REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY- AUGUST 18, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON DEROCHA AT 6:00 P.M.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call - Present:** Comm. Numinen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Benzie. Motion adopted (6-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board Action: Comm. Numinen moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes held August 3, 2026 as presented. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (5-0) Comm. Nordeen abstained.

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

- **Duane DuRay, Mqt Co. Administrator,** read into record the Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Army, Special Forces Command, for Marquette County's cooperation in a military exercise that took place earlier this month at Sawyer.

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to accept for the record. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion passed (6-0)

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm,** Marquette, thanked the board for adopting the resolution regarding cigarette butt and other tobacco waste at the 8/3/26 meeting. She also explained to the board how the program is gaining speed with donations, as Mark Hangan has contributed $1,000 to start a reimbursement initiative for individuals who deliver cigarette butts to a central recycling location (location yet to be determined).
- **Lynn Nelson,** Sands Township, voiced concerns regarding the CADD vendor Marquette Co. chose vs the vendor the UP911 Authority chose as a whole, and the UP State Police.
- **Kristie Buruse,** Marquette resident and former central dispatch employee. Has concerns regarding the Mqt Co. Board choosing the Motorola CADD System.
- **Rick Carlson,** Negaunee Twp, stated his disappointment that Mqt Co. did not choose Tyler Tech for the CADD system, as the rest of the UP911 Authority had done so. Asked the board to review the contracts again to make the best decision for the county.
- **Undersheriff Lowell Larson,** Central Dispatch Policy Board member, expressed his disappointment the policy board was not included in the process to choose the new CADD provider. MSP plus 12 other counties decided to sign with Tyler Tech, which Mqt Co. needs to work with these other agencies.
- **Tyler Vargo,** Powell Twp Ambulance Service, stated he uses the Motorola CADD service & it is garbage. Explaining after reviewing the Tyler CADD system, it is the better choice and comes recommended by others.
- **Joy Vulacan,** Mqt Co Dispatcher feels Motorola CADD system is the inferior product, and will hurt the community.
- **Chris Pelkola,** Champion Twp Fire Chief, explained that differing CADD systems trying to work together does not work well, also questioned why Mqt Co. would chose an opposing system.
- **Julie Ellis,** Dispatcher, explained her experience of working with opposing CADD System, as they do not communicate well. Explained how integrated systems work better together.
- **Jeff Chiodi,** Mqt Co. Conservation District, updated the board of what they are currently working on, & stating their budget hearing is on 9/8/2026 at 5:30 pm.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the total expenditures paid via check & EFT transfers for the period July 31, 2026 through August 13, 2026 were $1,422,753.33 (this amount does not include check payable to Aler-Delta Co-Op Electric); and biweekly payroll for the period ending August 1, 2026 was $915,583.04. Second by

Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to pay check #240643, dated 8/14/2026, for $2,296.98 ~ payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (5-0). Comm. Alholm abstained.

7. PUBLIC HEARING
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
10. ACTION ITEMS:

ChairTech Lease Termination, Christinas Nestor, Civil Counsel, was present to explain the following letter sent certified mail: I write in my capacity as Civil Counsel for the County of Marquette. It has been brought to my attention that you continue to be in default of the Lease Agreement, effective May 1, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 4.1.4 of the Lease Agreement, this letter serves as formal notice that ChairTech, LLC., is delinquent on payment to Marquette County. This default arises from your failure to make monthly payments between May 2026 and August 2026. As of the date of this notice, the past due balance is $2,721.24, representing four unpaid monthly installments of $680.31. The lease provides for a ten (10) day period to return to compliance with the Lease Agreement. If compliance is not restored within the specified period, a late payment fee of 1.5% of the monthly installment will be added to your pending and delinquent billing. Additionally, if compliance is not restored within the specified period, this agreement is subject to termination.

a. Please note that prior notice was provided on June 16, 2026, and July 17, 2026, indicating outstanding and delinquent monthly payments. **If these breaches are not cured within the stated 10-day period further action, including lease termination and appropriate remedies, may lawfully be pursued.** Please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss your plans to cure these material breaches. You can contact me directly at civilcounsel@mqtco.org or by regular mail at the address on this letterhead. Thank you for your attention and timely response.

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to give civil counsel the green light to terminate the contract with ChairTech. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (6-0)

b. Duane Duray, Mqt Co. Administrator, explained that Marquette County received five bids for the **Perkins Park & Campground Cedar Split-Rail Fence Replacement Project**. The project includes the removal of existing split-rail fencing and designated sections of guardrail and the installation of approximately 380 linear feet of new cedar split-rail fencing. The bids received are summarized below:

Contractor	Location	Bid Amount
G & J Solutions Inc.	Calumet, MI	$36,560.00
Associated Constructors	Marquette, MI	$31,100.00
RMD Holdings/Nationwide Construction	Richmond, MI	$45,345.08
Marquette Fence Company	**Marquette, MI**	**$21,800.00**
American Fence & Supply	Warren, MI	$57,607.00

Marquette Fence Company submitted the **lowest bid**, approximately $9,300 below the next-lowest bidder. In addition, Marquette Fence Company is a local contractor, which provides an advantage for project coordination and responsiveness.

This project is part of the approved 2026 Capitol Program, paid by the Parks Fund.

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to award the project to Marquette Fence Company of Marquette, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed $21,800.00. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (6-0)

c. CCAB Bylaw Revisions & Appointments, Lowell Larson CCAB Chair, explained that the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) is requesting that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners vote to

approve the revised CCAB Bylaws and to appoint new members to the CCAB. The CCAB voted to pass the revised CCAB Bylaws on May 27th, 2026. These revisions will allow the CCAB to add other counties from the Upper Peninsula to the Marquette Regional CCAB. Additionally, Civil Counsel has approved the CCAB Bylaw revisions. The CCAB new member appointments are to fill vacancies for the following positions:

-Employment Training - Breanne Pitts
-Iron County Commissioner - Ean Bruette
-Houghton County Commissioner - Roy Britz
-Baraga County Commissioner - Brad Dakota
-Keweenaw County Commissioner - Del Rajala
-Alger County Commissioner - Mike Nettleton
-Circuit/District Court Probation – Stephanie Gordon

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the revised CCAB Bylaws & appoint the aforementioned individuals to the CCAB. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (6-0)

d. Marquette County Transit Authority Appointment

This is an eleven-member body responsible for governing the County-wide transportation system through its Director. Four of its members are nominated by the Township Association, and the rest are nominated by their respective City Councils with four from Marquette, two from Ishpeming, and one from Negaunee. There must be two nominees per vacancy from which the County Board appoints members to a 3-year term.

One Vacancy – Partial Term expiring 12-31-2027
Linda Winslow, Marquette Charter Township (MTA Appointment)

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to appoint Linda Winslow to the partial term ending 12/31/2027 to the Marq-Tran Authority. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

e. Aircraft Deicing Truck Recommendation, Marissa Aschemann, FBO Interim General Manager, explained that in preparation for Marquette County's assumption of fixed-base operator (FBO) services at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, the Airport issued an initial request for proposals (RFP) on July 10, 2026, for the purchase and delivery of one new or used aircraft deicing truck. Bids were due and publicly scheduled to be opened on July 29, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. EDT. No bids received by the submission deadline; therefore, no award was made under the initial request for bids.

To continue procurement planning after no bids received through the initial RFP, Airport staff contacted industry vendors directly and obtained quotations from three vendors covering five equipment configurations. Staff reviewed the quotations for compliance with the Airport's operational requirements, including Type I deicing and Type IV anti-icing capability, heated Type I application, suitable working height, operator protection, diesel power, delivery timeframe, equipment condition, and overall cost.

Following review of the available equipment, staff determined that the refurbished FMC LMD offered under Ground Support Specialist, LLC Quote 26-0806U meets the Airport's minimum operational specifications and provides the best overall value. It offers one of the lowest acquisition prices, the largest quoted Type I and Type IV fluid capacities, and a delivery timeframe that best supports the County's planned operational transition. The unit's refurbished condition, documented maintenance history, included onsite training, and 90-day warranty also provide a practical balance between capability, availability, support, and cost. Although staff reviewed other refurbished units, none provided as detailed information on truck specifications and history, and no other listing provided training.

Board action: Comm. Benzie moved to authorize the purchase of one refurbished FMC LMD aircraft deicing truck from Ground Support Specialist, LLC, under Quote 26-0806U, for an amount not to exceed $85,500.00, including the $79,500.00 equipment price and the confirmed $6,000.00 delivery fee. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

f. Central Square Interim Use Subscription, Duane DuRay, Administrator explained on February 3, 2026, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners approved authorization for the Marquette County Central Dispatch Director to begin contractual discussions and develop proposed contract language with Motorola Solutions for our 911 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) operations.

As those discussions and the CAD replacement process continue, additional steps are necessary to ensure that Marquette County maintains the products and services required to continue operating its existing 911 CAD system until the replacement system is developed, tested, and implemented.

Marquette County currently operates its CAD system through Central Square in partnership with the other six counties within the UP 911 Authority: Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Iron, and Menominee.

The UP 911 Authority and Marquette County are proceeding with plans to transition away from the current Central Square CAD platform. Marquette County intends to transition to Motorola Solutions, with an estimated 12-month system development and implementation period. The remaining six UP 911 Authority counties are proceeding with Tyler Technologies, with a changeover currently estimated for May 2027.

To ensure uninterrupted operation of the existing CAD system during this transition, the UP 911 Authority will confirm with Central Square the continuation of CAD support services for an additional 12-month period. Based upon the current transition schedule, the UP 911 Authority anticipates that the additional Central Square support will be required jointly by the participating counties for approximately nine months. The cost of that initial nine-month period can be shared among Alger, Chippewa, Delta, and Dickinson, Iron, Menominee, and Marquette counties.

Following the anticipated transition of the other six counties, Marquette County will continue to require Central Square support for an estimated additional three months while its Motorola Solutions CAD system completes development and implementation. The estimated cost to Marquette County for this remaining three-month period is **$35,306.11**.

Maintaining this support is necessary to provide continuity of CAD operations and avoid a lapse in critical dispatch services while the replacement system is being developed, tested, and brought online.

Funding will be identified through the Central Dispatch budget and/or another appropriate funding source as determined by the County Administrator and Finance Department

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to approve Authorize the Marquette County Administrator to provide confirmation to the UP 911 Authority that Marquette County accepts responsibility for the estimated remaining three months of Central Square CAD support at a cost of **$35,306.11**, subject to adjustment if there is a delay in the development, testing, or implementation of the replacement CAD system that requires Central Square support to continue beyond the anticipated three-month period. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (6-0)

g. IT Server Upgrades with Licenses, Duane DuRay, Administrator & Craig Wilson, IT, explained as the Board is aware, the Marquette County Information Technology (IT) Department is undergoing changes and implementing upgrades intended to better serve the County and its residents. Marquette County has engaged Karhu Cyber to assist the County with various components of its IT operations.

As the IT Department has been evaluating and addressing current system needs, the County's system storage infrastructure has been identified as an area requiring significant upgrades. Over the past several months, the County has experienced technical difficulties that have had countywide impacts.

Following a thorough and in-depth investigation of the system, it was determined that several components of the existing storage infrastructure will need to be replaced in order to correct the ongoing issues and improve system reliability.

The cost of the necessary repairs and replacement components is continuing to be evaluated. At this time, staff estimates the total cost to be between $200,000 and $250,000**.**

Due to the nature of the repairs and the need to minimize further impacts to the County's overall IT network, staff is requesting Board preapproval to proceed with the necessary expenditures. Preapproval will allow staff to move forward with the purchase and installation of the required components as quickly as possible and limit the amount of time between procurement and installation.

Staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of the project's progress, costs, and implementation.

The expenditure is estimated to be between $200,000 and $250,000 and will be funded from the Reserve for Special Appropriations.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to authorize staff to send this project for needed improvements with our IT system, out for bids or proposals. Second by Chairperson Derocha. Motion adopted (6-0)

h. K.I. Sawyer Water Department Drinking Water Project USDA Payment Request

Staff is requesting County Board approval for the sixth drawdown in the amount of $339,260.07 from USDA loan funding. This request reflects Pay Application No. 13 submitted by Smith Construction. Staff has reviewed all submitted materials for consistency with the approved project scope, contractual requirements, and eligible project costs under the USDA funding provisions. Supporting pay applications, invoices, and related documentation are attached for Board review and consideration.

If approved, the requested drawdown will cover the following project expenses:

-Smith Construction — Construction Costs: $339,260.07

-Total Draw Request: $339,260.07

Approval of this drawdown will reimburse documented project expenditures incurred to date and determined by staff to be consistent with project progress. This represents the sixth USDA loan draw request associated with the project. Additional draw requests are anticipated as construction activities continue toward project completion and will be submitted for review in accordance with established County approval processes. Supporting documentation is attached for review and consideration.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the sixth USDA loan drawdown in the amount of $**339,260.07** to reimburse eligible construction costs associated with Smith Const. Pay Application No. 13. Second by Comm. LaLonde. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Benzie, Comm. Numinen, & Chairperson Derocha. Nays: none. Motion adopted (6-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Jeremy Hauswirth,** Post Commander Negaunee**,** applauded the county board for their fiscal responsibility. Stating he would be happy to provide a side-by-side comparison of the Motorola CADD system and the Tyler Cadd System.
- **Lynn Nelson** recommended the board review contracts and address the possible communication failure.
- **Kristie Buruse,** expressed concerns for the safety of Marquette County citizens should the county move forward with Motorola.

With no further public comment to come before the board, this portion of the meeting is closed.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. Benzie** questioned the Tyler deadline, requested the post commander put together the comparison he mentioned in public comment.
- **Comm. LaLonde** thanked everyone who participated in public comment regarding the CADD system. She would like to review and discuss further.
- **Comm. Alholm** asking for recommendations from central dispatch and UP911 for CADD system.

- **Comm. Nordeen** stated that the entire board wants the best for the safety of the county, let's get more information regarding the current systems available for the CADD system, and would like to hear from these companies.
- **Chairperson Derocha** commented on the CADD system issue, and reflected on the fiscal responsibilities of the Mqt Co. board to the tax payers. The board will address the CADD system issue at another time, in public, when all the true information is available to discuss.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:39 p.m.

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Cory Beth Grigg
Marquette County Deputy Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners