

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 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:**
 - Special Meeting minutes held on June 16, 2026
 - Approval Regular Meeting minutes held June 16, 2026
 - Closed Session Meeting minutes held June 16, 2026
 - Special Meeting minutes held June 26, 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 June 12, 2026 through July 1, 2026 were \$1,440,722.18; and biweekly payroll for the period ending June 20, 2026 was \$901,990.11.
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - Chill Grant Closeout
8. **PRIVILEGED COMMENT:**
 - Sheriff's Department Stats for June 2026
9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
10. **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - a. Lifesaver Equipment Purchase
 - b. Jail Restoration Sealant Project
 - c. Airfield Snow Blower Hydraulic Pump Replacement
 - d. Airport Advisory Board for State Funding Application
 - e. Contract Lobbyists Quadrant 12-Month Agreement
 - f. Committee Resignations: Marq-Tran Authority & Brownfield Authority
 - g. Solid Waste Alternate Appointment
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**

When: Jul 7, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922712598>

Phone one-tap:

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+13126266799, 85922712598# US (Chicago)

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 16, 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 **Absent & Excused:** None

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the Amended Meeting minutes from Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2026 due to a Clerical Error. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the Regular Meeting held June 2, 2026 as presented. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the Closed Session Minutes held on June 2, 2026 as presented. Second by LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **John Gumaer, Mqt.** requested action item 10a) be tabled due to lack of transparency.
- **Ruby Miller, Mqt.** requested the board to allocate funding for Public Transit.
- **Steven Hilty, KI Resident,** stated his non-support for action item 10a).
- **Jordan Russell,** requested more clarification on action item 10a) – How does this effect our community.
- **Christina Taylor, Mqt.** supports military however wants more clarity – requested 10a) be tabled.
- **Gregory Durand,** spoke in support of bringing back KI – would be a great asset for our community.
- **Nick Doney,** stated Jim Delmont supports 10a).
- **Margaret Brumm, Mqt,** updated the board on the cigarette butt-recycling program – bucket cost is \$29.
- **Mike Smith, Richmond,** spoke in favor of 10a).
- **Adalina, KI Resident,** requested the board to go slow and ask questions relating to action item 10a).
- **Rowena Langon, KI Resident,** spoke of Imminent Domain; concern for displaced residents from their homes if 10a) moves forward.
- **Dan Lukkola, Local 4950,** stood in support of action item 10a) creating economic stimulus in the Co.
- **Ryan Lipski,** stated concern with action item 10a) and Data Centers.
- **Tammy Sustaurich, Mqt.** stated action item 10a) – this subject came up too suddenly – more consideration is needed before making a decision and stated concern regarding Data Centers.
- **Maureen Gumaer, Mqt.** Stated her concerns regarding procedure of minutes and Commissioners not reading them thoroughly.
- **Mark Curran, Mqt.** Supported action item 10a) this would bring youth back along with businesses booming, as they were when KI Sawyer was in existence.
- **Jeff Chiodi,** opposed 10a) due to environmental reasons.
- **Joseph Sherman, Mqt.** Opposed 10a requested more information; resolution too broad - table before vote.
- **Katelyn Jensen, Mqt.** Requested the board slow down on approving 10a) and improve bus service.
- **Jack Pine, Mqt.** Alarmed about 10a) transparency – commissioners need to take a moment.
- **James Bates, Mqt.** Requested 10a) be tabled.
- **Teresa Walter, Ishpeming,** requested tabling of 10a) and get more information to the public.
- **Ashley Olson, KI Resident,** asked the board be more transparent & worried about the housing issue on KI.
- **Les Thatcher, Skandia,** manages 100 units on Sawyer and requested the board have a meeting on Sawyer to explain 10a) to the residents of Sawyer.

- **Donovan Young, Ishpeming**, spoke regarding Queer People and the Pride Parade most live on Sawyer & worried about their housing if 10a) passes.
- **Grant Combs, Mqt.** Spoke in opposition of 10a).
- **Melissa Middleton, Gwinn**, 10a) resolution too quick, slow down, evaluate, housing issues, all impact our area.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. Aholm moved to approve the total expenditures paid via check & EFT transfers for the period May 29, 2026 through June 11, 2026 were \$826,957.50 (this amount does not include the check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); and biweekly payroll for the period ending June 6, 2026 was \$930,427.65. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve check #239542, dated 6/12/2026, for \$1,059.87 ~ Payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Benzie. Abstained: Comm. Alholm and absent from this vote was Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0)

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport US Armed Forces Support Resolution

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to open the Resolution up for Commissioner Discussion. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE MARQUETTE SAWYER REGIONAL AIRPORT AS A UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BASE

WHEREAS, Marquette County owns and operates the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (SAW), which was acquired following the closure of the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base;

WHEREAS, the infrastructure at SAW, including its long runway system, aviation support facilities, and surrounding federally compatible aviation land, remains a strategic asset capable of supporting both civilian aviation and military aviation activities;

WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces continue to conduct training exercises at SAW and throughout the Upper Peninsula region, including large-scale joint exercises such as Northern Strike, demonstrating the continued military value of the location and facility;

WHEREAS, SAW's existing infrastructure is underutilized and presents a unique opportunity for expanded coordination between Marquette County and the United States Department of Defense;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of Marquette County to explore opportunities to increase economic growth throughout Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners duly authorizes representatives of the County to enter into discussions and obtain information concerning the possible recommissioning of SAW, in part, as a United States National Defense Air Force Base.

**Commissioners discussed the public concerns and amended the resolution language as stated above.*

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to adopt the Resolution as stated above. Second by Comm. Nordeen. A roll call vote: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None ~ Absent: None ~ Motion adopted (6-0)

b. Teamsters Resolution – FBO Positions

Duane DuRay, Administrator, read the contract language and provided the Board the Teamsters – FBO Positions

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to accept the Teamsters contract (Letter of Agreement) – FBO Positions as presented. Second by Comm. Alholm. A roll call vote: Ayes: Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None~ Absent: None ~ Motion adopted (6-0)

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE COUNTY OF MARQUETTE AND MARQUETTE SAWYER REGIONAL AIRPORT AND
TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 406**

WHEREAS, Teamsters Local Union No. 406 is recognized by the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and the County of Marquette as the exclusive representative of certain employees of Marquette County; and,

WHEREAS, the parties have collectively bargained mutually acceptable terms and conditions; and **NOW THEREFORE**, the County resolves that the Letter of Agreement amending the collective bargaining agreement for the period June 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, is hereby approved. It is further resolved that the Board Chairperson is authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution. Dated: June 16, 2026

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement, as amended; and authorize the Board Chairperson to take all necessary actions to implement the resolution. Second by Comm. Benzie. Roll call vote: Ayes: Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None ~Absent: None~ Motion adopted (6-0)

c. Perkins Park Water Heater Replacement

Sven Gonstead explained the following: the water heater is over 20 years old and is well beyond its life cycle. During the 2025 season, it required emergency repairs and the technician’s recommended full replacement.

Staff solicited quotes in late 2025 and early 2026 with the intent of completing the project without initiating a formal RFP process. Prime Specialty Contracting, LLC had the lowest out of three quotes received, however the quote amount required a formal request for proposals (RFP).

Staff proceeded with a formal RFP. The scope of work revised to include a mixing valve and all necessary ancillary components associated with converting the domestic hot water system from a two-tank configuration to a single-tank configuration.

The RFP publicly advertised in the Mining Journal, posted on the County’s website and distributed through the Builder’s Exchange. The RFP issued on April 12, and one proposal received by the May 11 submission deadline. The response received summarized below:

Firm	Bid Amount	Within Budget
Prime Specialty Contracting, LLC (Marquette, MI)	\$16,912.00	Yes

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to award Prime Specialty Contracting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$16,912.00 with the funding source for this project from the Park Reserves. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

d. 2% Gaming Funds Recommendation

In March 2026, Marquette County submitted requests to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (“KBIC”) and the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (“Sault Tribe”) to act as the pass-through agency for two-percent gaming funds being requested on behalf of numerous agencies. The amounts requested and the amounts received

are indicated below: KBIC is listed below – 0 Funding received from the Sault Tribe for pass through.

KBIC

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Received</u>
Marquette County Aging Services	Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Life Tracker Program	\$7,500	\$3,500
Marquette County Health Department	Suicide Prevention Alliance	\$7,000	\$3,500
Marquette County Planning Division	Marquette County Recreation Area Maintenance Equipment	\$20,563	\$3,500
Marquette County Community Corrections	Substance Screening	\$90,000	\$3,500
Marquette County Land Conservancy	Reducing Barriers to Connect with Nature	\$32,000	\$3,500
Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies	Center for Native American Studies Residency Program	\$9,681	\$3,500
Superior Watershed Partnership	Great Lakes Tribal Conservation Corps Summer Program, KBIC Youth Conservation Corps of Tribal Youth, various public initiatives	\$50,000	\$11,000
Central UP CISM/Peer Support Team	First Responder Support	\$30,000	\$3,500
Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association	Repair of radio repeater used to support UP200 Sled Dog Race	\$3,500	\$3,500

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to allocate the two-percent funds as the KBIC indicated above. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

e. Solid Waste Authority Appointments

MARQUETTE COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

The Solid Waste Authority is a seven-member board with three members appointed by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners to staggered 3-year terms. The remaining members appointed by the City of Marquette (two), one authority appointment, with the Chairperson being from Sands Township. The Authority assumes the responsibilities and obligations, undertakings and disposition for Marquette County municipalities under an Interlocal Agreement for the operation and management of the Solid Waste Management System Facility.

Two Vacancies – 3 Year Term ending 7-1-2029

The two applications received by our office: Jaclyn Stark (Marquette City Appointee) and *Helen Wilson

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to appoint Helen Wilson to the 3-year regular term, and to appoint Jaclyn Stark (Marquette City Appointee) to a 3-year term as the Marquette City Appointee on Marquette Solid Waste Authority. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (6-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Christine Taylor, Mqt.** Requested clarity for contracts & the plan for 10a) – also mentioned her opposition to ICE & Detention Centers.
- **Katelyn Jensen, Mqt.** Requested specific work sessions & have them at Sawyer for the residents.
- **Joseph Sherman, Mqt.** Thanked the Board and public for changing the wording on the Resolution was pleased for the amendment
- **Ruby Miller, Mqt.** Questioned the monies for Bus Transit and stated the need for better transportation in the County.
- **Ryan Lipinski** explained the 2% fund monies by the tribes.
- **Maureen Gumaer, Mqt.** Thanked the Board for the clarification and appreciated the effort.
- **Jeff Chiodi** voiced his nonsupport for the Dept. of War.
- **Jennifer Kilo, Mqt** concerned about KI Sawyer, also happy to see the public turnout, Marquette has changed a lot in 30 years since the base closed. Concerned with opening our community to the Dept. of Defense.

- **Adeline, Sawyer Resident**, thanked the board for listening tonight and helping the community understand.
- **Grant Combs** thanked the Commissioners for amending the Resolution –wording on a resolution is important.
- **Zeke McClure, Mqt** thanked the board for explaining & the amendment of the wording on the resolution. Would like to see support from the board on social service issues.
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. Nordeen** stated we heard the public and amended the language on the resolution. Input from the community always welcomed. This is how democracy works. Sawyer Operations Authority meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at Sawyer.
- **Comm. Alholm** thanked the public for sharing their thoughts. In addition, thanked Forsyth Forward for helping with the Grand Opening of Little Trout Lake it was a huge success.
- **Comm. LaLonde** thanked the public for coming out tonight. Hope all of you get a chance to visit your Townships and Cities along with your County Meetings and be proactive in your communities.
- **Comm. Benzie** appreciated the public engagement tonight. Attended the U.P. Rainbow Pride; everyone should feel safe in their communities. We should all engage and become an inclusive society.
- **Comm. Numinen** invited the public to the upcoming candidate forums put on by the League of Women Voters to be held at Marquette Township Hall on July 8th and 9th. Looking forward to seeing the public there to answer questions.
- **Administrator DuRay** attended Little Trout Lake Grand Opening and it was a success. Park is top notch.
- **Kami Fassbender, Finance Manager**, attended the Public Transit Meeting and Little Trout Lake – the Community should always leave their areas better than they found them.
- **Chairperson Derocha** Great to have a full house tonight and we all heard your concerns. Service to the public and helping others – This Board Listens!

14. CLOSED SESSION: MCL 15.268(1)(h): To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to go into Closed Session under MCL 15.268(1)(h) as stated above. Second by Comm. Benzie. A roll call vote taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Numinen, and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: none. Motion adopted (6-0)

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

Commissioners came back into open session with the following action:

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to have a Special Meeting on June 26th at 4:00 pm for the purpose of Justin Meyers GS FOIA Appeal. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026 – 5:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

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

- Call to Order by Chairperson Joe Derocha at 5:00 p.m. – Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Present: Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS

a. Eric Sibley FOIA Appeal

*Eric Sibley was present and requested the FOIA documents that he requested be un-redacted. Then stated some reasons why he should be allowed the information.

*Comm. Numinen stated there was a lawful basis due to the contract why items were redacted.

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to allow the information that was redacted be released. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Roll call vote: Ayes: Comm. Benzie, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: Comm. LaLonde Motion adopted (5-1)

*Civil Counsel stated to Mr. Sibley no written decision will be given since we are awarding the decision tonight.

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Donovan Young, Ishpeming stated transparency to the public is important.
- Margaret Brumm, Mqt stated the proper amount of time appropriated on this FOIA matter. FOIA is a critical right of the public.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Comm. Nordeen stated he was a big advocate for FOIA Laws.
- Comm. Alholm thanked Civil Counsel on their work on this FOIA Appeal.
- Comm. Numinen thanked Civil Counsel and stated the FOIA Process works!

14. CLOSED SESSION

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted.

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:22 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

SPECIAL MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2026 – 4:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

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

- Call to Order by Chairperson Joe Derocha at 4:00 p.m. – Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Present: Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha. Absent & Excused: Comm. LaLonde

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board Action: Comm. Benzie moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (5-0)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jim Gallant, Skandia handed out to the board his opinion on Roberts Rules of Order.
With no further public comment to come before the board, this portion of the meeting closed.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Justin Meyers GIS FOIA Appeal

*Justin Meyers was not present at the meeting in person or by zoom.

***Civil Counsel** outlined the reasons for the FOIA Request being Appeal Denial.

It is so ordered that:

1. The FOIA appeal of Justin Meyers regarding current parcel layer with associated tax attributes is DENIED.
2. Pursuant to MCL 15.234 (10), the Freedom of Information Act fee section does not apply when another statute authorizes the sale of public records or sets the applicable fee. The Enhanced Access to Public Records or sets the applicable fee. The Enhanced Access to Public Records Act, MCL 15.443 (1)(c), authorizes a public body to charge a reasonable, governing body approved fee for “output from a geographical information system.” Because the requested parcel layer data with tax attributes are properly characterized as a geographical information system, the County cannot fulfill your request through the Freedom of Information Act.

*Comm. Numinen explained that due to the Enhanced Access to Public Records Act MCL: 15.443 (1) (c) this FOIA was unnecessary.

*Comm. Nordeen stated Mr. Meyers has access to the records and the fee structure is the same for everyone.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to deny the FOIA Appeal regarding current parcel layer with associated tax attributes. Second by Comm. Numinen. Roll call vote: Ayes: Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie and Chairperson Derocha. Motion adopted (5-0)

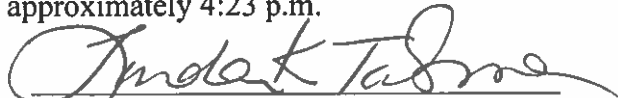
5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jim Gallant, Skandia spoke regarding Roberts Rules of Order.

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

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

7. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:23 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners