Proceedings
Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2026

The Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 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 commissioners present.

By motion of Bourdeau, supported by Store, and carried to approve the minutes of the 01/20/2026 regular meeting.

Public comment: Mike Hinrichs, Carp Lake Township Supervisor, spoke regarding zoning ordinances and enforcement.

By motion of Bourdeau, supported by Cane, and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Ryan DeHut gave Ontonagon County Road Commission updates.

By motion of Cane, supported by Bourdeau, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to set a meeting between the Forestry Committee and Green Timber Forestry.

By motion of Cane, supported by Nousiainen, and carried on a 5-0 roll vote to accept Diane Hougaboom's resignation from and appoint Doug Muskett to the MIDC's coordinator position.

By motion of Bourdeau, supported by Store, and carried on 5-0 roll call vote to accept Bruce Johanson's application to the Township Library Board.

By motion of Nousiainen, supported by Store, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Health Committee board members.

By motion of Cane, supported by Bourdeau, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Marine Safety Program Grant application in the amount of $9,909.00.

By motion of Cane, supported by Nousiainen, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Local Corrections Officer Training Grant application in the amount of $5,786.28.

By motion of Bourdeau, supported by Store, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve the Nationwide Financial Services, Inc. Governmental 457(b) Plan Adoption Agreement.

By motion of Cane, supported by Nousiainen, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve a travel request for County Clerk Stacy Preiss and Deputy County Clerk Haley Rasmussen to attend quarterly UP Clerks meeting and Election Training in the amount of $476.50.

By motion of Bourdeau, supported by Store, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve a travel request and cash advance to Matt Hagen to take the MCAP Test in the amount of $582.79.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-03

IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN HOUSE BILLS 5152 AND 5153

WHEREAS, the Office of the Register of Deeds is charged with maintaining accurate, accessible, and secure land records that form the foundation of real property ownership, economic development, and public trust in local governments; and

WHEREAS, predatory practices have been identified where third-party firms target vulnerable residents who are facing mortgage foreclosure and convince them to sell either their property or their statutory rights to surplus foreclosure proceeds and redemption for a fraction of the true value, often stripping residents of tens of thousands of dollars in home equity; and

WHEREAS, House Bills 5152 and 5153 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, providing critical protection for homeowners during mortgage foreclosure proceedings; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5153 would directly stop this predatory model by making a mortgagor's right to surplus money and right of redemption non-assignable and non-transferable after a notice of foreclosure is recorded, except through legitimate testate or intestate succession; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5152 would further protect homeowners by requiring a mandatory "Notice of Rights" for any conveyance of property after a foreclosure notice is recorded, ensuring the seller fully understands they are waiving their rights to redemption, occupancy, and surplus proceeds; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds recognizes that one of the roles of the Register of Deeds Office is to protect the property rights of the public and recognizes House Bills 5152 and 5153 are securing said rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds fully supports House Bills 5152 and 5153, which will protect State of Michigan residents from foreclosure fraud, preserve home equity for families, and reduce the burden on local government resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontonagon Board of Commissioners are also in support of House Bills 5152 and 5153 which will safeguard Ontonagon County's residents during the foreclosure process and lessen the strain on county resources.

ADOPTED: February 17, 2026

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Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair

By motion of Cane, supported by Store, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve Transit 2026 5311 Operating Funds in the amount of $173,209.00.

By motion of Cane, supported by Bourdeau, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to formally approve Transit 2025 5311 Capital Grant in the amount of $92,250.00.

By motion of Nousiainen, supported by Bourdeau, and carried on a 5-0 roll call vote to approve purchase of new computers for the Equalization Department in the amount of $3,264.00.

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

(101) General Fund $136,373.54, (256) ROD Automation Fund $670.00, (257) Veteran's Van Fund $1232.00, (259) CAA Fund $35,000.00, (260) Indigent Defense Fund $129.00, (261) 911 Service Fund $20,981.19, (263)

CPL Fund $42.59, (269) Law Library Fund $616.60, (288) Transit Fund $671.20, (292) PCCF $151.02, (525) Foreclosure Fund $2,461.31.

Prepaid bills from 1/15/2026 – 2/11/2026 (101) $109,434.44, (251) Landbank Fund $250.00, (260) Indigent Defense Fund $8,099.00, (261) $379.04, (288) $28,654.67, (292) PCCF $1,637.43, (525) $20,878.23.

Payroll periods ending 1/16/2026 & 1/30/2026 (101) $172,473.79, (260) $413.64, (261) $2,370.24, (288) Transit Fund $28,704.04, (292) PCCF $3,278.80.

Committee Reports: None

Department Head Reports: None

Other Business:

Ron Store appointed to Ontonagon County Land Bank Authority
County Clerk Stacy Preiss submitted her retirement letter to the board.

Agenda Requests: None

Public Comment: William Stone asked questions regarding the Healthcare Committee.

By motion of Nousiainen, supported by Cane, and carried to adjourn to the call of the chair at 4:49p.m.

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Carl Nykanen, Chair Haley Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk