
**REGULAR MEETING –SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231,
HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY VICE-CHAIR NORDEEN AT 6:00 P.M.

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the agenda and pull Action Item 10c. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes held on August 18, 2026. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (4-0)

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm** Congratulated Clerk Talsma on her award for County Clerk of the Year. Also, informed the Board on the Cash for Butts Collection that will take place Across from McCarty's Cove on September 17, 2026 beginning at 9 am.
- **Denise Perry Administrator for the Marquette Medical Care Facility** was present to speak to Agenda Item 10d.
- **John Gumaer, Marquette** urged the Board to reconsider their decision on the 911 contract with Motorola and consider Tyler instead.
- **Joy Vulton, 911 Dispatcher** explained what they are currently using (Central Square) pros of having 2 backup systems – opposed to Motorola.
- **Lynn Durant, Marquette** reminded Commissioners to speak into their microphones so they can be heard. Informed the Board of the 3-month extension for Materials Management. Also, questioned the CADD System Contract and the litigation going on with other Counties regarding Tyler.
- **Maureen Gumaer, Marquette** Congratulated Clerk Talsma as well. Urged the Board to revisit their decision regarding the 911 Contract with Motorola. With the 911 Dispatcher, wanting Tyler seems worth looking into further, possibly a Special Meeting or putting this on as an agenda item in the future. Also, regarding 10c) stated any Commissioner should be able to add an agenda item and no change should be made until the new board is seated.
- **Erin Daines, MSUE**, informed the public they can register on line for the Upper Peninsula Smart Garden to be held at NMU. For more information on any upcoming events go to MSUE website.
- **Cody Mayer, Marquette** urged the Board to follow the current rules of order and wait until the Organizational Meeting for any amendments. Also, mentioned the City of Marquette passed a Resolution at their last meeting regarding the CADD System and would like the Board to consider that.
- **Wendy Luukkala** introduced herself as the new Union President for the Courthouse Union #2914, stating she is looking forward to working with the Board.
- **Joseph Sherman, Marquette** stated 10c) if passed would consolidate power to the Chair making that person a gatekeeper. He was opposed at this item and was glad it was pulled from the agenda.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. Aholm moved to approve the total expenditures paid via check & EFT transfers for the period August 14, 2026 through August 27 2026 were \$746,278.06; and biweekly payroll for the period ending August 15, 2026 was \$928,094.82. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (4-0)

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

a. Sheriff's Department February Stats by Undersheriff Larson

Corrections: Average Jail Population 78 **Law Enforcement:** Calls for Service = 341; Case Reports = 48; Crashes = 37; Civil Papers Served = 151; Civil Papers Received = 205

Special Operations: Personal Injury Crashes = 1; Other Rescue = 1; Structure Fire = 1; Injured Person Extraction Accident = 2; Distressed Person = 2; ORV Boat Crash = 1– **Front Office:** Handgun Registration = 125; Warrants Entered = 29; Protective Orders Entered = 21; Sex Offenders Verified = 23; Background Requests = 43

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Marquette County Opioid Task Force Resolution

Partrick Jacuzzo, Director of Environmental Health along with Emily Pratt, were present to discuss the following: Marquette County Opioid Task Force (“MCOTF”) is requesting adoption of the attached resolution by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners to formally appoint MCOTF to provide oversight of Marquette County’s opioid settlement funds. This effort is intended to bring MCOTF in-line with the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) model regarding the structure of MCOTF and to streamline the processing of Opioid Settlement Fund requests brought before the Marquette County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

MCOTF is a multidisciplinary group guided by individuals from a variety of agencies and capacities across Marquette County, including substance use treatment, recovery support services, public health, court adjacent programs, tribal representation, and philanthropy. With technical support from Michigan Association of Counties, MCOTF has a vested interest in directing settlement funds to align with the national opioid settlement litigation’s “List of Opioid Remediation Uses” (Exhibit E) to alleviate the harms associated with substance use. The draft resolution document provided is based upon the MAC model resolution that has been used for other county opioid task forces across Michigan.

If adopted, this resolution will allow MCOTF to establish bylaws based upon the MAC model and a comprehensive request for proposals (RFP) process to disburse local opioid settlement funds to implement, support, and/or sustain applicable programming that aligns with priority areas for spending. Creation of bylaws will outline conflict of interest standards, membership duties, and voting processes to guide the management of these funds.

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO CREATE MARQUETTE COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE

WHEREAS; Marquette County ranks 62nd in substance use burden and 45th in substance use resources in the state of Michigan, and has a rate of 5.9 overdose fatalities per 100,000 people according to Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard, and

WHEREAS; Marquette County participated and signed on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS; Marquette County is projected to receive \$4,155,735 over a total of eighteen (18) years, beginning in January 2023, as a result of litigation; and

WHEREAS; the Board of Commissioners has the ability to file lawsuits for any forthcoming opioid-related settlements; and

WHEREAS; the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS; the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wishes to establish an Opioid Task Force to be facilitated by the Marquette County Health Department to remain active throughout the duration of the opioid settlements, and for which membership does not prioritize or preclude members from receiving opioid settlement monies; and

WHEREAS; the charge of Marquette County Opioid Task Force (MCOTF) is to provide recommendations on priority areas and use of opioid settlement funds, as well as oversight and monitoring of funds expended to entities for purposes of opioid remediation; and

WHEREAS; the MCOTF shall adopt bylaws that establish conflict of interest standards to ensure the integrity of funding recommendations. Such bylaws shall require members to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest and prohibit members from participating in the review, scoring, discussion, recommendation, or vote on any proposal, contract, budget modification, or other funding decision in which there is a direct or indirect financial interest or where financial interest could reasonably be perceived; and

WHEREAS; the Marquette County Board of Commissioners has final approval on how the opioid settlement monies are disbursed; and

WHEREAS; the Marquette County Health Department will coordinate the functions and process of the Marquette County Opioid Task Force, execute a competitive request for proposal process, facilitate scoring of proposals, draft and execute contracts, and disburse funds. Costs incurred by Marquette County Health Department for the facilitation and administration expenses associated with the leadership of the county's opioid settlement planning efforts will be reimbursed by Marquette County's opioid settlement funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes an Opioid Task Force with representation that may include, but is not limited to the following sectors – local government, public health, health care providers, public safety, criminal-legal system, prevention coalition, harm reduction providers, recovery support providers, schools and universities, behavioral health providers, treatment providers, medical examiner, individuals with lived experience with substance use, family and friends of those with lived experience, and tribal government representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MCOTF will assess priority areas for spending and develop a request for proposals process and review, score, and recommend how funds will be awarded for all requests for opioid settlement funds to advise the Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MCOTF will provide to the Board of Commissioners regular recommendations on use of funds and priority areas as well as an annual impact report associated with programs funded with opioid settlements.

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to adopt the Marquette County Opioid Task Force Resolution. Second by Comm. Alholm. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm and Vice-Chair Nordeen. Nays: None. Absent: Chairperson Derocha and Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0)

b. Airfield Crack Sealing Contract

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport staff is requesting Marquette County Board of Commissioners consider awarding the construction agreement for pavement marking and crack sealing on the airfield. This project is part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) entitlement funding with 95% Federal, 2.5% State, and 2.5% local shares.

This project was advertised across several venues. Bid opening occurred on April 24, 2026 and two responsive proposals were received and are summarized below. The engineer's estimate for this project was \$603,074.00.

Company	Engineer's Estimate Mead & Hunt	Scodeller Construction, Inc. Wixom, MI	Fahmer Asphalt Sealers, LLC Iron River, MI
Bid Amount	\$ 603,074.00	\$ 457,707.10	\$ 600,773.10
Percent of Estimate	-	75.90%	99.62%

These proposals reflect a scope of work to repaint the pavement markings on the entire runway and taxiways and provide crack sealing on the runway and portions of the taxiways as well as a portion of the General Aviation apron. This work is scheduled to be completed this construction season, with work estimated to begin in early September.

Mead & Hunt completed a review of all of the bid documents for both bidders as per the FAA requirements and concluded Scodeller to be the lowest responsive bidder and recommend they be awarded the contract. The local share for this construction project will be \$30,929.96.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to award the pavement marking and crack sealing contract to Scodeller Construction, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$457,707.10 and authorize Vice-Chair Nordeen to sign the agreement. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (4-0)

c. Marquette County Board of Commissioners Rules of Order – PULLED FROM AGENDA

d. Marquette County Medical Care Facility Resolution

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MODIFICATION OF FY 2027 MEDICAID RATE CALCULATIONS
TO ADDRESS DIRECT CARE WORKER (DCW) AND NON-CLINICAL WAGE FUNDING
CHANGES**

WHEREAS, the FY 2027 State Budget limits Direct Care Worker (DCW) and Non-Clinical Staff wage reimbursement to Medicaid resident days beginning October 1, 2026, and facilities may continue paying these wage enhancements for non-Medicaid resident days but will no longer receive reimbursement for those costs through the current DCW payment methodology; and

WHEREAS, since its implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DCW wage enhancement has become an integral part of Marquette County Medical Care Facility's compensation structure and remains a critical tool for recruiting and retaining direct care staff amid an ongoing workforce shortage; and

WHEREAS, these wage costs remain allowable Medicaid expenses that will ultimately be recognized through Michigan's cost-based reimbursement system, but because they will not be reflected in Medicaid rates until future cost reports are incorporated into the rate-setting process, Marquette County Medical Care Facility will experience a significant cash flow delay despite eventually recovering a portion of these costs; and

WHEREAS, a proposal has been advanced requesting that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) modify the October 1, 2026 Medicaid rate calculation by removing the DCW and Non-Clinical Staff wage reimbursement revenue offset from the 2025 Medicaid cost reports used to establish FY 2027 Medicaid rates, thereby allowing the associated allowable costs to be appropriately reflected in the Medicaid per diem beginning October 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this approach would allow providers, including Marquette County Medical Care Facility, to submit an adjusted FY 2025 Medicaid cost report (or other department-approved adjustment) removing the DCW and Non-Clinical wage reimbursement revenue offset, so that adjusted allowable costs flow through the existing Medicaid rate-setting methodology using provider-submitted data, minimizing administrative complexity; and

WHEREAS, freezing the support-to-base ratio limits at their FY 2026 levels for purposes of developing FY 2027 Medicaid rates would help ensure that the adjustment is fully reflected in each facility's Variable Cost Limit (VCL) and Medicaid operating rate, while preserving the integrity of the existing reimbursement methodology; and

WHEREAS, this proposal requires no new payment mechanism, limits reimbursement to Medicaid resident days consistent with the FY 2027 budget's policy, reduces administrative burden by avoiding a separate settlement or reconciliation process, and helps address the cash flow disruption created by the FY 2027 budget changes by incorporating adjusted allowable costs into the FY 2027 rate calculation beginning October 1, 2026;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the proposed modification to the FY 2027 Medicaid rate calculation methodology described above, including removal of the DCW and Non-Clinical wage reimbursement revenue offset from the 2025 Medicaid

cost reports and a freeze of the FY 2026 support-to-base ratio limits for purposes of developing FY 2027 Medicaid rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes Marquette County Medical Care Facility's Administration to communicate this support to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and other relevant state officials, and to take such further action as may be necessary to advocate for adoption of this rate methodology change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be submitted to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners for review and concurrence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution was duly adopted by formal vote of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners at a regular monthly meeting.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to adopt the Resolution Supporting Modification of FY2027 Medicaid Rate Calculations to Address Direct Care Worker (DCW) and Non-Clinical Wage Funding Changes. Second by Comm. LaLonde. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde and Vice-Chair Nordeen. Nays: None. Absent: Comm. Numinen and Chairperson Derocha. Motion adopted (4-0)

e. Bahrman Trucking Lease Amendment

David Erhart, Airport Manager was present to explain the following: On October 1, 2023, the County of Marquette entered into an agreement with Bahrman Trucking Inc to lease AL-02, a parking lot area situated on an approximately 3-acre parcel, used for storage of trailers and other business-related infrastructure. The current agreement expires on September 30, 2026 and the tenant has expressed the desire to amend the agreement to grant another term of similar length.

Lease Amendment Particulars:

- Term – 36-month extension of previous Lease terms - October 1, 2026, through September 2029
- Monthly rent - \$1529.82 per acre per annum for a total of \$4,589.46 per month with a 3% annual escalator.
- Updated language to reflect current practices, such as the six-month no-cause termination clause.

Staff is seeking the Board's approval to draft a lease amendment between the County of Marquette and Bahrman Trucking per the terms established in the attached Letter of Intent bearing the signature of David Erhart, Airport Manager, and Gregory Bahrman, representing Bahrman Trucking.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the terms established in the signed Letter of Intent, direct Staff to draft a lease amendment between the County of Marquette and Bahrman, Inc. dba Bahrman Trucking, and authorize Vice-Chair Nordeen to execute the lease amendment. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (4-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm, Marquette** commented on the Tyler CADD System stating she does not work for Marquette County and spoke about how many folks are asking her to look into this situation, but she doesn't have access to the County documents. There are 15 Counties in the U.P. and consider that when making your decision.
- **Karen Kovacs, Marquette** stated how difficult the Boards job is as a whole. Spoke about the City of Marquette Resolution supporting Tyler Technologies when choosing the 911 System. Urged the County Board work with the City of Marquette and all the parties involved. Would like a cooperative working relationship.
- **Jeff Chiodi, Marquette County Conservation District** reminded the board he sent each board member a packet and he will be present for the Budget Hearing Work Session.

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. Benzie** spoke about 10c) that was pulled from the agenda. If we give an individual, an opportunity to act as a Gatekeeper our rules must include a safety belt. Urged Civil Counsel to explore that if the Gatekeeper refuses to put an item on the agenda that any Commissioner must have a clear path to bring an item forward without this the Gatekeeper has unconstitutional power over an Elected Officials Duties.
Also, communication between Tyler Technologies and Motorola seems unclear, I hear all the chatter and thank you for coming, I don't have the expertise in the 911 field. Concerned about the legal ramifications around Tyler and that needs to be cleared up so we do not end up in a legal quagmire. I want to ask for is a continuing agenda item on the 911 system so we can continue the discussion. We need an Iron-Clad contract.
- **Comm. LaLonde** stated she would like the CADD System to be on the next agenda as well. Also, stated we are listening and cooperating with each municipality. Found the Resolution irritating from the City of Marquette felt that they are trying to govern over us. However, now that Ms. Kovacs has explained that made more sense. 10) She is not down with it; this would limit County Commissioners duties to their constituents.
- **Comm. Alholm** is not in favor of 10c) the way it is written. Also, Congratulated Clerk Talsma on the Award from her Peers, for being best of the best for Clerks in Michigan.
- **Vice-Chair Nordeen** congratulated Clerk Talsma stating how tirelessly she works to make sure the Elections are handled with the utmost attention they deserve. Also, is in agreement to learning more on the CADD System and which vendor would work for Marquette County. Motorola will be doing a presentation soon.

14. CLOSED SESSION

- 15. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:13 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Bill Nordeen, Vice-Chair
Marquette County Board of Commissioners