone one-tap:

+13017158592,,87512669904# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,87512669904# US

Join via audio:

+1 309 205 3325 US

Webinar ID: 875 1266 9904

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 3, 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. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha.
Absent & Excused: Comm. Adamini & Comm. Alholm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the Agenda with the following additions: 11a) Appointment to the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Board of Advisors and 14) Closed Session Language MCL 15.268(1)(e). Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted. (4-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Numinen moved to approve the Regular Meetings held on February 17, 2026 with the correction of DHHS to read DHS. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Katelynn Jensen**, Marquette, requested status of the resolution/policy objectives discussed in previous meetings; and clearly stating that our law enforcement will not collaborate with these federal agencies unless otherwise stated in a court order. Also, stated all conversations have been useful and would like a public stance by the Board.
- **John Gumaer** questioned the status of the resolution/policy from the Board and proceeded to read a ruling from United States District Judge Goodwin. In the ruling, which is available online - Mr. Gumaer stated the importance of identifiable public officers for the safety of citizens.
- **Nancy Uschold**, Marquette, reiterated the importance of federal officers not being identifiable and federal overreach, also commented on election safety and adding in the resolution opposition to a detention center in Marquette County.
- **Jennifer Ray**, Marquette, was concerned about ICE profiling and targeting persons urging the need for their protection.
- **Margaret Brumm**, Marquette, requested a resolution naming March 13 as COVID Pandemic Remembrance Day; the public is welcome to join her in the library on March 13 from 1-4 pm. In addition, encouraged the History of Cliffs Dow Chemical Co. – the public is welcome to come to the library on April 18 from 1-4. Also, asked the public to be careful on the ice.
- **Zeke McClure**, Marquette stressed the importance of the board to create a resolution/policy prioritizing the rights and the responsibilities of the residents of Marquette County regarding federal agents.
- **Donavon Young**, Ishpeming, encouraged the progression of the resolution by the board regarding ICE & DHS - the emotion is one of terror by citizens and immigrants.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

- **Board action:** Comm. LaLonde moved to approve Total Expenditures paid via check & EFT Transfers for the period of February 13, 2026 through February 26, 2026 were \$443,796.39; check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric for \$163.57; Biweekly payroll for the period ending February 14, 2026 was \$945,293.09; and Electronic transfers totaling \$10,000.00. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0)

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

a. Sheriff's Department February Stats by Undersheriff Larson

Corrections: Average Jail Population 81 **Law Enforcement:** Calls for Service = 309; Case Reports = 55; Crashes = 55; Civil Papers Served = 131; Civil Papers Received = 171

Special Operations: Personal Injury Crashes = 7; Water/Ice Rescue = 1; Structure Fire = 1; Missing Person = 2; Snowmobile Accident = 1 – **Front Office:** Handgun Registration = 140; Warrants Entered = 50; Protective Orders Entered = 17; Sex Offenders Verified = 22; Background Requests = 69

b. Chairperson's Remarks

Chairperson Derocha - outlined the role of County Government – stating all the departments and services that are provided by Marquette County– this this there are constraints to our board and the board cannot be contrary to the State & Federal Governments. I have seen no issues regarding public safety in Marquette County and we have to follow the Constitution of the State and Federal. As chair, I do not feel our board has the power to intervene on the immigration issue.

c. Sheriff Zyburt

As Sheriff, I have sworn an oath to uphold all State and Federal Laws. My officers stay very busy serving hundreds of papers, airport security, courthouse security, road patrol, search and rescue and jail management as a few to note. I will not be signing or entering any 287 Agreements with the U. S. Immigration and Customs Agency and remain committed to a Constitutional Balance and I call on every other agency to do the same and remain in their respective branch and their specific authority.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a. Planning Division Annual Report

Health Officer Letter of Appreciation *Commissioners requested a formal plaque for the next meeting to Jerry Messana.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to accept the informational items a-b for filing. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds Approval

Amy Stephens, Planner, was present to explain the following: The Planning Division has applied for a grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and been awarded \$13,192.88 in federal FEMA funding, as a sub recipient of the Michigan State Police/Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division to update the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Match contribution of \$4,500.00 provided in the form of materials, equipment, and supplies and will be funded by the General Fund. Breakdown of grant and match funds listed:

Total HMGP FEMA federal contribution	\$ 13,192.88
Total nonfederal contribution (match)	\$ 4,500.00
Total estimated cost of this mitigation project	\$ 17,692.88

The grant will result in the update of a multi-jurisdictional plan for Marquette County, last updated in 2020. Our current plan expired on January 23, 2026. We originally submitted a Notice of Intent in November 2024 for a different grant. The Michigan State Police directed us to another grant which we applied for in March 2025, and submitted additional information in May and November 2025. The County was awarded the grant in January 2026. By maintaining a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, the County will remain eligible for FEMA funding.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to accept the Administrative completed review, as there were no recommended changes. Also, authorize Chairperson Derocha to sign the agreement. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

b. Health Officer Contract Recommendation

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners awarded Patrick Jacuzzo the position of Administrative Health Officer on December 17, 2025, in anticipation of Gerald Messana's retirement on February 27, 2026. Mr. Jacuzzo's employment in this role began on March 2, 2026. A three-year agreement with Mr. Jacuzzo is being negotiated between the County of Marquette and Mr. Jacuzzo.

Board action: Comm. Numinen moved to Pre-approve Mr. Jacuzzi’s Employment Agreement: contingent upon finalization of negotiations, and authorize Chairperson Derocha to sign. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (4-0)

c. ARPA Allocations

Duane DuRay, Administrator, explained the following: In early 2022, Marquette County staff, working closely with the Board of Commissioners, identified various areas within the County in which to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. At that time, the County had an ARPA fund balance of \$12,955,499.00. Several projects identified for funding across multiple departments and service areas. Several of the identified projects are completed; however, a remaining balance of \$5,130,788.55 is available for reallocation. Staff has reviewed the approved projects for completeness and evaluated opportunities to finalize outstanding commitments, reallocate funding to eligible projects, and identify new priority initiatives that align with ARPA guidelines and the Board’s previously established objectives. The original spreadsheet developed in early 2023 and a revised version identifying potential reallocations of ARPA funding. Summary of Suggested Reallocations

- Supplemental Services (Substance Abuse Screening) – \$30,660.69 (Remains as originally identified)
- New Jail – \$707,167.29 (Calculated by realigning previously approved law enforcement jail-related projects into a consolidated fund)
- Phase II Jail Administration Windows – \$30,000.00
- Prosecutor Legal Services – \$97,029.51 (No change)
- Historical Courthouse – Second Floor Air Conditioning – \$1,110,437.01 (Increased from original \$575,903.00; total estimated project cost is approximately \$2.2 million)
- County Elevator Upgrades (Jail, Courthouse, Health Department) – \$551,000.00
- Courthouse Facades / Spill Plates – \$2,000,000.00
- BSA Conversion to Cloud-Based System – \$250,000.00
- Alert Center Upgrades (Airport) – \$139,500.00
- Room at the Inn – \$50,881.25 (No change)
- Janzen House – \$30,112.80
- Transit Support – \$34,000.00
- FBO Department Development – \$100,000.00

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to consider staff recommendations for the remaining ARPA funding; Commissioners & staff will form a workshop to look at these recommendations closely. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

d. 5000 Gallon & 3000 Gallon Jet A Refueler Truck Recommendation

Anania Tekurio, Assistant Airport Manager, explained the following: As Marquette County prepares for the transition to County-operated FBO services at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, acquisition of Jet A refueling equipment is required to ensure uninterrupted fuel availability and operational readiness beginning May 1, 2026. With three commercial carriers operating at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (Delta, American, and upcoming United service), along with general aviation and contract fueling activity, sufficient refueling capacity at startup is critical to minimize operational risk and avoid service disruption. Therefore, staff has identified the need for the following fleet configuration to support startup and near-term operational scalability: One (1) 3,000-gallon Jet A refueler & two (2) 5,000-gallon Jet A refuelers. Two qualified bids as follows:

3,000-Gallon Unit	5,000-Gallon Unit	Combined Purchase Pricing (All Three Units)
Garsite: \$252,130.00	Garsite: \$281,235.00	Garsite: \$814,600.00
SkyMark: \$255,500.00	SkyMark: \$275,500.00	SkyMark: \$806,500.00

Board action: Comm. Numinen moved to award SkyMark Refuelers, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$806,500.00 for one (1) 3,000-gallon Jet A Refueler and two (2) 5,000-gallon Jet A Refuelers. Authorization at this time will allow staff to proceed with equipment acquisition planning and manufacturing timelines to ensure readiness for the May 1 operational transition while preserving flexibility to optimize procurement strategy. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (4-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS:

a. Appointment to the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Board of Advisors

*One application received for this vacancy and it was Fred Benzie.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to appoint Fred Benzie to the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Board of Advisors. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (3-1) Opposed: Comm. LaLonde

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Lyn Durant**, Materials Management Update, explained that 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.
- **Katelynn Jensen**, Marquette, thanked Sheriff Zybur for his comments this evening, also encouraged the community to attend local meetings; stating this is how communities are built by participating and attending public meetings!
- **Roslyn McGrath**, Marquette, directed her statements to Chairperson Derocha and wanted clarification on his comments concerning the statement regarding all victims and that Marquette County does not have any issues regarding ICE engagement. Requested the Board pass a policy for instance.
- **Anna Ellis**, Marquette City, thanked Sheriff Zybur's statement on Marquette County will not enter into the 287 Agreement, and Ms. Ellis asked the Board take a stance on this issue.
- **Jeff Chiodi**, Chairperson of the Marquette County Soil Conservation District, stated if there are any ARPA funds left over the Marquette County Soil Conservation District would be a great place to direct these funds.
- **Ruby Miller**, Marquette, thanked Sheriff Zybur and commented on voter engagement supporting a resolution to assist tension de-escalation surrounding the latest immigration issues.
- **Zeke McClure**, Marquette, thanked the Sheriff and requested the information he passed onto the public. Mr. McClure also requested patience with the Room at the Inn regarding ARPA funding; there has been many changes.
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** in addition to our statutorily duties we also serve as a sounding board for our community members, with that said I am proposing a resolution tonight for the boards consideration. Also, requested this resolution be a consideration as an action item at the next meeting. Also, invited the public to a 4th Annual fund raiser at the Barrel and Beam on March 13th, it's a pie smashing fund raiser to survivors of suicide loss.
- **Comm. LaLonde** stated it was a good discussion and loved seeing everyone here tonight. Believe that we are your advocates for the Legislators Our Sheriff Dept. will always protect our rule of law; the county is made up of excellent employees. Supported Comm. Numinen adding the resolution
- **Comm. Nordeen** echoed these sentiments as well; we are all sworn officers of the State and Federal Constitution. We are a nation of laws and we will abide by them. However, I do not feel there is a problem currently in Marquette County. We as a board need to decide what is best for Marquette County as a whole.
- **Clerk Talsma** reminded the public of the May 5, 2026 Special Election for the MAPS Schools and Negaunee City Proposal.
- **Chairperson Derocha** thanked the public for their comments tonight and thanked the Sheriff and Undersheriff for attending the meeting as well.

14. CLOSED SESSION: MCL 15.268(1)(e) To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to go into Closed Session MCL 15.268(1)(e) for the purpose of attorney update. Second by Comm. Numinen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Numinen, Comm. LaLonde and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None Absent: Comm. Adamini and Comm. Alholm.

*****A short recess to clear chambers*****

Commissioners came back into open session with the following:

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved cancel the mediation for the Kubick State Lawsuit. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0)

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.


Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners