

September 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

U-401

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., Chairperson Mark Stauber called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present; Chairperson Mark Stauber, Commissioner Ean Bruette, Jacob Conery, Pete Judd, Patti Peretto.

Also present: Administrator Lynette Lorenz, Court Administrator Summer Olson, Equalization Director Amy Bucek, Deputy Equalization Director Julie Harp, Sheriff Ryan Boehmke, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti, and Clerk/Register Amy Donati.

Approval of the Minutes: Moved by Peretto, supported by Bruette, to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 11, 2026.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Peretto supported by Bruette, to approve the agenda with the following additional change:

A. Friends of Cooks Run Presentation to move to A. in Old Business

I. Approval to sign easement of Cold Storage Building

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items Only (3 minutes max.)

Becky Jorgensen gave comment in support of Friends of Cooks Run Proposal.

Betty Premo gave comment in support of Friends of Cooks Run Proposal.

Richard Sloat gave comment in support of not logging near the Cooks Run Stream.

Maggie Scheffer gave comment in support of Friends of Cooks Run Proposal.

Jeff Dahl gave comment in support of Friends of Cooks Run Proposal.

Scott Ford gave comment in support of not logging Cooks Run.

Bill Ziegler gave comment on his experience as a DNR Biologist and working in the Cooks Run area.

Kent Premo gave comment in on Cooks Run and future generations.

Monthly Financials:

Moved by Bruette, supported by Conery, to approve the monthly payables for August in the amount of \$320,602.70 and payroll for August in the amount of \$396,649.94.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Stauber

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Bruette, supported by Conery, to approve journal entries 25867 through 25965 for August in the amount of \$4,725,112.28, submitted by Treasurer Melanie Camps, 15 of which are administratively approved budget amendments in the amount of \$202,187.00.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Conery, Stauber

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Reports:

Bruette: None currently

Conery: None currently

Judd: Commissioner Judd reported that the City of Iron River has completed the large sewer project in the City and that paving has nearly completed. Commissioner Judd also reported that the City of Iron River recently hired a new Zoning Administrator. Lastly, Commissioner Judd reported that the Bates Hall Preservation Society has recently advertised for bids for the Bates Township Hall.

Peretto: Commissioner Peretto reported that the Iron County Fair had a great turnout and that it was very clean with a lot more rides than previous years. Commissioner Peretto reported that the Fair Board is considering a three year contract with the current carnival vendor, but she will know more after the next Fair Board meeting.

Stauber: Commissioner Stauber reported that he received a lot of great comments from the public about the County Fair. Commissioner Stauber also reported that the Material Management meeting will not be held this month. Commissioner Stauber reported that the Authority of Aging Board still has open seats. Lastly, Commissioner Stauber reported that the fiberoptics project that has been happening in Iron County is almost completed.

Moved by Bruette, supported by Conery, to approve Commissioner Reports.

Voice Vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Department Reports:

Civil Counsel: Attorney Tinti reported that both RFPs for Cooks Run currently have a few legal issues involving wording with reverts and third-party approval that need to be addressed before approval by the County Commissioners is given.

Sheriff Department: Sheriff Boehmke reported that that annual cleaning and disposing of allowable evidence was completed last week. Sheriff Boehmke also reported that the Sheriff's Department has one full-time and two part-time employees who passed exams and that one employee will be going to the month long academy.

Moved by Conery, supported by Bruette, to approve Department Reports.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried

Friends of Cooks Run presentation – Don Litner Chair: **No action taken**

Old Business:

Cooks Run Proposals: **Moved by Peretto, supported Bruette to accept Friends of Cooks Run Request for Proposal with corrections of Legal Issues approved by Civil Counsel.**

Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Peretto

Nays: Conery, Judd, Stauber

Motion failed.

Moved by Judd, supported by Bruette to table Cooks Run Proposals.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Conery, Judd, Stauber

Nays: Peretto

Motion carried.

MERS Defined Benefit: Moved by Bruette, supported by Conery to approve Benefit Change: Iron County (36060) – Divisions 01, 02, 10, and 11. Change MERS defined benefit from 55 years old and 15 years to 25 years and done. Also to approve employer required contribution lump sum of \$163,795.00, 100% of the increased liability associated with the benefit enhancement. Budget amendment: Decrease, 101-806-969.470, Approp. Count Prop Repair, \$163,795.00; increase, Defined Benefit, \$163,795.00.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Conery, Judd, Stauber
Nays: Peretto**

Motion carried.

RFP – Roy Fulfer Building: Moved by Conery, supported by Bruette to accept Matt Riutta \$1,200.00 bid.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Stauber
Nays: None**

Motion carried.

New Business:

Health and Human Services Board – Mike Hedtke: Moved by Peretto, supported by Judd to appoint Mike Hedtke for a 3 year term, November 1, 2026 – October 31, 2029.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried

Authority on Aging – Fay Frailing: Moved by Conery, supported by Bruette to appoint Fay Frailing for a 1 year term effective September, 8, 2026.

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried

CLA Audit Extension Agreement for FY 2026, 2027 and 2028: Moved by Bruette, supported by Conery to approve the extension of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP agreement for auditing services to include 2026, 2027 and 2028.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Stauber
Nays: None**

Motion carried.

Maximus Cost Allocation Plan FY 2025: Moved by Judd, supported by Peretto to accept Maximus Cost Allocation Plan FY 2025.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Conery, Stauber
Nays: None**

Motion carried.

Prosecutor Drug Forfeiture Fund: Moved by Bruette, supported by Conery to approve budget amendment as follows: Increase 264-000-662.000, Forfeiture-Drug, \$3,500.00; increase 264-000-700.200, Law Enforcement Expenditures, \$3,500.00.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Peretto, Bruette, Conery, Judd, Stauber
Nays: None**

Motion carried.

Amendment to Material Management Grant - EAGLE: Moved by Peretto, supported by Judd to accept the Amendment to the Materials Management Planning Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and Iron County and to add \$88,631.00 in grant funds for a new Total Project budget of \$151,631.00.

**Roll call vote: Ayes: Bruette, Conery, Judd, Peretto, Stauber
Nays: None**

Motion carried.

Quote for Microphone upgrades BOC room: **Moved by Judd, supported by Bruette to accept the quote from Jim's Music & Teaching Center of \$2,601.47 to upgrades the Board of Commissioners room microphones. Payment from line, 470-000-809.000, Professional Services.**

Roll call vote: Ayes: Conery, Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Stauber

Nays: None

Motion carried.

\$25.00 Phone Stipend for Building and Grounds Supervisor: **Moved by Peretto, supported by Bruette to approve a \$25.00 per month phone stipend for Building and Grounds Supervisor.**

Roll call vote: Ayes: Judd, Peretto, Bruette, Conery, Stauber

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approval to sign easement of Cold Storage Building: **Moved by Conery, supported by Bruette to allow Board Chair and County Clerk to sign Cold Storage Building Easement document.**

Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried

Public Comment:

Betty Premo made comment on logging at Cooks Run.

Richard Sloat thanked the County Commissioner in regard to Cooks Run.

Announcements:

Special meeting of the County Board of Commissioners is Wednesday, September, 9, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to meet with department heads and preparation of the FY 2027 All Funds Budget.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings held at the Courthouse.

NCAA – Connor Sports – Cooks Run Education Event will take place on Monday, October 5, 2026 at Cooks Run.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Conery, supported by Bruette, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Chairperson, Mark Stauber

Clerk/Register, Amy Donati