



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-2847

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

FINAL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Venema called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Cory Smith	District #1	Present	2:30 PM
Terry Snyder	District #2	Present	2:30 PM
John Johnson	District #3	Present	2:30 PM
Larry Hopkins	District #4	Present	2:30 PM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To: Add Item #6.5 (North Itasca Joint Powers Agreement Update) and approve Agenda as amended.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the Minutes as delineated below.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Itasca County Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Consent Agenda as delineated below.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Approve and authorize County Board Chair and North Memorial Health Care to sign the contract to provide ambulance service to the Nashwauk Ambulance Subordinate Service District (NASSD).
2. Award Contract 68104 CSAH 81 Bituminous Mill and Overlay to the lowest responsible bidder, Hawkinson Construction, in the amount of \$676,972.76 and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.

3. Approve the Recreational Trail Master License Agreement by and between Blandin Paper Company and Itasca County authorize necessary signatures.
4. Authorize the Probation Department to apply for the Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitor (REAM) Grant and authorize signatures of the County Board Chair and County Auditor as the fiscal agent, for acceptance of the grant, if awarded.
5. Authorize the Probation Department to apply for the State of Minnesota Community Based Sex Offender Programming Grant and authorize signature of the County Board Chair and County Auditor as fiscal agent, for acceptance of the grant, if awarded.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Citizen Input
No Citizen Input Provided.
2. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of June 18, 2025, in the amount of \$589,286.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

3. Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) For Mad Bear Alpine Area LLC

Motion To: Open the Public Hearing Re: Conditional Use Permit for Mad Bear Alpine Area LLC.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

Motion To: Close the above Public Hearing.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

Motion To: Adopt the finding and fact of the Land Planning Commission Board and approve the Conditional Use Permit for Mad Bear Alpine Area LLC.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

4. Tentative Sponsorship for the proposed Keewatin Connection ATV Trail

Motion To: Approve the Tentative Sponsorship for the Keewatin Connection ATV Trail.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

5. North Itasca Joint Powers Board Update

Tim Johnson, Dean Haley, and Amy Phiher provided an update on the North Itasca Joint Powers Board.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending a Wildwood Township meeting.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending a Lake Jesse Township meeting, County Board of Appeals & Equalization meeting, IEDC, and a Housing Development meeting.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending a Housing Development meeting and meeting with the Land Department Re: trails.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending the Western Mine Planning Board meeting.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith provided comment regarding the passing of Brian Schaar, Mayor of Squaw Lake. His Service will be held at the Squaw Lake Community Center on June 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

RECESS

Chair Venema recessed the meeting at 3:00 PM.

RECONVENE

Chair Venema reconvened the meeting at 3:06 PM, with all members present.

X. CLOSED SESSIONS

1. Hold a meeting which may be closed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.05, subd. 3(b) based upon attorney/client privilege, Minn. Stat. §595.02 to discuss litigation issues.

Motion To: Go into Closed Session per MN Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) regarding Active Litigation.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

Others Present: County Administrator Brett Skyles, County Assessor William Hilback, Assistant County Attorney Mike Haig.

Motion To: Go into Open Session.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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XI. ADJOURN

Chair Venema adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.

ATTEST

Casey Venema
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board

