

**EMMET COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
200 DIVISION ST. PETOSKEY, MI 49770
April 17, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Dave White, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members present: Chuck Laughbaum, Brett Gooding, Don Mapes, Rich Ginop, Brian Gutowski, Dave White, Matt Koontz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

White thanked Boyer and the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) staff for their work through the recent unprecedented ice storm that covered all of Northern Michigan. He stated how proud he is of the community and how it overcame the challenges of the storm. Other commissioners agreed and added how incredible the performance and support was from the Sheriff's Department, Petoskey Public Safety, and other first responders and community entities.

Motion by Commissioner Gutowski and seconded by Commissioner Mapes to approve the agenda as printed. Motion passed by voice vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Motion

Motion by Commissioner Mapes and seconded by Commissioner Laughbaum to approve the consent agenda and all items contained therein, and authorize the County Administrator to sign the attached items on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

DPW- Electronic Material Recycling Agreement Addendum

DPW- Geo Cycle Tire Recycling Agreement Renewal

DPW- BARC Mattress Recycle Agreement Renewal

Advanced Correctional Health Agreement (ACH)

March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPEARANCES

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Report

Dave Boyer gave the attached update. (attachment #1)

CCE Board Minutes

Finance Report

Pam Gibson reported that in February 2025, Emmet County received 3% of its budgeted revenues and spent 14% of its budgeted expenditures.

White asked about overtime budgets due to the ice storm. Boyer noted that there will be a debrief and possible state money to recoup those costs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CLAIMS

Claims and Committee and Travel Voucher Approval

Motion by Commissioner Gutowski and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to approve payment of the claims in the amount of \$1,922,499.05 and for payment of the committee and travel vouchers in the amount of \$4,457.42. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING - Emmet County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion by Commissioner Gutowski and seconded by Commissioner Mapes to open the public hearing. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Stephanie Marchbanks noted that she incorporated a summary of the ice storm into the winter weather section of the plan. In addition, the plan was updated to include input from Springvale, Maple River, and Littlefield Townships. Townships that did not participate are Wawatam, Carp Lake, and Bliss. Stephanie also noted that she received input from the DNR and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Boyer clarified that later in the agenda the Board will be voting to forward the plan to MSP to review, after which it will be sent to FEMA. Any comments made during this hearing will be added to the plan.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Commissioner Ginop and seconded by Brett Gooding to close public hearing. Motion

passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

International Compost Awareness Week

Motion by Commissioner Mapes and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to approve the attached Proclamation recognizing May 4-10, 2025 as International Compost Awareness Week. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

DPW- 3 Yard Grapple Bucket Bid Approval

Motion by Commissioner Koontz and seconded by Commissioner Mapes to approve the proposed purchase of a 3 yard grapple bucket from Michigan Cat, in the amount of \$21,292.13, pending a suitable sales agreement to be determined by Civil Counsel and the Administrator and authorize the County Administrator to sign required documents to complete the purchase.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

DPW- Tote Lid Fee

Motion by Commissioner Gutowski and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to approve the Department of Public Works to implement a \$10.00 charge for tote lids, effective May 1, 2025. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Approval of Equalization 2025 Annual Report and L-4024

Motion by Commissioner Mapes and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to accept and approve the 2025 Equalization Report and authorize the Chair David White, County Clerk Suzanne Kanine, and Director of Equalization, Ravyn Schneider to sign the Statements of Acreages and Valuations (L-4024) as equalized by the Honorable Members of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Hazard Mitigation Plan- Approval for MSP and FEMA review

Motion by Commissioner Koontz and seconded by Brett Gooding to approve the submission of the Emmet County Hazard Mitigation plan to the Michigan State Police and FEMA for review.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Earned Sick Leave Act policy (ESTA)

Motion by Commissioner Koontz and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to approve the changes to the Emmet County Personnel Handbook for sections 25.4 – Earned Sick Time policy, 25.1 – Vacation as amended, and 25.2 General Leave as presented to ensure compliance with the State of Michigan's Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA). Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

APPOINTMENTS

Historical Commission

Motion by Commissioner Gutowski and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to appoint Courtney Graham to the Historical Commission. Motion passed by voice vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Community Corrections Advisory Board

The Board asked civil council if they could appoint a non Emmet County resident to this Board.

Mr. Joppich asked the Board to table the item to give him time to research the issue.

Motion by Commissioner Ginop and seconded by Commissioner Gutowski to table this item to give civil council time to research it. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

(Returned to item after Public Comment at 7:17 p.m.)

Motion by Commissioner Gutowski and seconded by Commissioner Mapes to un-table the appointment to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Motion passed by voice vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Joppich noted that the Board Rules state that members of their committees must be Emmet County residents. However, if a committee is governed by statute, the statute may allow for non-residents to serve on the committee. In this case, the Community Corrections Advisory Board is governed by statute, and the statute allows for 1-3 members of the committee to be from the "services area" of the community. According to her application Stephanie Hector falls into this category. Mr. Joppich advised the Board that Ms. Hector would qualify for this position.

Motion by Commissioner Koontz and seconded by Commissioner Ginop to appoint Anthony Peters and Stephanie Hector to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Motion passed by voice vote.

Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

COMMUNICATIONS

Boyer noted a request for a resolution to bring Amtrak to Mackinaw City. The Board directed Boyer to prepare a draft resolution to be presented at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sherriff Leirstein commented that he is proud of his team and thanked Matt Blythe for his work with the EOC.

Matt Blythe noted that it was a long three weeks as no one has seen anything like this in Northern Michigan before. The storm was compared to a hurricane that sat over the area for three days and dropped ice and snow. Everyone worked hard to make sure everyone was taken care of and it was done right.

Laughbaum attended a meeting at the EOC on April 7 where he heard from a family that came to help relief efforts for the storm. He also attended an airport meeting noting that fuel sales are down but passengers are up 21%. They also approved a hanger lease. He noted that a plow truck is still down, and there are concerns about fixing and maintaining the deicing truck. Laughbaum concluded with the airport by noting a grant was received through Sky West for advertising. Laughbaum also attended the Mackinaw City Revenue Sharing Board meeting where Jeff Curth was appointed to the board and Scott Newman was appointed as chair. They allocated \$19,175 for public safety and also disbursed \$117,226. Laughbaum concluded by submitting a proposed resolution regarding power outages to be discussed at the next meeting. (see attachment #2)

Gooding had no report.

Mapes gave the attached report. (attachment #3) He added that the Oden Safety Committee is seeking letters of support for a \$50,000 grant to do a pedestrian study. The study could lead to a reduction of the speed limit through the Oden area along the highway. While not all commissioners support a reduction of the speed limit in that area, they agreed to a letter of support to do the pedestrian study. The Board directed Boyer to draft a letter of support.

Ginop reported that the Crooked River Locks will start new hours of operation at the end of the month. The well, and the restrooms at the locks are being worked on and should be completed soon. Ginop noted that when opening the locks water was being let out too fast. Going forward water will be let out slower to prevent flooding down-river. Ginop also attended a table top exercise organized by the emergency manager at circuit control. The Veteran's Committee is working through state funding cuts. Ginop read the names of fallen soldiers. He concluded with noting that Antrim County is looking to join the S.A.N.E. team.

Gutowski gave the attached report. (attachment #4)

Koontz gave the attached report. (attachment #5)

White gave the attached report. (attachment #6)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Marchbanks thanked the Board for the letter of support for the Oden Safety Committee pedestrian study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on May 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners room, 200 Division St. Petoskey, 49770.

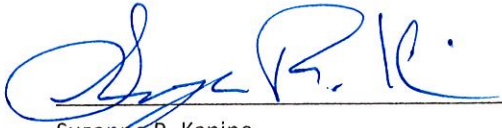
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Ginop and seconded by Brett Gooding to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.

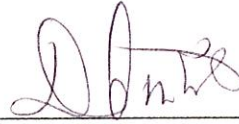
Yes - Ginop, Gooding, Gutowski, Koontz, Laughbaum, Mapes, White

No -

Dated: 5/5/2025



Suzanne R. Kanine
Emmet County Clerk



David M. White
Board Chair, Emmet County Board of Commissioners

Emmet County Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 17, 2025

Administrator's Report

The recent ice storm has left a profound impact on our region, causing widespread power outages, road closures, and damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. This storm, described as one of the most severe in over a century.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the emergency crews, staff, utility workers, and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to restore power, clear roads, and provide essential services. Their dedication and hard work are a testament to the strength of our community.

Below is a summary of events over the past two weeks: This brief overview captures the key occurrences in our community during the aftermath of the recent ice storm.

Storm Update – Timeline of Events

March 28, 2025 (Friday - Storm Begins):

Severe ice storm conditions began, causing initial power outages across the county.

March 29, 2025 (Saturday):

Heavy ice accumulation led to **massive power outages** across Emmet County, with **93% of residents affected** at the storm's peak.

Sheriff's Office crews started clearing fallen trees from roadways to maintain accessibility and safety.

March 30, 2025 (Sunday):

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) leadership, County Administration, and the Board Chair convened to strategize relief efforts.

A **local state of emergency declaration** was prepared and submitted to the State for formalizing the response and accessing resources.

March 31, 2025 (Monday):

The EOC became fully staffed and operational, managing logistics and recovery efforts. Staff remained fully engaged through **April 5, 2025**.

Monday the State Declared a state of Emergency which opened up the National Guard, DNR, and MDOT resources for the county.

April 3/4, 2025 (Thursday):

Debris Management Updates: Seven free drop-off locations for tree debris announced, helping residents begin clean-up efforts.

National Guard arrived – door-to-door resident's checks and assisted with opening roads.

April 6, 2025 (Sunday):

The EOC transitioned to **daily briefings and strategic planning**, focusing on recovery efforts across the county.

April 7, 2025 (Monday):

Volunteer Reception Center Established: Volunteers recruited to assist with recovery efforts, with registrations facilitated through Volunteer Michigan.

Debris Management Updates: Seven free drop-off locations for tree debris announced, helping residents begin clean-up efforts.

April 8, 2025 (Tuesday):

Damage Assessment Initiated: Ground and aerial teams deployed to survey the storm's impact.

Shelters Expanded: Facilities opened to provide food, water, medical care, and essential services for residents still affected by outages.

April 9, 2025 (Wednesday):

Free Building Permits Announced: Storm-related repair permits issued at no cost to alleviate financial strain.

Residents encouraged to follow **safe contracting practices** and report suspicious behavior.

Additional debris disposal updates shared with the community.

April 10, 2025 (Thursday):

Power Restoration Progress: Significant improvements reported, with updates available via the Great Lakes Energy outage map.

Southern Debris Disposal Location Planned: Efforts began to establish an additional drop-off site for better accessibility.

Permit Hotline Launched: New hotline created to assist residents with storm damage-related repairs and permitting inquiries.

Shelter Closures Announced: Changes to operational hours and closures for facilities such as Resort Township Hall and Holy Childhood of Jesus Catholic Church. Some shelters, like Epsilon Community Church, expanded services to include hot showers and laundry facilities.

Public encouraged to stay informed via the County website, BeAlert Emergency Notification System, and social media.

Planning and Zoning

The Planning & Zoning Department issued fewer Zoning and Soil Erosion permits in March of 2024 as compared to 2023. The weather likely played a significant role in the number of permits issued.

The Planning Commission (PC) reviewed three cases in March. One case, a Preliminary Planned Unit Development for multiple family housing (240-units) in Bear Creek Township, south of Intertown Road, was approved on a 6-1 vote. The approval authorizes the applicant to proceed to the Final PUD and Site Plan Review process. An amendment to a site plan for an office and new drive thru coffee shop was approved for the former Chase Bank site at 1211 US 31 Hwy in Bear Creek Township. A dilapidated single-family dwelling located on the corner of Anderson Road and US 131 Highway in Bear Creek Township was approved for a change of use to an office.

The Zoning Board of Appeals approved one case in Bliss Township for a front yard setback variance to add onto an existing single family dwelling.

Staff participated in the following:

- Attended a Zoning Atlas workshop sponsored by Housing North.
- Attended a 2-day Land Division Act webinar.
- Attended the Heritage Route Committee special Zoom meeting. This meeting is related to the Readmond Township planning project being initiated along the Heritage Route for a potential park/rest area type facility along the Tunnel of Trees.
- Participated with the Leadership Little Traverse Class leading a mock planning commission meeting with the class.
- Attended a pipeline safety meeting (8-1-1).
- Met with Village of Alanson officials to discuss possible collaboration/cooperation regarding zoning administration.
- Met with a local architect regarding preapproved house plans. Staff has been working on this project to provide a streamlined permitting process for single-family dwellings.
- Staff attended CPR/first aid training.

Veterans Affairs

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has requested that all counties approved for the CVSF grant reduce their grant amounts, in addition to the initial \$50,000. Our per capita per veteran amount has decreased from \$21,304 to \$7,033, leaving us with \$57,033 instead of the initial \$71,304. Staff reduces the veteran emergency assistance program to meet the reduction. This program, which provides emergency assistance to non-war-time veterans who cannot utilize our Soldier and Sailor emergency assistance program, funding reduced from \$20,000 to \$6,000.

2025 Economic Symposium – May 9 Boyne Mountain Resort

This event brings together 300 leaders from across the region and state to tackle complex challenges, make strategic connections, and celebrate the many successes of our communities and businesses in Norther Michigan.

Parks and Recreation

2025 CROOKED RIVER LOCK SCHEDULE

April 28 – May 11	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
May 12 – June 22	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
June 23 – August 3	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
August 4 – September 1	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
September 2 – September 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
October 4 – October 5	9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Sat & Sun Only
October 11 – October 12	9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Sat & Sun Only
October 18 – October 19	9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Sat & Sun Only

2025 Lock Rates: Annual Pass = \$45 Daily Pass = \$15

**Emmet County Board of Commissioners
Resolution
04-17-25**

- 1. We recommend home owners in Emmet County invest in a generator for emergency power and stock up on fuel for it before any major event.**
- 2. We also recommend that gas station owners in Emmet County consider investing in backup power for emergencies.**
- 3. We are also asking the State of Michigan to allow gas station owners who invest in the large cost of backup generators to recoup that cost by adding up to \$.15 per gallon of fuel pumped during a major power outage, without charging them with price gouging.**

The above three ideas are to promote the general well being of citizens and allow them to purchase fuel during a major power outage, to have running water, heat, phone service and cell phone chargers. Also power for their refrigerators and freezers to keep their food from spoiling.

**Respectfully:
The Emmet County Board of Commissioners
04-17-25**

Report for Don Mapes District #3 4/17/25

3/18 Networks Northwest – The commissioners roundtable started at 2pm we had the election of officers Chris Christensen was elected chair and Tim Markey treasurer. Afterward each commissioner introduced themselves and gave a brief description of what was happening in their counties. The nugget I left with was Charlevoix and networks Northwest are co-owners of Beaver Island. I did not know that interesting story behind that. The annual Board meeting Started at 3pm we reelected the officers from last year. We received the 2024 impact statement, we were briefed on their legislative outreach, and heard about their communications outreach in social media. Adjourned 4:30.

3/27 Bay bluffs 8am- The Finances are looking good for February '25, with net income showing in the positive \$302,000 after paying out \$377,000. With cash on hand of 49 days verses 37 days in the first quarter of '24. Occupancy rate shows 82% based on 78 beds. We got a update on the Bay Bluffs Retirement Program. And a renovation up date. It appears that they hit a snag when it came time to move a drain in one of the rooms, It resulted in having to move all residents out of the Birch neighborhood to other areas of the facility, because of fumes and dust. Which has affected available beds space. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by April 25th. Adjourned 10am

4/17 Bay Bluffs 8am-The finances are still looking good for end of month February 25. Looking for a \$164,000 budget surplus end of Feb. They did receive the expected payback from Medicaid for the year 2023 in the amount of \$1.8m. They approved a write off for uncollectable debt 1st Q 25 in the amount of \$40,060. New Business we got a after action report regarding the ice storm. There were several roof leaks around the facility resulting from falling frees and limbs that have since been taken care of. There is still a lot of outside work do regarding fallen trees and debris, they were wondering if they could dip into the millage money to pay for it. Many staff members were allowed to stay at the facility, and took advantages of the showers and laundry facilities. At the request of the city police Dept. some nurses were sent to Shay Elementary Shelter to check on people with minor injuries and minor health problems. On top of the ice storm the state and federal inspectors have been here all week doing there surveys, then the fire Marshall decides to make a random inspection Tuesday finding a violation in the Birch Neighborhood where a lot of renovations are under way. Lisa noted that the emergency action plan came in real handy when the ice storm hit. Strategic planning is scheduled for the next couple of meetings and we got a update on Birch/apple Renovations.

3/21 Road Commission 8am- we heard a report from Anderson-Tackman financial audit report. The pension is 85% funded, there are no other problems short or long term. Very Good Report. Discussion then followed on the Annual report which is due to be presented in in person to us. It shows that 95% of revenue goes to road maintence and 3% goes to Administration. Discussion took place on many other projects including, a new in ground lift, smith road gravel supply, Friendship township tree removal and a new mailbox policy. Adjourned 9:30.

4/11-Road Comm.- yielded another long meeting with 3 appointments 1 being a public hearing. The first was for a multifamily use driveway variance which was denied the homeowner has till June of 26 to reapply, the next was a public hearing for a Greg Rd abandonment, the section between Cemetery Rd and us 131 by Coveyou Farms, after much public input was denied. There was discussion regarding the Pachy Rd. Project bid awarded to Reith Riley, Friendship township tree removal project awarded to

Points north tree service, and discussion regarding seasonal roads, all seasonal roads are closed till further notice. Rd comm. Will be focusing on county roads storm removal before the can start clearing seasonal roads. As seasonal roads are cleared they will be opened up follow the Rd commission web site for further info. Brent noted that lots of overtime has gone into cleanup of the storm, and all county roads are open to traffic although at this time they may only be one lane. Adjourned 9:30

4/9 DPW 8:30AM- They wrote off 4 small charge accounts that were uncollectable. Financially we are doing well going into the summer season where we collect most of our revenue .Under operations, they are fully staffed headed into the summer season other than 2 office staff out on maternity leave, those will cover in-house with a summer intern to pick up the slack., part 115 committee will be meeting may5th, compactor bid was awarded to Speed tech. Other business we approved all of what came before us tonight for final approval. Geo Cycle renewal of contract, BARC Contract, Grapple Bucket, EGLE Merf site License.

4/15 BOH 4: PM- The board of Health called a special meeting to discuss a revision of the 2025 Budget. We were notified of a decrease in Federal Revenue at the beginning of this month effecting our budget in the amount of \$3M Annually. Several adjustments were needed to made. Most impacted will be the closing of the Regional Lab in Gaylord, that closing will result in the loss of 3 positions.

Oden Safety Comm.

Brian A. Gutowski, P.E.
District 5
Emmet County Commissioner
April 17, 2025 Board Meeting

Parks and Rec

The meeting was cancelled for Tuesday, April 1 due to the ice storm.

DPW

The meeting that was scheduled for April 3 was postponed until April 9 due to the ice storm. I was unable to attend the meeting.

Airport

The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 25. Ryan updated the committee on Delta flying the 700 planes that are now reduced from 70 to 50 passengers. Passengers have commented they appreciate the extra room on the planes. Passenger count is at 3,800 versus 3,137 thru February. Because our deicer was down for much of January and February, Airline Jet Fuel sales were down 7% thru February from 2024. General Aviation fuel sales were down 34% and 100LL fuel sales were down 37% from 2024. Total airport operations were at 915 versus 1,035 in 2024. Total revenues were down \$110,000 from February 2024. Expenses were at \$414,459 versus \$452,402 in 2024. The committee recommended approval of a proposed hangar. Ryan let us know the plow truck is still down. A grant has been submitted for new plows and crack seal/paint marking. A grant has been submitted for advertising Skywest & Air Service Task Force funds to promote the new United Flights.

Fair

No meeting.

Northern Michigan Counties Association

The meeting was held March 17 at the Roscommon County Building and Zoom. Due to the weather, 13 of the committee attended via Zoom. Deena Bosworth updated us stating with the split power in the House and Senate, new bills are being slow-tracked. With new federal regulations, any Earmarks requested must be in full compliance with Immigration Laws. MAC is tracking the new Republican bill that would vastly increase road funding by removing the sales tax on gas and converting it to a gas tax. The bulk of the new money would go to county road agencies and cities.

MAC Transportation Committee

The meeting was held March 28 in Lansing and Zoom. We heard from Chris Jones, House Republican Policy spokesman regarding the House Republican Road Funding Plan. The new plan would raise an additional \$3.2 billion. Of the new proposed funding, \$2.5 billion would go to county road agencies and cities. The sales tax on gasoline would be converted to a 20 cents per gallon gas tax. The \$1.3 billion would run through the current formula, 39.1% MDOT, 39.1% County, and 21.8% Cities. In addition, the sales tax on aviation fuel would be removed but replaced with a 7 cents per gallon tax. The Corporate Income Tax would be redirected mainly to local road agencies and would raise \$2.2 billion. MDOT would receive 10% with 90% going to counties and cities.

A new Neighborhood Roads Fund would be created setting aside \$275 million per year for 3 years to help local urban streets and roads. Every agency with local urban streets and roads would receive a minimum amount from the new fund. An additional \$100 million per year would be set aside for local Critical Bridges for 3 years. The new programs would have no match requirements.

We heard the Senate has not yet commented on the House Bill. The Governor has proposed raising \$3.4 billion and running the new money through the current formula. No details were provided how the funds would be raised.

Committee Report
Matt Koontz
4/17/25

The Board of Health met at a special meeting on April 15. The main agenda item was a plan to address a recent budget cut to the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Health Officer Shannon Klonowski explained it as follows:

"You may have heard about federal funding cuts in the news, specifically within Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control. Unfortunately, these budget reductions are impacting the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and, consequently, local health departments, including ours. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is losing about \$3M annually in funding due to these Federal funding cuts. This accounts for about 8% of our annual budget. Our executive and finance teams have worked really hard to mitigate the effects as much as possible. However, there's only so much we can do. Here are the current impacts:

1. Sewer Network – This program will end, and staff will be moved to other programs.
2. Infection Prevention – We have other programs our work can be charged to (contact tracing)
3. COVID19 Health Disparities Grant – Does not affect staffing.
4. COVID Immunizations – We knew this was ending and are now billing for these vaccines.
5. ARPA Prevention NMRE – This program will end, and staff will be moved to other programs.
6. Reopening Schools HRA – We worked with our schools over the past few years to set aside funding for when the state ended our funding. Thankful for good planning! (This is a program that funds nurses in schools)
7. Regional Lab – This is the hard one. We are going to close the regional lab and will lose positions. The affected staff members have been contacted. The water lab will remain open.

These decisions are not taken lightly. Closing the Regional Lab is very disappointing when we have put so much time, effort, and resources into getting our lab up and running. We had great forward momentum. Although we are in a much better place than many other health departments, any loss of staff is difficult, and I'm sorry to have to share this news".

End of quote from Health Officer Klonowski.

It is important to note that this funding was expected to maintain these programs through 2026 and was done on very short notice. The cut was effective March 31st and the HDNWM was notified of the cut on April 2nd, after the fact. It is also important to note that this is a result of arbitrary and capricious cuts coming from the current administration in Washington that will have direct effects on Northern Michigan residents.

The Board of Health approved a motion to cut three positions that will effectively close the regional lab.

CCE-911 Board

The CCE Board met on March 19 and received an update on the Software upgrade project. The Board also adopted a Anti- Harassment Policy for all employees. A Drug Free Workplace Policy was also reviewed and will be coming back at the next meeting as some Board members had questions. Yesterday April 16 the Board met the first meeting since the Storm. The Board thanked all CCE employees for going over and above during and after the Storms. In Board action, the Drug-Free Policy was adopted from the last meeting. A long discussion was held regarding the Fiscal Officer position, which must be addressed as our current one, has resigned. A suggested plan was brought forward and the Board directed the CCE Executive Director to work with the County Administrators to address the issue. Until the end of the year, the current Fiscal Officer will be paid \$1000 from CCE directly for the work they do. The Director also brought before the Board the position of Office Manager. He was directed by the Board to address the position administratively. Finally, the Director advised the Board that since the Storm there has been an interest in our possible surplus Towers, by someone who needs a tower for their business.

Northern Lakes Economic Alliance

On March 20, the NLEA board met and reviewed the board's fundraising support and introduced the new director of Business Growth Dave Kronberg. Dave comes to the NLEA with a strong background in developing and growing business over his career. The Director gave an update on implementation of the Strategic Plan.

North Country Community Mental Health

The Board met on March 20 and was presented with updates on the various program areas that North Country provides. The Board also approved a Mission Vision and Values Policy update. A detailed discussion took place regarding the financial position because the State is not pushing out the funding to the Mental Health providers as has been budgeted. As North Country is part of a Regional group with other providers, we are not in danger of closing but some cost reduction measures will need to be put in place in the future.