

August 12, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of the Delta County Road Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. at the Main Office, 3000 32nd Avenue North, Escanaba, Michigan. Chairman Aschbacher called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Chairman Bob Aschbacher, Commissioner Dennis Stanek, Commissioner Mark Asselin,
Vice-Chairman Dustin Stempki, Commissioner Randy Bjork

ABSENT: None

Chairman Aschbacher moved to approve the agenda as printed.

Chairman Aschbacher moved to approve the minutes for the July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting as proposed.

Manager Jody Norman gave a brief administrative update, which included recent legislative updates and progress on projects within the MDOT system. Superintendent Dean Forslund gave the commissioners an update on the county system: District 1 has been hauling gravel for various projects & brushing along Old State Rd. District 2 is working on CR 511 and its culverts. Jody briefly went over PA152 and his findings from other road commissions & discussed brush control.

It was moved by Vice-Chairman Stempki, seconded by Commissioner Asselin to approve Bills Payable Voucher No. 2677 in the amount of \$430,683.94 along with Payroll Voucher No. 69241 in the amount of \$92,358.45.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Aschbacher – Yes

Vice-Chairman Stempki – Yes

Commissioner Stanek – Yes

Commissioner Bjork – Yes

Commissioner Asselin – Yes

It was moved by Commissioner Stanek, seconded by Vice-Chairman Stempki to vote for the three incumbents for the 2025 CRASIF Board of Trustees: Bill Luetzow, Wayne Schoonover & Michael Scott.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

After a brief discussion regarding support for the redesignation of the route of USBR-10 & the Iron Belle South Route, the following resolution was offered by Chairman Aschbacher, seconded by Commissioner Bjork:

WHEREAS the State of Michigan has recognized active transportation as a vital form of transportation; and

WHEREAS the vision for Michigan's mobility system is a multi-modal system that is people focused, equitable, reliable, convenient for all users, and enriches Michigan's economic and societal vitality; and

WHEREAS United States Bicycle Route 10 and the Iron Belle Trail bicycle routes have been designated to run coincident with US Highway 2 through much of the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS the 2022-2030 MDOT Superior Region Active Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy identifies that the design consideration priorities for the Superior Region include facilitating mobility to local networks to divert user from high-traffic highway routes; and

WHEREAS the 2022-2032 MDNR Trails Plan identifies the DNR's continued efforts to partner with local communities to enhance the user experience of the Iron Belle Trail; and

WHEREAS the current designation of USBR-10 and the Iron Belle Trail on US-2 from its intersection with Bay Shore Drive to its intersection with P Road is largely unsuitable for bicycling for safety reasons; and

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WHEREAS an alternative route using Bay Shore Drive in Masonville and Brampton Townships, dedicated bicycling lanes on North Lake Shore Drive, 9th Street, and Lake Shore Drive in the city of Gladstone, and the Little Bay de Noc Trail separated multi-use pathway represents a viable, safer, and desirable alternative route; and

WHEREAS the alternative routing would support the goals of local communities and the State of Michigan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delta County Road Commission hereby supports the redesignation of USBR-10 and Iron Belle Trail to the desired alternative.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

The following Resolution to Adopt the Exemption Option as set forth in 2011 Public Act 152, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act was offered by Commissioner Stanek seconded by Vice-Chairman Stempki:

WHEREAS, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act of 2011, (“Act 152”), establishes standards and a process with respect to medical benefit plans offered by public employers; and

WHEREAS, the State Highway Trunkline Highway System Act of 1951, (“Act 51”), as amended, governs the created Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) into which specific transportation taxes are deposited, prescribes how these revenues are to be distributed and the purposes for which they can be spent.

WHEREAS, the Delta County Board of Road Commissioners has historically recognized, in its role as steward for the public funds entrusted to it, that it must efficiently manage those limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the Delta County Board of Road Commissioners constantly engages in a review of expenditures in order to maximize the value it receives for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Delta County Board of Road Commissioners believes that, as the governing body for the Road Commission, it is best positioned to determine what benefits (including medical benefits) ought to be offered in order to attract and retain the best qualified employees at the lowest overall costs to achieve the mission of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Act 51 of 1951 247.659a Sec. 9a. (1) (g) defines “local road agency” to mean a county road commission or designated county road agency that is responsible for the construction or maintenance of public roads within the state; and

WHEREAS, Act 51, 247.668j Sec. 18j (b) (i) grants a local road agency the ability to indicate whether it has exempted itself from Act 152; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Department of Transportation has published an annual certification form (2067) for local road agencies to certify compliance of employee-related conditions with a specific option to certify the local road agency has exempted itself from Act 152.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that: Pursuant to Act 152, 15.568 Sec. 8 (1) and Act 51, 247.668j Sec. 18j (b) (i), the Delta County Board of Road Commissioners hereby exempts itself from the requirements of Act 152 for 2025.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

It was moved by Vice-Chairman Stempki, seconded by Commissioner Bjork to approve a 90% employer and 10% employee health insurance premium share.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Aschbacher – Yes

Vice-Chairman Stempki – Yes

Commissioner Stanek – Yes

Commissioner Bjork – Yes

Commissioner Asselin – Yes

It was moved by Commissioner Stanek, seconded by Commissioner Bjork to approve the Project/Material Agreement for Fairbanks Township.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Bjork seconded by Commissioner Asselin

BE IT RESOLVED Manager Jody Norman & Engineer Nancy Roseman are approved to sign MDOT

Contract #25-5397 for:

Hot mix asphalt overlay along County Road 511 from US-2 southerly approximately 9.79 miles, including cold milling, grading, wedging, aggregate approach and shoulders, guardrail and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Chairman Aschbacher gave an update on the Parks & Recreation Commission. He discussed Fuller Park roads & county forest road concerns.

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, Chairman Aschbacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Bob Aschbacher, Chairman

Samantha Grau, Deputy County Clerk