REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 3, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

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

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Roll Call:** Present~ Comm. Numinen, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha. Absent & Excused: Comm. Adamini

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the Agenda with the following addition: 11a) 911 Central Dispatch CADD Upgrade. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted. (5-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the Regular Meetings held on January 20, 2026. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (4-0) Abstained: Comm. Numinen

4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm,** Marquette, spoke about the recent "Holiday Storm", voicing concern that the public did not know what buildings in the area housed generators. Suggested adding it to the plat book.
- **Thad Goodwin,** North Country Surveying, introduced himself to the board and informed the board he could answer any questions they may have, when they reach action item 10d.
- **Jordan Russell**, Gwinn, requested the board address policy on how local law enforcement will interact with immigration and customs enforcement. Also requested the board not adopt any 287(g) agreements.
- **Debbie White**, Marquette, would like to see the board adopt a local policy proactively addressing immigration and customs enforcement and customs & border patrol. She also provided the board with a handout regarding her request.
- **Katelynn Jensen**, Marquette, expressed concerns regarding recent national violence in Minnesota and across the country. Would like to see a statement on how local law enforcement are following the law, and the interaction with immigration and customs enforcement.
- **Anna Ellis**, Marquette, spoke regarding ICE, and stressed that residents may feel like they cannot access county services if they fear they will be racially profiled, kidnapped, or victimized.
- **Tammy Sustarich**, Marquette, reflects the statements of those before her in public comment regarding ICE, and would like to see the board be proactive on this subject.
- **Jesse Bell**, Marquette, asks that the County Board pause their decision to take over the FBO at Sawyer Airport, and do their due diligence before taking action.
- **Carol Smith**, Marquette, the UP has a history of welcoming immigrants, asks the board not to cooperate with financial incentive programs offered by the federal government.
- **Mark Hangen** (electronic comment), Michigamme, questioned the timeline of events, transparency, and checks and balances, regarding the termination of Kubick Aviation. Stated he has filed suit today in federal court to halt this decision, and will withdraw the suit if the termination is canceled. Calls for Chairperson Derocha to resign.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

- **Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to approve Total Expenditures paid via check & EFT Transfers for the period of January 16, 2026 through January 29, 2026 were $1,013,547.80; biweekly payroll for the period ending January 17, 2026 was $933,198.28. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (5-0)
- **Board action:** Comm. LaLonde moved to approve check #236925, dated 1/30/2026, for $80.18 ~ payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (4-0) Abstained: Comm. Alholm

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

- **Undersheriff Stats for December, Lowell Larson**

Corrections: Average Jail Population=79; Board Out=22; Homeless=15; Federal Inmates=1
Law Enforcement: Calls for Service=326; Case Reports=52; Crashes=80; Civil Papers Served=119; Received=115
Special Operations: Personal Injury Crashes=13; Water/Ice Rescue=0; Structure Fires=3; Missing Person=1; Injured Person Extraction=1; Public Assist=1; Snowmobile Crashes=3
Front Office: Handguns Registered=142; Warrants=64; Protective Orders Entered=30; Sex Offenders Verified=18; Background Requests=50

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a. 2025 Planning Commission Annual Report
b. 2025 Forestry Commission Annual Report
Both reports will be kept on file in the Planning Dept and the Administrators Office along with the County Clerk
c. Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Certification Opportunity Flier
d. Teamster's Union Letter of Support of Expanded Airport Services
e. Airport Advisory Resignation Letter, the board will send Robert Muelle a letter of appreciation for his service.

Board Action: Comm. LaLonde moved to accept informational items a through e. Support by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (5-0)

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Bodycam FY26 Capitol Project

Lt. Alex Gill was present to explain that an RFP was held for a new bodycam system for the previously approved FY26 Capital Project for $80,000.00. The RFP was held for a month. The Sheriff's Office received 5 bids:
Brite - Getac $83,526.00
SafeFleet - $67, 120.00
Axon – $110, 818.00 (**does not meet RFP specs**)
TeleRad - Motorola - $66,583.40
Kustom Signal - $75,425.00

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved award the bid to Motorola in an amount of $66,583.40, with an additional amount of $1974.00 to be able to purchase accessories not originally included in the bid that are recommended for the department's needs, for a total of an amount not to exceed $68,557.40. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (5-0)

b. EGLE PFAS Grant for Truck Clean-Out

David Erhart, Airport Manager, explained Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport staff is requesting Board consideration to accept a Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) PFAS Grant. Staff submitted a grant request to EGLE for assistance with cleaning out foam tanks of the airport's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) trucks.

Currently, in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements for commercial airports, the airport carries quantities of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) in its fire trucks for emergency response. In light of new understanding about the harmful effects of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances, alternative foams have been developed. In order to transition to Fluorine-Free Foam (F3), truck foam tanks and

plumbing must be professionally cleaned and its rinsate properly disposed of in order to prevent additional PFAS contamination.

Staff became aware of grant funding opportunities through EGLE and applied for $150,000 of funding, which was determined to be sufficient funding for the project in order to address this environmental concern and begin the transition to 3F products. This is a fully state-funded grant that requires no local funding commitment, provided the scope of the work stays within the allotted $150,000.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to grant preapproval to enter into the EGLE Grant Contract once the contract is provided to the Airport, and approve the associated Resolution authorizing the Chairperson Derocha to sign the contract. Second by Comm. LaLonde. Motion adopted (5-0)

c. EGLE Grant for Former Marquette County Airport PFAS Investigation & Recommendation

David Erhart, Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport staff is requesting Board consideration to accept a Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) PFAS Grant. Staff submitted a grant request to EGLE for assistance with continued Per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) contamination investigation and remediation efforts at the former Marquette County Airport site in Negaunee Township.

Historically, in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements for commercial airports, the former airport stored and, in training and emergency response, dispensed quantities of PFAS-containing Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) from its fire trucks. In light of new understanding about the harmful effects of PFAS substances in relation to soil and ground water contamination, investigation and remediation efforts have been conducted at this site to address environmental concerns. This is not a single task effort, however, and continued monitoring and remediation needs to be conducted to ensure minimal environmental impact.

Staff became aware of grant funding opportunities through EGLE and applied for $1,000,000 of funding, which was determined to be sufficient funding for this project in order to investigate current contamination concerns and develop and execute a remediation plan in response. This is a fully state-funded grant that requires no local funding commitment, provided that the scope of the work stays within the allotted $1,000,000.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to grant preapproval to enter into the EGLE Grant Contract once the contract is provided to the Airport, and approve the associated Resolution authorizing the Chairperson Derocha to sign the contract. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (5-0)

d. Selection of Qualified Survey Firm for County Remonumentation

Neil Lynch, Remonumentation Chair, was present to explain the following: Act No. 345 of 1990 created the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission and provides for the remonumentation of Original Government Corners in all counties in the State. A portion of the fee on recorded documents provides the funding for this program that is then returned to the Counties in the form of an annual State Remonumentation Grant.

The Act requires Counties use the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process in selecting a survey firm to perform the remonumentation services. This requirement is further outlined in the 2020 Revised County Monumentation & Remonumentation Plan for Marquette County, Michigan. Submissions are reviewed by the Remonumentation Bid Review Group to determine those best qualified. A recommendation from the Group is then made to the County Board and finally a contract and fee is negotiated with those selected.

A request for qualifications for the 2026-2028 Marquette County Remonumentation Project was advertised in the *Mining Journal*, posted on the County website, and distributed electronically to a list of professional surveying firms. Proposals were received from Coleman Engineering Company and North Country Surveying PLLC.

In accordance with the 2020 Revised County Monumentation & Remonumentation Plan for Marquette County, Michigan proposals were reviewed in accordance with State law by the bid review group consisting of the Marquette County Remonumentation Representative, the Marquette County Register of Deeds, and the Marquette County Resource Management, Planning Manager.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to award a three-year contract to the highest scoring respondent, North Country Surveying PLLC, and direct the Marquette County Remonumentation Representative to oversee the preparation of a contract, to be executed as soon as practical, and renewed each year for this three-year term, between the selected contract survey firm and the county, based on the Remonumentation Grant amounts for each of the three years, 2026, 2027 and 2028. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (5-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS:

a. 911 Central Dispatch CADD Upgrade

Duane DuRay, County Administrator, explained Marquette County Central Dispatch has been working in conjunction with the North CAD Group for more than two years on a project to replace the existing Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This effort has been supported by a consulting firm and included the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP). Bids were received, evaluated, and reviewed in accordance with the established process, resulting in the identification of a leading vendor.

During the review process, the Marquette County Board Chair identified potential legal issues involving the leading vendor. These concerns were further evaluated in consultation with civil counsel. Based on the findings, the Chair directed staff to explore alternative solutions that would better protect the County's interests.

As a result of this effort, an alternative proposal was identified through MPSCS in partnership with Motorola Solutions. This proposal provides comparable services while generating cost savings in excess of $500,000 for Marquette County.

Board action: Comm. LaLonde moved to approve authorization for the Marquette County Central Dispatch Director to begin contractual discussions, and develop proposed contract language with MPSCS and Motorola Solutions based on the proposal and pricing as presented. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (5-0)

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Margaret Brumm,** Marquette, invited the Commissioners, and the public to the Dome on Thursday at noon. Her NMU students will be reading the constitution
- **Lowell Larson,** Negaunee Township, stated that tests have shown that there is PFAS in his well water. Would like to see a collaborative front on achieving municipal water lines in his area to correct this issue.

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. Nordeen** thanked all who came tonight to speak about ICE.
- **Comm. Alholm** concurs with Comm. Nordeen. Would like to see the Marquette County citizen's constitutional rights upheld, and more information provided by staff. Also, thanked Undersheriff Lowell Larson on his participation at a Human Trafficking presentation this past week.
- **Comm. LaLonde** supports Comm. Alholm's comments and thanked those who came to speak about ICE. Also reminded everyone about the Heikki Lunta Festival this weekend in Negaunee.
- **Comm. Numinen** also thanked those who came and spoke about ICE and voiced concerns over dealing with illegal immigration in a legal manner.
- **Alex Berger,** Civil Council, thanked the Commissioners for his opportunity to advise and work for the County.

- **Kami Fassbender,** CFO, stated that she is an immigrant as well, born in a communist country, and will speak up for civil rights for all.
- **Chairperson Derocha** thanked all for showing up for the public comment portion of the meeting, even if everything that is brought to the commissioners is not agreed upon by all. Assured the public, that this county board will follow the constitution, especially when they are faced with difficult issues.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:21 p.m.

Cory Beth Grigg	**Joseph Derocha, Chairperson**
Marquette County Deputy Clerk	**Marquette County Board of Commissioners**