

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

**Room 231, Marquette County Courthouse Annex, 234 W. Baraga Ave.,
Marquette, Michigan 49855**

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:**
 - Approval Regular Meeting minutes held July 21, 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 and EFT Transfers for the Period July 17, 2026 through July 30, 2026 are \$1,691,179.35; and Biweekly Payroll for the period ending July 18, 2026 is \$946,075.03
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
8. **PRIVILEGED COMMENT:**
 - Sheriff's Department Stats for July 2026
9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
10. **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - a. Cigarette Butt Resolution
 - b. Resolution in Support of House Bill 6105 (Lake Level Assessment Funding Reform)
 - c. Scorpion Asphalt Road Repair Project
 - d. Request to Purchase Vehicle Using MDHHS Grant Funding
 - e. Little Trout Lake Asphalt Mural Artist Recommendation
 - f. Car Rental Concession Agreements
 - g. Federal Aviation Administration Grant 3-26-0153-065-2026 Acceptance
 - h. Federal Aviation Administration Grant 3-26-0153-067-2026 Acceptance
 - i. ATCT Upgrades Phase 3 Construction Administration Agreement
 - j. US Army, Yulista Contract Services, 2026-2027 Season Lease
 - k. FBO Pickup Trucks Recommendation
 - l. T-Hanger 26 Agreement with Northwoods Air Lifeline
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**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!

When: Aug 3, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Regular County Board Meeting Room 231 - 8/3/26

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89030504386>

Phone one-tap:

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+13126266799,,89030504386# US (Chicago

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 21, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

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

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call - Present:** Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen, and Chairperson Derocha

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (6-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board Action: Comm. Numinen moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes held July 7, 2026 with the following changes: 13) Commissioner Comments - Comm. Numinen stated the following ~ The action taken at the November 25, 2025 meeting regarding the FBO was based on a recommendation of the Administrator, which was based on recommendations of the Airport Advisory Board and Airport Finance Committee. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (5-0) – Abstained: Comm. LaLonde

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Leanna Pepin, MSUE Extension Representative**, spoke about the current programs the organization are running. She was joined by Logan Heuter, a 4H participant, who explained how the Young Anglers program has benefitted his life and what he has learned from it.(Handout on file)
- **Margaret Brumm, Marquette**, provided the board with a draft resolution titled “Resolution Declaring Cigarette Butt Littering Unacceptable in Marquette County”, spoke to the bad weather which had occurred recently.
- **Lyn Durant, Marquette Township Supervisor via Zoom**, voiced her support for the Conservation District, & stated the Materials Management Committee has a finished draft and will provide a copy to the commissioners soon.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. Aholm moved to approve the total expenditures paid via check & EFT transfers for the period July 2, 2026 through July 16, 2026 were \$1,537,459.31 (this amount does not include check #240149 payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric; and biweekly payroll for the period ending July 4, 2026 was \$916,746.42. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve check #240149 dated 7/17/2026 for \$1,304.78 payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted: (5-0) Abstained: Comm. Alholm.

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

- **For Michigan Community Development Grant (CDBG) Funding for CDBG Housing Improving Local Livability (CHILL) Closeout**

Chairperson Derocha opened the Public Hearing with a motion by Comm. LaLonde, second by Comm. Nordeen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. Alholm, Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

Amy Stephens, Marquette County Planning, was present to explain that it is a requirement for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, to hold a public hearing notifying the public of funds available, funds spent in previous fiscal years, and affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments on the CDBG funded Emergency Housing Repair Program.

The County of Marquette proposes to use \$47,149 in CDBG funds to assist residents whose income is under 80% of the area median income for emergency housing repairs. No persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

The Emergency Housing Repair Program utilizes program income received by the County during the previous program year. The Marquette County Planning Division administers the Marquette County Emergency Housing Repair Program to provide assistance to homeowners in Marquette County to help ensure their residence is safe, habitable, and livable. By providing home repair assistance to qualified homeowners, we are able to improve the housing stock, strengthen the local tax base, implement energy efficiency standards, and help residents age in place.

Prior County of Marquette CDBG program year funding is as follows:

FY24	\$98,075
FY23	\$83,043
FY22	\$55,780
FY21	\$50,372
FY20	\$142,180

Public Comment:

Amy Stephens, Planner answered the following: first outlining the requirements as well as the guidelines of the program. In regards to how much of a backlog there is for help, explaining it is on a first-come, first-serve basis ~ but they do weigh the urgency & circumstances of requests. Amy will research the dollar amount for how much money is needed to cover all outstanding requests and explained what types of items are covered.

Board Action: Comm. Benzie moved to approve the Emergency Housing Program & authorize expenditures of \$47,149.00 in CBDG funds to assist residents. Second by Comm. Alholm. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Benzie, Comm. Alholm, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Numinen, Chairperson Derocha; Nays: none. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board Action: Comm. Benzie moved to return to the regular meeting. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

a. **Marquette County Conservation District Operating Support Request, Jeff Chiodi, Chair**, thanked the County for the continued partnership & commitment to the residents of Marquette County.

The Marquette County Conservation District is respectfully requesting \$75,000 in annual operating support to help provide the stable local foundation needed to sustain high-quality conservation services throughout Marquette County.

For more than 70 years, the MCCD has worked alongside landowners, farmers, schools, municipalities, and community organizations to conserve the natural resources that support our local economy and quality of life. Through state, federal, and local partnerships, the District brings significant conservation funding and technical expertise into our county while providing practical assistance directly to residents.

As the Board looks toward the future, one challenge has become increasingly clear. While our conservation projects are largely supported through grants, the organizational capacity needed to recruit and retain experienced staff, administer those grants, and provide consistent service is funded through a patchwork of limited operational resources.

To ensure the District remains a strong, reliable partner for Marquette County, we respectfully request \$75,000 in annual operating support beginning in FY2027. This investment will strengthen the local foundation that allows the district to continue leveraging outside funding, serving county residents, and advancing the priorities identified

in the Marquette County Master Plan.

Chairperson Derocha requested a copy of the budget.

Mr. Chiodi responded and stated the budget will be approved at their August meeting and then he will be happy to share.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. County Elevator Modernization Proposals

The County solicited proposals for modernization of three elevators located at the Annex Building, County Jail, and Negaunee Service Center. This project is necessary to comply with updated Michigan Elevator Code requirements that become effective January 1, 2028.

A primary component of the modernization is Door Lock Monitoring (DLM), a safety feature that prevents elevator movement if a door is open or if the door lock circuit fails. The modernization also includes replacement of elevator controllers, cab operating panels, hall call stations, and other aging components. Associated upgrades to electrical disconnects and smoke detection/fire alarm interfaces are required as part of the modernization and code compliance effort.

This project also includes testing, inspection, and certification of the completed installation. New cab interior finishes and aesthetic improvements are included for the Annex Building and Negaunee Service Center elevators; the County Jail elevator modernization does not include cab aesthetic upgrades.

The County did not utilize a sealed bid process for this project. Instead, proposals were solicited from qualified elevator contractors. Three proposals were received:

Contractor	Proposal Amount
TK Elevator	\$463,011.00
Metro Elevator	\$436,767.00
Otis Elevator Company	\$566,681.00

All three firms are licensed and qualified to perform the work. Funding source proposed is "use of county reserves for special appropriations"

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to have staff Re-Bid the Elevator Project with a change in the scope of work, to include addressing the power issue that resulted in the elevator operating more slowly. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (6-0)

b. Proposal for Former Marquette County Airport PFAS Investigation and Remediation

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (MSRA) staff is requesting Marquette County Board of Commissioners consider waiving the comprehensive purchase policy for phase two of the PFAS investigation regarding AECOM as the engineering firm at the former Negaunee airport.

Working closely with AECOM and the State of Michigan Environmental Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), staff submitted a grant request for additional funding to complete a new round of grant-funded PFAS investigation and remediation at the former airport located in Negaunee. The grant submission required the development of a comprehensive scope of work to accomplish the criteria necessary for this second phase. AECOM has been under contract as the selected contractor in previous grant funding rounds and they agreed to continue to assist MSRA to develop this next project with no promise of being selected for the work. Their involvement included developing a comprehensive scope of work that was reviewed by the EGLE awarded to Marquette County for the Former Marquette County Airport site.

In the past Steve Harrington from EGLE, who provides the oversight for the Negaunee location, voiced his support for retaining AECOM as the professional service provider. His concerns pertained to project continuity and potential redundancy if there was to be a shift to a new engineering group.

Understanding the purpose of the bidding process in most projects is to provide the best value for the sponsor, this project is a fixed cost developed by AECOM and approved by EGLE, so in theory, EGLE has already reviewed the proposal provided by AECOM and intends to approve the project with a fixed cost of \$1,000,000. Any other firm that would provide a bid for the project would cater their proposal to address the grant amount, providing no cost savings.

This project will be closely monitored by EGLE and all of the expenses will be funded through the EGLE PFAS grant with no obligations of Marquette County, other than managing the reporting, reviewing the expenses, and submitting the invoices for processing.

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to waive the comprehensive purchase policy and award the contract for the Former Marquette County Airport PFAS Grant Investigation and Remediation Project to AECOM, and authorize Chairman Derocha to execute acceptance of AECOM's proposal. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

c. Federal Aviation Administration Grant 3-26-0153-064-2026 Acceptance

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (MSRA) staff is requesting Marquette County Board of Commissioners consider approving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant SAW-GLG-3-26-0153-064-2026. Furthermore, a request to include preapproving the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Aeronautics sponsor contract that will follow the issuance of the grant. These agreements are associated with the funding for the reconstruction phase of work on the general aviation (GA) apron. (See attached diagram)

The scope of work for this segment of the project provides for the reconstruction portion of the general aviation apron project planned for FY 2027. The overall project addresses the rehabilitation of 11,000 SYD of apron. Separate Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding will be utilized for the additional 12,500 SYD of sealing and spalling repairs on the GA apron in front of the Fixed Base Operators building mentioned in previous design grants related to this project.

The budget for the project is \$2,858,174 in grant funding with an additional \$1,046,000 allocated to available State funding for a total project cost of \$3,904,174. A cost breakdown between the federal, state, and local shares is shown below.

• Federal Share	\$ 2,715,265.30
• State of Michigan Share	\$ 142,908.70
• State Budget Allocation Funding	\$ 1,046,000.00

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to approve the following:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FEDERAL AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARQUETTE SAWYER REGIONAL AIRPORT, UNDER FEDERAL PROJECT NO: 3-26-0153-064-2026

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

Section I. That the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan shall enter into a Grant Agreement for the development of Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, and that such Grant Agreement shall be as set forth herinafter;

Section II. That Joseph Derocha, Chairperson of Marquette County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Grant Agreement on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and Linda Talsma, Marquette County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest said execution:

Section III. That the Grant Agreement referred to herein shall be as attached.

Second by Comm. Alholm. **A roll call vote was taken:** Ayes: Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the acceptance of Grant SAW-GLG-3-26-0153-064-2026, approving Chairperson Joseph Derocha and Civil Counsel authority to sign the FAA grant that has been received, and preapproval to sign the MDOT Aero Sponsor contract when it arrives. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to approve the following:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXECUTING CONTRACT NO. 2026-XXXX.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

Section I. That the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan shall enter into a Contract for Reconstruction of the General Aviation Apron and that such Contract shall be as set forth hereinafter;

Section II. That Joseph Derocha, Chairperson of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and Linda Talsma, Marquette County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest said execution:

Section III. That the Contract Agreement referred to herein shall be as attached.

Second by Comm. Alholm. **A roll call vote was taken:** Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

d. 663 Fall Protection Engineering Selection

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (MSRA) staff is requesting that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners consider approving staff to proceed with the process of developing a project agreement between Marquette County and GEI Consultants to perform engineering construction administration services for installation of a fall protection system on the roof of Hangar 663 for a cost not to exceed \$52,400.

For the past ten consecutive winter seasons, the Army Redstone Test Center (RTC) from Huntsville, AL has conducted winter test operations at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, utilizing Hangar 663 as their "home base." This tenant relationship has proved very mutually beneficial during their time here. As part of their operations, a platform and associated antennas have been installed each year on the roof peak. Throughout the winter, maintenance on this equipment, as well the need to remove it in the Spring has necessitated accessing and traversing the roofing system without fall protection when hazardous winter conditions exist. Army RTC have requested that a fall protection system be added to Hangar 663 for added safety for their personnel.

Additionally, the request has been that this matter is dealt with prior to winter conditions in 2026.

Staff solicited qualifications and bids for engineering and construction administration services for this project. Two qualified firms submitted bids and also detailed a project approach, scope, and timeline. GEI Consultants proposed a cost not to exceed \$52,400 with a time to bid letting of 4-6 weeks, but with uncertainty for the ability to accomplish the project before winter given the unknown construction duration. UP Engineers and Architects proposed a cost of \$34,500, but with bid letting expected in December with construction planned in Spring 2027.

This request does not obligate Marquette County to any agreement at this time, if approved, staff will begin working with GEI to get an agreement developed and reviewed before returning to this Board for authorization to proceed with an official agreement. Funding for this project would come from airport reserves.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to remove this item. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (6-0)

e. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Appointments

The Marquette County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority was created on August 3, 2010 under the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, PA 381 of 1996, as amended. The Authority consists of 8 members representing the following categories: Marquette County Economic Development Corporation; Marquette County Planning Commission; Economic/Property Developer; Local Government Representative; Real Estate; Engineering/Construction; County Treasurer; County Commissioner, serving staggered 3-year terms. Per the Authority's bylaws, the intent of the authority is to facilitate the implementation of Brownfield plans relative to the designation and treatment of qualified Brownfield Redevelopment projects, educate the public and promote the benefits of the Brownfield Program throughout Marquette County to encourage revitalization of environmentally distressed areas, determine the captured taxable value of each parcel of eligible property, and pursue avenues to sustain, supplement, or enhance the program either through grants or other means. (3-year terms)

*3 Vacancies 7/31/2026 to 7/31/2029

County Commissioner Representative

Marquette County Planning Commission Representative

Local Government Representative

*1 Partial Term Ending 7/31/2027

Real Estate

Four applications were received by the Clerk's Office:

Mary Myers – County Board Appointee Position

Kristin Thornton – Local Government Representative Position

Kathleen Vermaat – Marquette County Planning Commission Representative

Lauren Johnson– Real Estate

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to appoint the above applicants to their respective positions that each applied. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm, Marquette,** spoke regarding the cigarette butt recycling project and its importance. She requested that the board signs the resolution draft she provided today.

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. LaLonde** requested Civil Counsel look over the Cigarette Butt Resolution presented by Margaret Brumm, and stated the Weather & Emergency Response on the phone along with the Smoke

Alerts were extremely helpful to the public.

- **Comm. Alholm** commented that she has various changes she would like to see on the Cigarette Butt Resolution
- **Comm. Benzie** stated tourism impact is great on our community. It would be nice to capture some monies and put them back into the community; also reminded the public Early Voting begins 7/25/2026 through 8/2/2026!
- **Chairperson Derocha** thanked everyone for their public comment tonight; and the board will look at the Cigarette Butt Resolution that Margaret Brumm presented this evening.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:31 p.m.


Cory Beth Grigg
Marquette County Deputy Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners