Proceedings
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
August 18, 2026

The Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the Circuit courtroom. At the call to order the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call showed all present.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the minutes of the 07/21/2026 regular meeting with two corrections: in paragraph 10 Resolution 2025-05 should be 2026-05 with a a motion by Store and failed by lack of support and the Special Budget meeting minutes from 8/12/2026 as presented.

Public comment: Marlene Broemer and Paul Olson spoke.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Store and carried to approve the agenda with the addition of 21a letter of resignation of Alan Tulppo from the Ontonagon County Department of Health and Human Services Board and 21b permission to advertise to fill the board vacancy.

By motion of Cane and seconded by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the presentation by Brendon Presnell (WUPPDR) requesting that 2% ($26,860 estimated) be allotted to equipment in MMP Round 2 budget.

Presentation by Paul Putnam from MSU with updates and handouts regarding MSU programs.

No action was taken regarding summary of consistency for proposed K & W Landfill expansion and the board will look over all the information and will take action at the September 15th, 2026 meeting.

By motion by Bourdeau supported by Nousiainen and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Commission on Aging's millage renewal.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to formally approve the GOCAA letter of support for FY27 Senior Meals.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Airport Contract for crack and seal and pavement markings.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve Airport request for a fuel transfer tank and pump in the amount of $3,050.00.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Nousiainen and carried on a 3-2 roll call vote to approve Resolution 2026-05 Opposing Legislation to Dissolve the Upper Peninsula Community Health System into a Single Specialized Regional Mental Health Authority.

RESOLUTION 2026-05
OPPOSING LEGISLATION TO DISSOLVE THE UPPER PENINSULA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM INTO A SINGLE SPECIALIZED REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Community Mental Health (CMH) and Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) system has historically operated under a decentralized, community-based model intended to preserve local control, responsiveness, and accountability to the residents of each county; and

WHEREAS, Senator McBroom's proposal would require the dissolution and consolidation of all five Upper Peninsula CMHs into a single specialized regional mental health authority, thereby transferring governance and operational authority from local entities to a centralized regional structure; and

WHEREAS, the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners recognizes and appreciates efforts to improve behavioral health outcomes in the Upper Peninsula, including efforts to expand access to psychiatric inpatient services, the Board finds that the proposed legislation presents substantial governance, policy, and fiscal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation is inconsistent with the longstanding principles of the Michigan Mental Health Code, which has favored decentralized, community-driven CMH systems over centralized institutional models; and

WHEREAS, a single specialized regional authority serving all fifteen Upper Peninsula counties would reduce local responsiveness and community control by removing decision-making authority from locally based CMH programs that understand the distinct geographic, demographic, and service delivery needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would effectively expose counties to expanded and potentially uncapped fiscal liability by eliminating the current statutory framework that defines and limits county financial responsibility, including formula-based protections established under Michigan law; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed structure, counties could become jointly responsible for the financial performance and obligations of a single specialized regional entity without clear statutory limits on deficits, extraordinary costs, capital obligations, or long-term psychiatric inpatient liabilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would require the single specialized regional entity to assume responsibility for long-term psychiatric inpatient services, including facility ownership or leasing, staffing, and operations, without clearly identified and sustainable funding parameters; and

WHEREAS, psychiatric inpatient services are capital-intensive and historically underfunded, and any expansion of inpatient capacity must account for workforce constraints, regulatory requirements, and the limitations on the use of Medicaid and opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the County Board believes that durable improvements in behavioral health services in the Upper Peninsula should be developed through consultation with subject matter experts, local providers, county officials, and community stakeholders in a manner that strengthens services without undermining local governance or long-term sustainability; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes legislation that would dissolve the existing Upper Peninsula Community Mental Health system into a single specialized regional mental health authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners urges the Michigan Legislature and all relevant policymakers to reject any proposal that removes local control, weakens community responsiveness, or imposes uncertain and potentially unlimited fiscal liability upon counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners supports collaborative, sustainable, and community-driven approaches to strengthening behavioral health services in the Upper Peninsula, including solutions that address access, workforce, funding, and inpatient capacity without compromising local accountability.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan Senate, the Michigan House of Representatives, Senator Ed McBroom, and other interested parties.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED BY ONTONAGON COUNTY ON _____, 2026.

_____ _____

Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chairperson Date

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to not enter into an agreement regarding Greenland water sampling agreement.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Remonumentation Proposal which includes 8 corners @$1800.00 per corner total would be $14,400.00.

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Cane and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the VSO request to attend the NACVSO virtual training in the amount of $400.00

By motion of Nousiainen supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the nomination of Dave Nance to the Ontonagon County Veteran's Board.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the request from Renee Pantti, Equalization Director, for a new printer in the amount of $830.42.

By motion of Cane supported by Nousiainen and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the purchase of a B7135H model printer for the second floor in the amount of $3,267.00.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Store and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the FY 2027 Child Care Fund budget

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve Resolution 2026-06 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

RESOLUTION 2026-06

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

WHEREAS, Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 91), was passed by the state legislature, this law and all rules promulgated under this law are incorporated by reference in this resolution

WHEREAS, Part 91 requires that the County Board of Commissioners designate a county agency, or conservation district upon the concurrence of the conservation district, as the county enforcing agency responsible for administering and enforcing Part 91 and the rules promulgated under Part 91

WHEREAS, Part 91 provides authority for resolutions to set forth a schedule of fees and to set forth other matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the county program. Fees will be established and periodically revised by separate action of the County Board. Permit fees will be doubled if work starts without a permit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontonagon County Soil Erosion Agency is hereby designated the Ontonagon County Enforcing Agency responsible for administering and enforcing Part 91 and the rules promulgated under Part 91.

By motion of Commissioner Cane supported by Commissioner Bourdeau, and carried on a roll call vote, this resolution is declared adopted.

Aye: Cane, Bourdeau, Store, Nousiainen, Nykanen
Nay: None
Abstention: None
Absent: None

_____ August 18, 2026
Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair Date

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to accept the resignation of Alan Tulppo from the Ontonagon County Department of Health and Human Services Board.

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the advertise the Ontonagon County Department of Health and Human Services Board vacancy.

By motion of Cane supported by Bourdeau and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve payment of the following:

(101) General Fund $56,831.66, (210) SONCO $175,000 (211) OCAP Fund $0.00, (215) FOC Fund $0.00, (253) 911 Equipment Fund $0.00, (256) ROD Automation Fund $750.00, (257) Veteran's Van Fund $0.00, (259) CAA Fund $0.00, (260) Indigent Defense Fund $0.00, (261) 911 Service Fund $21,567.77, (263) CPL Fund $42.59, (269) Law Library Fund $1,612.60, (280) Senior Citizens Fund $0.0 (288) Public Transit Fund $1,132.17, (292) PCCF $247.73, (296) Veterans Service Grant Fund $0.00 & (525) Foreclosure Fund $0.00 totaling $257,184.52.

Prepaid bills from 7/16/26 – 8/12/26 (101) General Fund $68,186.33, (251) Land Bank Fund $0.00, (256) ROD Automation Fund $0.00, (260) MIDC Fund $6,729.10, (261) 911 Service Fund $2,362.55, (263) CPL Fund $0.00, (264) Corrections Officer Training Fund $0.00, (269) Law Library Fund $0.00, (271) Library Board Fund $7,717.82, (288) Transit Fund $13,575.46, (292) PCCF $1,356.92, (296) VSO Fund $0.00, (525) Foreclosure Fund $16,501.32. Total prepaids $116,429.50.

Payroll periods ending 7/17/2026 & 7/31/26 (101) General Fund $168,037.04, (260) MIDC Fund $459.69 (261) 911 Service Fund $2,370.24, (288) Transit Fund $29,541.20, (292) PCCF $3,278.80 Total payroll $203,686.97.

Committee reports: Bob Nousiainen and Carl Nykanen

Department Head reports: None

Other business: None

Agenda requests: None

Public comment: Paula Domitrovich

By motion of Bourdeau supported by Cane and carried to adjourn to the call of the Chair at 4:46 p.m.

_____ _____

Carl Nykanen, Chair Jerri Corey, Chief Deputy Clerk

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