



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, October 28, 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	Absent	
John Johnson	District #3	Present	3:28 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 information to Item #6.10 (CEDA Quarterly Report) and approve the agenda, as amended.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES: Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: John Johnson

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 21, 2025, County Board Regular Session.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER: Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES: Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: John Johnson

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 21, 2025, County Board Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Pull Item #5.1 (Terry Road & Etters Road Revocation to Township) and approved the Consent agenda, as amended.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

2. Award Contract 66808 - CSAH 68 & CR 439 Bridge Replacements to S & R Reinforcing, Inc. and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.
3. Authorize the notice of intermediate and regular oral bid auction of timber to be given by publication in the official newspaper of the County as provided by law, and the Land Commissioner offers such tracts of timber as they appear in the notice for sale, and which sale shall commence at 10:00 AM on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Cohasset Community Center.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Citizen Input
Dave Holmbeck provided input on the DNR.

Unidentified citizen provided input on data requests, commissioner responses, and recording in public areas.

Unidentified citizen, identifying as Bradley Cooper provided input on recording in public areas, addressing the public, and being able to zoom meeting if not able to attend.

2. Employ Recognition
The following employees were recognized:

Welcome to Trevor Bailey, who started as a Corrections Deputy in the Sheriff Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Devon Porth, who started as a Deputy Sheriff/Road Deputy in the Sheriff Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Caley Emerson, who started as a Highway Maintenance Worker in the Transportation Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Steven Sandberg, who started as a Highway Maintenance Worker in the Transportation Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Jordan Stanley, who started as a Compliance Analyst in the MIS Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Congratulations to Savanna Scherf, who transferred from Medical Support Specialist to Data/Project Coordinator in the HHS Department, which was effective October 26, 2025.

Farewell to Michael McNerney, whose last day as Environmental Services Technician was October 24, 2025, after 1+ year of service.

3. Commissioner Warrants
Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of October 29, 2025, in the amount of \$3,153,483.26.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

4. ICHHS Warrants

Motion To: Approve the Itasca County Health and Human Services (ICHHS) Department Warrants for October 2025, in the amount of \$1,079,834.53.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

5. County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation.

Health Plan Division Manager Sarah Anderson provided an update on Itasca County IMCare Division.

6. IMCare/DHS contracts and amendments for 2025/2026

Motion To: Approve the 2025/2026 Contracts and Amendments.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

7. Cannabis Retail Registration Policy

Motion To: Adopt resolution enacting Itasca County retail registration policy for cannabis businesses.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	John Johnson

8. IRRRB Grant Application

Motion To: Approve submittal of an Economic Development Grant to the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board for an amount not to exceed \$250,000; accept grant if so awarded and authorize necessary signatures.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

9. 2026 Legislative Priorities

The 2026 Legislative Priorities were discussed.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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10. CEDA Quarterly Report

Lisa Randall, Amanda Lamppa, and Tracey Hensley provided a quarterly report on CEDA.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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11. Public Input

It was the consensus of the County Board to hold Citizen Input after the meeting has been adjourned.

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

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending an Arrowhead Library System.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending a meeting with Transportation, and an Intergovernmental meeting Re: solid waste.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending the Annual Mississippi Headwaters meeting and a Facilities Committee meeting.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending the Range Gateway Annual meeting and met with Lake Country Power.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding the Greenway Fall Festival and reminded everyone to be cautious and enjoy Halloween.

Commissioner Venema provided comment regarding a Veteran's meeting on 10/29/2025 in the Itasca County Boardroom.

RECESS

Chair Venema recessed the meeting at 3:42 PM.

RECONVENE

Chair Venema reconvened the meeting at 3:49 PM, with all members present.

X. CLOSED SESSIONS

1. Hold a closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(c) regarding parcel ID: 91-018-1303.

Motion To: Go into Closed Session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(c) Re: parcel ID 91-018-1303

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

Others Present: County Administrator Brett Skyles, Attorney Jake Fauchald, Land Commissioner Kory Cease, Auditor/Treasurer Austin Rohling, Clerk of the County Board Shelley Kebart and Leo Trunt.

Motion To: Go into Open Session

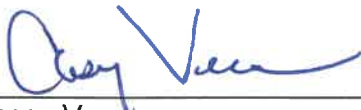
RESULT:	APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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XI. ADJOURN

Chair Venema adjourned the meeting at 4:18 PM.

ATTEST



Casey Venema
Chair of the County Board



Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-45

**RE: A RESOLUTION OF THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING A
RETAIL REGISTRATION POLICY FOR BUSINESSES SELLING ADULT-USE CANNABIS AND
LOWER-POTENCY HEMP EDIBLE PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has legalized the commercial sale of cannabis for medical and/or adult use pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Chapter 342; and

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of establishing clear, consistent, and enforceable standards for the lawful operation of cannabis retail businesses within the unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, Townships and municipalities within Itasca County may delegate retail registration authority to the County; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority under state law to regulate cannabis businesses through local ordinances and policies, including the imposition of registration and zoning requirements; and

WHEREAS, the County Board seeks to promote public health, safety, and welfare by adopting a policy that provides for the registration of cannabis retailers, ensures compliance with local and state laws, and facilitates oversight by county agencies; and

WHEREAS, this Retail Registration Policy will serve as an interim or supplemental measure to the County's broader cannabis regulatory framework, and may be amended or expanded as needed to address emerging issues and stakeholder feedback;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Section 1: Adoption of Retail Registration Policy

The County hereby adopts the Retail Cannabis Business Registration Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference. This policy shall apply to all cannabis retail businesses operating or seeking to operate within the unincorporated areas of Itasca County.

Section 2: Registration Requirement

All individuals, partnerships, corporations, or other entities intending to engage in the retail sale of cannabis or cannabis products shall be required to complete the County's Retail Cannabis Business Registration process prior to commencing operations; and shall remain in good standing under the policy to continue lawful operations.

Section 3: Compliance with Laws

Registrants must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, including but not limited to zoning requirements, and state cannabis licensing regulations.

Section 4: Enforcement and Penalties

The County may take enforcement action, including but not limited to penalties, registration revocation, or other remedies authorized by law, against any cannabis retail business operating in violation of this policy or applicable laws.

Section 5: Effective Date

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, on this 28th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

ATTEST:

Brett Skyles, Clerk of the Board

SIGNED:

Casey Venema, Chair, Board of Commissioners

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on October 28, 2025 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.



Administrator



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-46

RE: A Resolution Authorizing an Application to the Itasca Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) up to \$250,000 for the Itasca County Strategic Plan.

WHEREAS, Itasca County is eligible to receive IRRRB grant funding as part of the Northeast MN Taconite relief area: and

WHEREAS, In support of Regional Economic Resilience; and

WHEREAS, In response to numerous economic challenges facing our region, the Itasca County Strategic Plan seeks to diversify and make the economy more resilient, and establish an Economic Resilience Coordinator position to administer a strategic plan on behalf of Regional Partners.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Itasca County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Itasca County Strategic Plan to apply for and accept funding from the IRRRB to support the Itasca County Strategic Plan.
2. The Itasca County Board of Commissioners named Brett Skyles, Itasca County Administrator, as authorized representative for said IRRRB grant upon award.

ATTEST:

Board Chair

Date

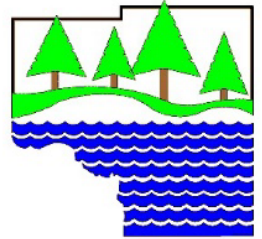
RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on October 28, 2025 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brett Skyles", is written over a horizontal line.

Administrator



MEETING INFORMATION SHEET
October 28, 2025

PULL:

1. Item #5.1 (Terry Road & Etters Road Revocation to Township) -moving to 11/25/2025

ADDITIONS: None

CHANGES: None

INFORMATIONAL:

1. Item #6.10 (CEDA Quarterly Report) – Additional Information



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

DRAFT

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	Absent	
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: Approve the agenda, as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER: Commissioner John Johnson
AYES: Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: Cory Smith

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes as delineated below.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES: Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: Cory Smith

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 14, 2025 Itasca County Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the consent agenda as presented.

RESULT: APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER: Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES: Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT: Cory Smith

1. Adopt the Resolution Re: Authorization to Execute Minnesota Department of Transportation Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant Contract, which accepts the Grant Contract for airport maintenance and operation at the Bowstring Airport for State Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 and authorize necessary signatures.
2. Award Contract 65207 for CSAH 52 Clearing & Grubbing to George Bougalis & Sons Company and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Receive Citizen Input
David Holmbeck provided citizen input on the DNR.

Theresa Larson provided citizen input on online citizen input no longer available.

Jake, identifying as Bradley Cooper, provided citizen input regarding speaking with Commissioners before or after a board meeting, having to identify self at meetings, and having been coming to Itasca County since he was a child.

2. Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of October 22, 2025, in the amount of \$621,358.56.

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of October 22, 2025, in the amount of \$621,358.56.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	Cory Smith

3. Adopt the Resolution Re: Cancellation of Old Warrants/Checks.

Motion To: Adopt the Resolution Re: Cancellation of Old Warrants/Checks.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	Cory Smith

4. Award Service Contract to the lowest quote, Wm. J. Schwartz & Sons, Inc. for Mesabi Bike Trail repairs in the amount of \$43,652.00 and authorize necessary signatures.

Motion To: Award Service Contract to the lowest quote, Wm. J. Schwartz & Sons, Inc. for Mesabi Bike Trail repairs in the amount of \$43,652.00 and authorize necessary signatures.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	Cory Smith

5. Schedule a Legislative Delegation Luncheon with Itasca County Legislators, Lobbyist Shane Zahrt, County Board members, and Department Heads.
Consensus of the Board is to hold the Luncheon on November 10, 2025, with a backup date of November 17, 2025.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrator Update, including status of Federal shutdown regarding states being notified that SNAP benefits most likely not going out in November.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending an Arrowhead Counties Association meeting, an Arrowhead Regional Development meeting, a meeting with Senator Heinzman, and a Construction Demolition Stakeholders meeting.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

X. CLOSED SESSIONS

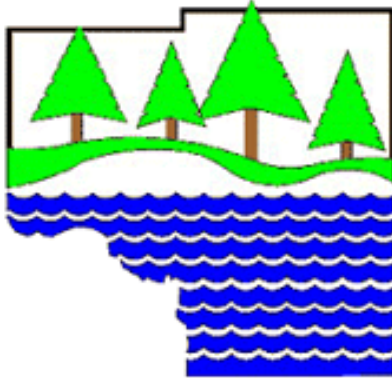
XI. ADJOURN

Chair Venema adjourned the meeting at 2:56 PM.

ATTEST

Casey Venema
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-598

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Karin Grandia

AGENDA ITEM:

Terry Road & Etters Road revocation to Township

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Begin the process of revocating portions of Terryr Road and Etters Road under MN Statute 163.11 by setting December 2, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. to hold a public hearing on the proposed revocation. The public hearing will be held at the Lake Jessie Township Hall.

BACKGROUND: In 1999, CSAH 4 was reconstructed, and the existing 90-degree turns were redesigned as curves. Two of the old 90-degree turns connected to a township road and when CSAH 4 was reconstructed, new connections were made from the township road to CSAH 4. Those connections function as an extension of the township road, but have never formally been revoked to the township. Revocation will formally consolidate these segments under township jurisdiction.

The first location is Terry Road in Sec 26, T148N, R25W near the Lake Jessie Townhall. The north/south piece of CSAH 4 was obliterated and the east/west piece was reconstructed to match up with CSAH 4 perpendicular to the curve (See Attachment 1). Itasca County acquired an easement to facilitate this realignment.

The second location is the Etters Road in Sec 27, T 148N, R25W. At this location, both the north/south and east/west legs of CSAH 4 were obliterated, and a new connection was made from the Etter Road to CSAH 4 (See Attachment 2). Itasca County purchased a fee interest in that portion of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec 27, T148N, R25W, lying northeast of the current alignment of CSAH 4 to facilitate this realignment.

The process for revocation of a County Road is defined in Minnesota Statute 163.11. It requires the County Board to hold a hearing in the town where the highway is located to consider the revocation. Additionally, not less than 30 days before the hearing, the county board shall serve notice of the hearing by certified mail on each member of the town board of supervisors. At the hearing, the town board and all interested persons shall be entitled to be heard and express their views on the proposed reversion to the town. After the hearing, the county board may adopt a resolution revoking the highway. The resolution revoking the highway shall not be effective until the following conditions are met:

1. The county has completed repairs or improvements to the highways that are necessary to meet the county standards for a comparable road in the county in which the town is located; and
2. The county has properly recorded with the county recorder all county interest in real estate used for the highway.

The County will be responsible to maintain the revoked segments for 2 years after the date of the revocation.

If the County moves forward with revocation, the Township has requested that the bituminous surface be removed from both segments and replaced with 3" of class 1 gravel surfacing.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Attachment 1 - Terry Road
2. Attachment 1 Description
3. Attachment 2 - Etters Road
4. Attachment 2 Description

10-28-2025

RESULT:	PULLED FROM AGENDA
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Attachment 1 - Terry Road Connection



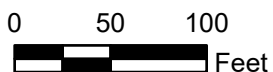
Itasca Geographic Information System "decision support through automation"



The Data is provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The burden for determining accuracy, completeness, timeliness, merchantability and fitness for or the appropriateness for use rests solely on the requester. The County makes no warranties, express or implied, as to the use of the Data. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The requester acknowledges and accepts the limitations of the Data, including the fact that the Data is dynamic and is in a constant state of maintenance, correction and



1 inch equals 100 feet



- Road segment reverting to Township
- County Road
- Township Road
- - Private or Unknown
- Tax Parcel

Date Printed: 8/15/2024 10:46 AM

Attachment 1 – Connection to Terry Road

Segment description for revocation to Township

Beginning the corner common to Sections 26, 27, 34 & 35, T148N, R25W, thence northeasterly to CSAH 4, and there terminating. Total distance is approximately 0.06 miles, more or less.

SUBJECT to Itasca County's Highway Right of Way and Jurisdictional Authority for CSAH 4.

Attachment 2 - Etters Road Connection



Itasca Geographic Information System "decision support through automation"



The Data is provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The burden for determining accuracy, completeness, timeliness, merchantability and fitness for or the appropriateness for use rests solely on the requester. The County makes no warranties, express or implied, as to the use of the Data. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The requester acknowledges and accepts the limitations of the Data, including the fact that the Data is dynamic and is in a constant state of maintenance, correction and



1 inch equals 100 feet



- Road segment reverting to Township
- County Road
- Township Road
- Private or Unknown
- Tax Parcel

Date Printed: 8/15/2024 10:46 AM

Attachment 2 – Connection to Etters Road

Segment description for revocation to Township

Beginning the corner common to Sections 22, 23, 26 & 27, T148N, R25W, thence southwesterly to CSAH 4, and there terminating. Total distance is approximately 0.08 miles more or less.

SUBJECT to Itasca County's Highway Right of Way and Jurisdictional Authority for CSAH 4.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-608

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Rachel Metelak

AGENDA ITEM:

Bid Award for Contract - 66808, CSAH 68 & CR 439 Bridge Replacements

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Award Contract 66808 - CSAH 68 & CR 439 Bridge Replacements to S & R Reinforcing, Inc. and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.

BACKGROUND:

Bids were opened on October 14, 2026 @ 10:00 am. Results of the opening are provided below.

Engineers Estimate	\$1,445,833.00
S & R Reinforcing Inc.	\$1,161,199.23
Northland Constructors of Duluth	\$1,240,450.00
Redstone Construction Company	\$1,244,085.20
M & K Bridge Construction, Inc.	\$1,375,658.00

Bridge bond funds have been secured to cover eligible costs. A grant agreement to accept the funds will be brought to the Board in the coming weeks.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: NA

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. CONTRACT 66808 - unsigned
2. CONTRACT 66808_SIGNED

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

S T A T E O F M I N N E S O T A

C O U N T Y O F I T A S C A

CONTRACT
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

This agreement made this October 28, 2025, between the County of Itasca in the State of Minnesota, party of the first part, hereinafter called the County, and S & R Reinforcing, Inc. of Aitkin MN, party of the second part, hereinafter called the Contractor. Witnesseth, that the Contractor, for and in consideration of the payment or payments herein specified by the County to be made, hereby covenants and agrees to furnish all materials (except such as are specified to be furnished by the County), all necessary tools and equipment and to do and perform all the work and labor in the construction of CSAH 68 & CR 439 Bridge Replacements, as shown on approved plans. The price and compensation set forth and specified in the proposal signed by the Contractor and hereto attached are hereby made a part of this agreement. Said work to be done and performed in accordance with the Plans, Specifications, and Special Provisions therefore on file in the office of the County Auditor of said County, which Plans, Specifications, and Special Provisions are hereby made a part of this agreement.

The Contractor further covenants and agrees that he will commence work on or after March 1, 2026, and will have same completed in every respect to the satisfaction and approval of the County, by the following date:

October 15, 2026

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The County has caused these presents to be executed and the Contractor has hereunto subscribed his name.

Dated at 4:00 P.M., this 28th, day of October, 2025

County of Itasca

By: _____

Casey Venema, Chairperson County Board

Austin Rohling, County Auditor / Treasurer

Contractor

By: _____

S & R Reinforcing, Inc.

Contractor

Approved as to form and execution this _____ Day of _____, 2025

Jacob Fauchald, County Attorney

Brett Skyles, Clerk of County Board

S T A T E O F M I N N E S O T A

C O U N T Y O F I T A S C A

CONTRACT
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

This agreement made this October 28, 2025, between the County of Itasca in the State of Minnesota, party of the first part, hereinafter called the County, and S & R Reinforcing, Inc. of Aitkin MN, party of the second part, hereinafter called the Contractor. Witnesseth, that the Contractor, for and in consideration of the payment or payments herein specified by the County to be made, hereby covenants and agrees to furnish all materials (except such as are specified to be furnished by the County), all necessary tools and equipment and to do and perform all the work and labor in the construction of CSAH 68 & CR 439 Bridge Replacements, as shown on approved plans. The price and compensation set forth and specified in the proposal signed by the Contractor and hereto attached are hereby made a part of this agreement. Said work to be done and performed in accordance with the Plans, Specifications, and Special Provisions therefore on file in the office of the County Auditor of said County, which Plans, Specifications, and Special Provisions are hereby made a part of this agreement.

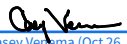
The Contractor further covenants and agrees that he will commence work on or after March 1, 2026, and will have same completed in every respect to the satisfaction and approval of the County, by the following date:

October 15, 2026

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The County has caused these presents to be executed and the Contractor has hereunto subscribed his name.

Dated at 4:00 P.M., this 28th, day of October, 2025

County of Itasca

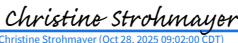
By: 
Casey Venema (Oct 26, 2025 19:42:17 CDT)

Casey Venema, Chairperson County Board


Austin Rohling (Oct 28, 2025 08:43:50 CDT)

Austin Rohling, County Auditor / Treasurer

Contractor

By: 
Christine Strohmayer (Oct 28, 2025 09:02:00 CDT)

S & R Reinforcing, Inc.

Contractor

Approved as to form and execution this Oct 28, 2025 Day of _____, 2025



Jacob Fauchald, County Attorney


Brett Skyles (Oct 28, 2025 10:19:52 CDT)

Brett Skyles, Clerk of County Board

CONTRACT 66808 - unsigned

Final Audit Report

2025-10-28

Created:	2025-10-24
By:	Shelley Kebart (Shelley.Kebart@co.itasca.mn.us)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA1sjcPCp016u-Am8RJ5FPikO9RtE9w3wt

"CONTRACT 66808 - unsigned" History

-  Document created by Shelley Kebart (Shelley.Kebart@co.itasca.mn.us)
2025-10-24 - 9:26:46 PM GMT- IP address: 205.149.148.138
-  Document emailed to Casey Venema (Casey.Venema@co.itasca.mn.us) for signature
2025-10-24 - 9:28:06 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Casey Venema (Casey.Venema@co.itasca.mn.us)
2025-10-27 - 0:41:55 AM GMT- IP address: 66.171.41.100
-  Document e-signed by Casey Venema (Casey.Venema@co.itasca.mn.us)
Signature Date: 2025-10-27 - 0:42:17 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 66.171.41.100
-  Document emailed to Austin Rohling (Austin.Rohling@co.itasca.mn.us) for signature
2025-10-27 - 0:42:19 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Austin Rohling (Austin.Rohling@co.itasca.mn.us)
2025-10-28 - 1:43:11 PM GMT- IP address: 104.47.64.254
-  Document e-signed by Austin Rohling (Austin.Rohling@co.itasca.mn.us)
Signature Date: 2025-10-28 - 1:43:30 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 205.149.148.138
-  Document emailed to Christine Strohmayer (chris@srreinforcingmn.com) for signature
2025-10-28 - 1:43:41 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Christine Strohmayer (chris@srreinforcingmn.com)
2025-10-28 - 2:00:33 PM GMT- IP address: 64.237.107.89
-  Document e-signed by Christine Strohmayer (chris@srreinforcingmn.com)
Signature Date: 2025-10-28 - 2:02:00 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 64.237.107.89
-  Document emailed to Jacob Fauchald (Jacob.Fauchald@co.itasca.mn.us) for signature
2025-10-28 - 2:02:02 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Jacob Fauchald (Jacob.Fauchald@co.itasca.mn.us)

2025-10-28 - 2:15:30 PM GMT- IP address: 104.47.64.254

 Document e-signed by Jacob Fauchald (Jacob.Fauchald@co.itasca.mn.us)

Signature Date: 2025-10-28 - 2:15:49 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 205.149.148.138

 Document emailed to brett.skyles@co.itasca.mn.us for signature

2025-10-28 - 2:15:50 PM GMT

 Email viewed by brett.skyles@co.itasca.mn.us

2025-10-28 - 3:19:14 PM GMT- IP address: 104.47.64.254

 Signer brett.skyles@co.itasca.mn.us entered name at signing as Brett Skyles

2025-10-28 - 3:19:50 PM GMT- IP address: 205.149.148.138

 Document e-signed by Brett Skyles (brett.skyles@co.itasca.mn.us)

Signature Date: 2025-10-28 - 3:19:52 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 205.149.148.138

 Agreement completed.

2025-10-28 - 3:19:52 PM GMT



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-606

DEPARTMENT: Land Department

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Michael Gibbons

AGENDA ITEM:

Notice of Oral Auction of Timber

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize the notice of intermediate and regular oral bid auction of timber to be given by publication in the official newspaper of the County as provided by law, and the Land Commissioner offers such tracts of timber as they appear in the notice for sale, and which sale shall commence at 10:00 AM on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at Cohasset Community Center.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: NA

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Newspaper Timber Auction Notice- December 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

NOTICE OF INTERMEDIATE AND REGULAR TIMBER AUCTION SALE

Itasca County Forest Lands are FSC Certified by
Preferred by Nature; PBN-FM/COC-001709; FSC 100%

Pursuant to the October 28, 2025, official action of the Itasca County Board of Commissioners and under the provisions of Minnesota Statute 282.04, as amended, timber on tax-forfeited land within Itasca County will be offered for sale WITHOUT the sale of land at an Intermediate and Regular Auction at **10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Cohasset Community Center, Cohasset, MN.** Timber will be sold to the highest bidder at not less than the appraised value listed in the Timber Report. Bidding shall be by ORAL BID ONLY. Bid up shall be by two (or even numbered) percent increments, the percent bid up to be added to the appraised price. Itasca County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. **Prior to being able to bid on county timber auctions, eligible bidders must sign a one-time affidavit of compliance and the bidder must be listed on the Minnesota DNR Qualified Purchasers list, in good standing, as provided for in Minnesota statute 90.145.** All bidders who have not previously registered (i.e. signed Affidavit of Compliance) must register prior to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. Interested bidders are responsible to know and comply with all permit regulations and eligibility limits. Bidders must be 18 years and older and in good standing with Itasca County. No bidder can act in any capacity on behalf of a non-qualifying operation for the purpose of procuring rights to timber from Itasca County. No bid will be accepted from any bidder having a delinquent or uncollectible timber permit account or a pending timber trespass with a county, state, or federal agency. Violation of eligibility limits will result in loss of down payment and/or loss of privilege to purchase stumpage from Itasca County.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-166

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair

AGENDA ITEM:

Citizen Input

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive Citizen Input

BACKGROUND:

The Itasca County Board of Commissioners encourages citizen input. Each citizen will be allowed to address the County Board one time for up to three (3) minutes in length. Comments should be directed to the Board as a body. When addressing the Board, please state your name and address for the record. The Board will take all information under advisement. As part of County Board protocol, it is unacceptable for any speaker to slander or engage in character assassination at a County Board meeting. In addition, no political grandstanding, candidate endorsement, or other attempts to influence the outcome of an election shall be permitted. Any violation of the above statement shall result in the loss of your remaining time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

10/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-195

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Brett Skyles

AGENDA ITEM:

Recognition of County Employees

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

To recognize those employees who have either experienced a job change, given notice of leaving employment, received commendation, or to welcome any new employees.

Welcome to Trevor Bailey, who started as a Corrections Deputy in the Sheriff Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Devon Porth, who started as a Deputy Sheriff/Road Deputy in the Sheriff Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Caley Emerson, who started as a Highway Maintenance Worker in the Transportation Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Steven Sandberg, who started as a Highway Maintenance Worker in the Transportation Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Welcome to Jordan Stanley, who started as a Compliance Analyst in the MIS Department, which was effective October 27, 2025.

Congratulations to Savanna Scherf, who transferred from Medical Support Specialist to Data/Project Coordinator in the HHS Department, which was effective October 26, 2025.

Farewell to Michael McInerney, whose last day as Environmental Services Technician was October 24, 2025, after 1+ year of service.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

10/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-95

DEPARTMENT: Auditor / Treasurer

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Gail Guck

AGENDA ITEM:

Commissioner Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of October 29, 2025, in the amount of \$3,153,483.26.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-114

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Christine Krebs

AGENDA ITEM:

ICHHS Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the Itasca County Health and Human Services (ICHHS) Department Warrants for October 2025, in the amount of \$1,079,834.53.

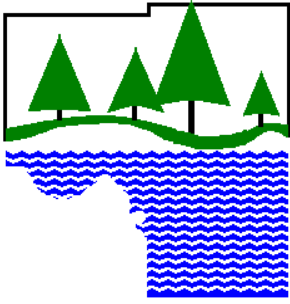
BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. October 2025 Board Report

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

1209 SE 2nd Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Hearing Impaired Number TDD: 218-327-5549

218-327-2941

Visit us at : www.co.itasca.mn.us

October 2025

Income Maint/Admin Payments	\$ 194,215.19
Social Services - Waivers	\$ 22,120.45
Social Services - Non-Waivers	\$ 425,155.81
Foster Care/Out of Home/FamilySupport	\$ 346,547.13
Relative Custody/Preventive Placement Costs/Incidentals	\$ 32,639.52
Public Health	\$ 28,721.80
Community Health Board	\$ 30,434.63
Total	\$ 1,079,834.53

Note : The above is a general description of payments made during the month indicated and is not intended to be a detailed itemization. The Community Health Board does not affect the Health & Human Services budget or levy.

October 2025
Out of Home Placement Breakdown

Foster Care/Out-of-Home/Family Support Comparison

	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2022	Actual 2021 (COVID Yr)
January	407,984.28	358,655.03	481,711.66	433,150.76	375,450.87
February	419,438.58	392,553.96	553,117.21	348,631.48	276,036.33
March	360,646.28	406,513.25	549,963.91	390,198.68	470,336.10
April	503,076.21	490,023.47	519,051.04	552,814.60	327,746.28
May	486,088.00	499,374.53	438,535.58	487,698.28	435,540.15
June	419,736.48	358,348.53	563,762.89	585,853.92	453,742.31
July	380,255.92	424,373.46	429,881.33	400,212.87	295,647.79
August	611,190.11	381,991.86	482,732.73	484,467.08	406,809.83
September	434,323.05	471,425.74	397,517.32	499,454.00	351,501.34
October	346,547.13	465,927.89	445,148.34	596,946.77	253,884.89
November		384,937.51	510,070.44	361,433.79	424,163.31
December		422,698.84	383,715.02	510,726.16	280,089.95
Total	4,369,286.04	5,056,824.07	5,755,207.47	5,651,588.39	4,350,949.15

Child Protection Statistics

	Maltreatment Reports	Opened for Assessment	% Opened	Children Placed	% Placed of Open
January	34	8	24%	4	50%
February	117	27	23%	7	26%
March	94	32	34%	6	19%
April	86	25	29%	6	24%
May	108	35	32%	4	11%
June	105	25	24%	5	20%
July	68	29	43%	7	24%
August	76	36	47%	6	17%
September	72	22	31%	9	41%
October	93	30	32%	7	23%
November			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
December			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
	853	269	32%	61	23%
	average			average	

2024	472	191	40%	80	42%
2023	510	275	56%	84	32%
2022	605	300	50%	96	33%
2021 (COVID Yr)	522	343	67%	95	28%

October 2025
Out of Home Placement Payments by Vendor

		Rate	Invoices Paid
Northwestern MN Juvenile	-	\$260-\$372/day	\$ 75,418
North Homes	-	\$175 - \$573/day	\$ 67,493
The Bridge Residential Facility	-	\$255/day	\$ 46,365
Bar None	-	\$559/day	\$ 20,804
Lutheran Social Services	-	\$148-\$366/day	\$ 18,812
Snyders/Foundation for Life	-	\$200/day	\$ 18,636
Little Sand Group Home	-	\$394/day	\$ 15,778
Village Ranch	-	\$249 - \$318/day	\$ 15,644
Northstar	-	\$200/day	\$ 12,000
Lighthouse	-	\$200/day	\$ 6,000
Dungarvin	-	\$35/day	\$ 4,225
Northwood	-	\$294-\$441/day	\$ 2,031
180 Degrees Inc	-	\$500 - \$566/day	\$ -
Anoka County Juvenile Center	-	\$395/day	\$ -
Arrowhead Juvenile Center	-	\$286/day	\$ -
Crow Wing Community Serv	-	\$295/day	\$ -
Dakota County Juvenile Serv	-	\$325 - \$340/day	\$ -
East Central Regional Juvenile	-	\$375/day	\$ -
Fond Du Lac Foster Care	-	\$40 - \$90/day	\$ -
Heartland Girls Ranch	-	\$249 - \$359/day	\$ -
MCF - Redwing	-	\$260/day	\$ -
MN Dept of Corrections	-	\$269/day	\$ -
New Trails Group Home	-	\$331/day	\$ -
Nexus	-	\$296 - \$556/day	\$ -
Peace House	-	\$115/day	\$ -
Port Group Homes	-	\$381/day	\$ -
Prairie Lakes Youth Program	-	\$209 - \$410/day	\$ -
Volunteers of America	-	\$330 - \$590/day	\$ -
West Central Juvenile Center	-	\$300 - \$595/day	\$ -
Woodland Hills	-	\$290 - \$331/day	\$ -
Individuals*	-	\$21 - \$121/day	\$ 43,340
Total			\$ 346,547

*Individuals : Includes Foster Care & Family Support Programs

October 2025
North Homes & Northwestern Placement Breakdown

North Homes							
	Assessment Evaluation	Shelter	Hawkins Home	Boys & Girls Programs	Cottage	Foster	Total
Jan	9,003.33	3,858.57	11,009.65	19,134.09	4,287.30	6,296.10	53,589.04
Feb	9,175.49	10,800.81	11,890.36	9,789.64	-	6,443.04	48,099.34
Mar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apr	8,391.12	20,628.17	22,630.04	11,508.29	-	13,395.04	76,552.66
May	-	1,048.89	11,506.80	34,544.20	9,723.63	8,903.40	65,726.92
Jun	-	-	-	-	-	12,542.20	12,542.20
Jul	40,094.53	2,315.15	11,890.36	10,504.04	22,688.47	7,631.40	95,123.95
Aug	8,797.57	-	11,506.80	10,165.20	31,486.04	8,095.03	70,050.64
Sep	-	-	11,890.36	21,008.08	54,637.54	8,095.03	95,631.01
Oct	583.06	-	11,506.80	14,231.28	33,338.16	7,833.90	67,493.20
Nov							-
Dec							-
	76,045.10	38,651.59	103,831.17	130,884.82	156,161.14	79,235.14	584,808.96

Northwestern							
		Residential	Non-Secure Detention	Secure Detention	Satellite Homes	Evaluation	Total
Jan		25,175.95	14,602.00	12,936.00	-	-	52,713.95
Feb		19,530.00	9,525.00	20,770.00	-	-	49,825.00
Mar		18,585.00	10,725.00	33,547.25	-	-	62,857.25
Apr		39,690.00	19,500.00	26,506.89	-	-	85,696.89
May		49,770.00	32,500.00	6,365.00	-	-	88,635.00
Jun		58,854.99	23,402.00	11,260.00	-	-	93,516.99
Jul		-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug		80,955.00	61,437.99	25,135.09	4,272.00	20,748.00	192,548.08
Sep		33,075.00	15,275.00	18,425.00	8,277.00	7,581.00	82,633.00
Oct		37,800.00	16,587.99	7,035.00	8,010.00	5,985.00	75,417.99
Nov							-
Dec							-
	-	363,435.94	203,554.98	161,980.23	20,559.00	34,314.00	783,844.15



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-125

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Sarah Anderson

AGENDA ITEM:

County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Q2 2025 Compliance Program Report

10/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-609

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Sarah Anderson

AGENDA ITEM:

Review and Approval of IMCare/DHS contracts for 2025/2026

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Review and approval of IMCare/DHS contracts and amendments for 2025/2026 and the board chair to sign these documents.

- 2025 Amendment
- 2025 Amendment 3
- 2026 Contracts
- 2026 Amendment

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. 2026_Itasca_Medical_Care_FC_276580
2. 2026_Itasca_Medical_Care_Seniors_276598

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-600

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Katie Benes

AGENDA ITEM:

Cannabis Retail Registration Policy

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Adopt resolution enacting Itasca County retail registration policy for cannabis businesses

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and standards for the local registration of cannabis retail businesses and lower-potency hemp edible businesses operating in Itasca County. This policy applies to all cannabis retailers seeking to operate within the unincorporated areas of Itasca County. Organized townships and municipalities may delegate retail registration authority to the County, or choose to adopt their own retail registration regulations.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. Resolution for Cannabis Retail Registration
2. Cannabis Retail Registration Form
3. Cannabis Retail Registration Policy

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



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-45

**RE: A RESOLUTION OF THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING A
RETAIL REGISTRATION POLICY FOR BUSINESSES SELLING ADULT-USE CANNABIS AND
LOWER-POTENCY HEMP EDIBLE PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has legalized the commercial sale of cannabis for medical and/or adult use pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Chapter 342; and

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of establishing clear, consistent, and enforceable standards for the lawful operation of cannabis retail businesses within the unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, Townships and municipalities within Itasca County may delegate retail registration authority to the County; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority under state law to regulate cannabis businesses through local ordinances and policies, including the imposition of registration and zoning requirements; and

WHEREAS, the County Board seeks to promote public health, safety, and welfare by adopting a policy that provides for the registration of cannabis retailers, ensures compliance with local and state laws, and facilitates oversight by county agencies; and

WHEREAS, this Retail Registration Policy will serve as an interim or supplemental measure to the County's broader cannabis regulatory framework, and may be amended or expanded as needed to address emerging issues and stakeholder feedback;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Section 1: Adoption of Retail Registration Policy

The County hereby adopts the Retail Cannabis Business Registration Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference. This policy shall apply to all cannabis retail businesses operating or seeking to operate within the unincorporated areas of Itasca County.

Section 2: Registration Requirement

All individuals, partnerships, corporations, or other entities intending to engage in the retail sale of cannabis or cannabis products shall be required to complete the County's Retail Cannabis Business Registration process prior to commencing operations; and shall remain in good standing under the policy to continue lawful operations.

Section 3: Compliance with Laws

Registrants must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, including but not limited to zoning requirements, and state cannabis licensing regulations.

Section 4: Enforcement and Penalties

The County may take enforcement action, including but not limited to penalties, registration revocation, or other remedies authorized by law, against any cannabis retail business operating in violation of this policy or applicable laws.

Section 5: Effective Date

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, on this 28th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

ATTEST:

Brett Skyles, Clerk of the Board

SIGNED:

Casey Venema, Chair, Board of Commissioners

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on October 28, 2025 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.



Administrator

Itasca County Board of Commissioners

Resolution No.

A RESOLUTION OF THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPTING A RETAIL REGISTRATION POLICY FOR BUSINESSES SELLING ADULT-USE CANNABIS AND LOWER-POTENCY HEMP EDIBLE PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has legalized the commercial sale of cannabis for medical and/or adult use pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Chapter 342; and

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of establishing clear, consistent, and enforceable standards for the lawful operation of cannabis retail businesses within the unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, Townships and municipalities within Itasca County may delegate retail registration authority to the County; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority under state law to regulate cannabis businesses through local ordinances and policies, including the imposition of registration and zoning requirements; and

WHEREAS, the County Board seeks to promote public health, safety, and welfare by adopting a policy that provides for the registration of cannabis retailers, ensures compliance with local and state laws, and facilitates oversight by county agencies; and

WHEREAS, this Retail Registration Policy will serve as an interim or supplemental measure to the County's broader cannabis regulatory framework, and may be amended or expanded as needed to address emerging issues and stakeholder feedback;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Section 1: Adoption of Retail Registration Policy

The County hereby adopts the **Retail Cannabis Business Registration Policy**, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and incorporated herein by reference. This policy shall apply to all cannabis retail businesses operating or seeking to operate within the unincorporated areas of Itasca County.

Section 2: Registration Requirement

All individuals, partnerships, corporations, or other entities intending to engage in the retail sale of cannabis or cannabis products shall be required to complete the County's Retail Cannabis Business Registration process prior to commencing operations; and shall remain in good standing under the policy to continue lawful operations.

Section 3: Compliance with Laws

Itasca County Board of Commissioners

Registrants must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, including but not limited to zoning requirements, and state cannabis licensing regulations.

Section 4: Enforcement and Penalties

The County may take enforcement action, including but not limited to penalties, registration revocation, or other remedies authorized by law, against any cannabis retail business operating in violation of this policy or applicable laws.

Section 5: Effective Date

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, on this 21st day of October 2025, by the following vote:

ATTEST:

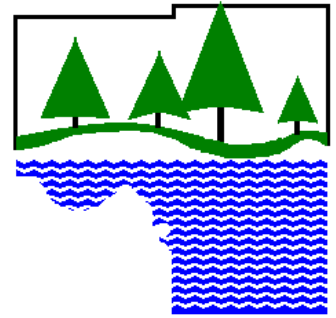
Brett Skyles, Clerk of the Board

SIGNED:

Casey Venema, Chair, Board of Commissioners

ITASCA COUNTY

Environmental Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
(218) 327-2857 | environmentalservices@co.itasca.mn.us



CANNABIS BUSINESS RETAIL REGISTRATION APPLICATION

APPLICANT (ENTITY) INFORMATION

Applicant Name:	
Business Name:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number:	Email:
Minnesota Cannabis Business License Number:	

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Owner Name:		
Physical Address:		
Parcel ID:		
Legal Description:		
Section:	Township:	Range:
Zoning District:	Organized Township:	
Property Taxes and Assessments Paid in Full:	☐ Yes	☐ No

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Period (Choose One):	Initial	Renewal
Registration Fee (Choose One):		
Cannabis Microbusiness	☐ \$0.00	☐ \$1000.00
Cannabis Mezzobusiness	☐ \$500.00	☐ \$1000.00
Cannabis Retailer	☐ \$500.00	☐ \$1000.00
Municipal Cannabis Retailer	☐ \$500.00	☐ \$1000.00
Medical Cannabis Combination Business	☐ \$500.00	☐ \$1000.00
Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailer	☐ \$125.00	☐ \$125.00

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL & RENEWAL INFORMATION

Please include a copy of your OCM issued cannabis license with initial application. Renewal registration, including the renewal fee, shall be submitted annually by January 31st to Itasca County Environmental Services. Itasca County reserves the right to deny renewal to an applicant who is not in good standing on their compliance inspections or who is not current on their property taxes.

A COMPLETE APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:

- ✓ A complete and signed Cannabis Business Retail Registration Application.
- ✓ A copy of OCM issued cannabis license (initial application only).
- ✓ Registration Fee.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION

I understand that under this retail registration, my business, which is licensed by the Office of Cannabis Management, is authorized for retail sale of a cannabinoid product for a period of one year. By signing I agree to comply with Itasca County's requirements for annual renewal of this registration or risk revocation of my retail registration. I authorize Itasca County, its agents, and employees to seek verification of the information contained in the application.

Name

Signature

Title

Date

For Office Use Only

The above-named applicant having paid the appropriate fees, being current on all applicable tax obligations, and being in good standing on compliance inspections, is authorized to engage in retail cannabis/lower-potency hemp edible sales in Itasca County.

Property Taxes Paid ☐ YES ☐ NO

Passed Compliance Inspection ☐ YES ☐ NO

Zoning Verified ☐ YES ☐ NO

Registration Approved ☐ YES ☐ NO

Reviewed By

Title

Date

NOTES

Itasca County

Cannabis Business Retail Registration Policy

Effective Date: October 21, 2025

Approved by: Itasca County Board of Commissioners

Authority: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Chapter 342

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and standards for the local registration of cannabis retail businesses and lower-potency hemp edible business operating in Itasca County. This policy aims to protect public health, safety, and welfare while supporting legal cannabis commerce.

2. Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to all cannabis retailers seeking to operate within the unincorporated areas of Itasca County. Organized townships and municipalities may delegate retail registration authority to the County; or choose to adopt their own retail registration regulations.

3. Registration Requirement

- No cannabis retail business or lower-potency hemp edible business may operate in the unincorporated areas of Itasca County without:
 1. A valid state license issued by the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)
 2. A valid **County Retail Registration Certificate** issued under this policy.

4. Registration Process

4.1 Application Submission

Applicants must submit a completed Cannabis Business Retail Registration Application to Itasca County Environmental Services including:

- Copy of valid state cannabis retail license;
- Registration fee (as set by County fee schedule).

4.2 Review and Approval

- The County will conduct a review of the application within 30 days.
- The application may be referred to departments such as Public Health, Auditor/Treasurer, Planning and Zoning, and the Sheriff's Office.
 - All property taxes and special assessments for the subject property must be paid in full.

- The zoning of the subject property and use as a retail business must conform to the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance.
- The business shall have a compliance inspection history in good standing.
- If compliant, a **Cannabis Retail Registration Certificate** will be issued.

5. Operational Standards

Registered cannabis retailers must:

- Use age verification systems to ensure all customers are 21 or older;
- Prohibit on-site consumption of cannabis;
- Comply with all applicable state laws; and all public health, fire safety, and building codes;
- Display all required licenses and registration certificates on-site.

6. Inspection and Compliance

- The County reserves the right to inspect cannabis retail premises during business hours for compliance; and will do so at least once each year.

Violations of this policy may result in penalties, suspension, or revocation of an applicant's Retail Registration Certificate as defined by State Statute 342.

7. Registration Term and Renewal

- County registrations are valid for **one year**, with an annual expiration of January 31.
- Renewal applications must be submitted at least **30 days** prior to expiration with the renewal fee.
- Retail Registrations are non-transferrable.

8. Fees

Fees for application, renewal, and inspections shall be established by the County Board and included in the County's fee schedule.

9. Appeals

Applicants or registrants may appeal a denial, suspension, or revocation of their registration to the Itasca County Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment, per Section 17.7 of the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance, within 30 days of notice.

10. Severability

If any provision of this policy is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

11. Amendments

This policy may be amended by resolution of the County Board in response to changes in law, regulation, or local conditions.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Cannabis Business Retail Registration Application



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-610

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Commissioner Johnson

AGENDA ITEM:

IRRRB Grant Application

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Request approval to submit an Economic Development Grant to the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board for an amount not to exceed \$250,000; acceptance of grant if so awarded and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-46

RE: A Resolution Authorizing an Application to the Itasca Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) up to \$250,000 for the Itasca County Strategic Plan.

WHEREAS, Itasca County is eligible to receive IRRRB grant funding as part of the Northeast MN Taconite relief area: and

WHEREAS, In support of Regional Economic Resilience; and

WHEREAS, In response to numerous economic challenges facing our region, the Itasca County Strategic Plan seeks to diversify and make the economy more resilient, and establish an Economic Resilience Coordinator position to administer a strategic plan on behalf of Regional Partners.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Itasca County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Itasca County Strategic Plan to apply for and accept funding from the IRRRB to support the Itasca County Strategic Plan.
2. The Itasca County Board of Commissioners named Brett Skyles, Itasca County Administrator, as authorized representative for said IRRRB grant upon award.

ATTEST:

Board Chair

Date

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Cory Smith
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema
ABSENT:	John Johnson

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on October 28, 2025 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Skyles", is written over a horizontal line.

Administrator



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-612

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Administrator Skyles

AGENDA ITEM:

2026 Legislative Priorities

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Discuss Legislative Priorities.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

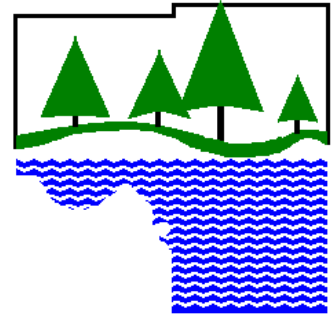
1. 2025 Legislative Priorities FINAL

10/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
----------------	--

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848



Itasca County 2025 Legislative Priorities FINAL

- Canisteo Mine Pit Continued O & M Costs
- Hwy 169 – Support efforts for double lane completion
- Increase PILT Reimbursement, Emphasis on Lakeshore Property PILT
- Appropriate reimbursement on ICWA funding based on costs and utilization
- EMS Funding
- Lift Nuclear Moratorium/Energy Transition – Include Biomass as Carbon Neutral
- New Business Economic Development/Investment – Recent Leg Impacts
- Recreation Enforcement State Funding Process
- Tax Forfeiture and Funding

For Legislative Discussion:

Wolf Management and Economic Impact



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-563

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Jessica Pellinen

AGENDA ITEM:

CEDA Quarterly Report

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive the CEDA Quarterly Report.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. CEDA Quarter Three Presentation
2. CEDA Quarter Three Written Report

10/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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Itasca County Quarterly Presentation



October 28, 2025



www.cedausa.com

Amanda Lamppa, Lisa Randall, Tracy Hensley, & Jessica Pellinen

Casper Landing
in Harris Township



Summary



CEDA Team Region 5 Update



Itasca County Communities



Itasca County Initiatives



Grants Awarded

CEDA Region 5 Team Updates



Jessica Pellinen
Region 5 Manager
Hill City, Remer



Shaun Hainey
Floodwood



Ashley Craiglow
Cohasset



CEDA Team

Serving Itasca County Communities



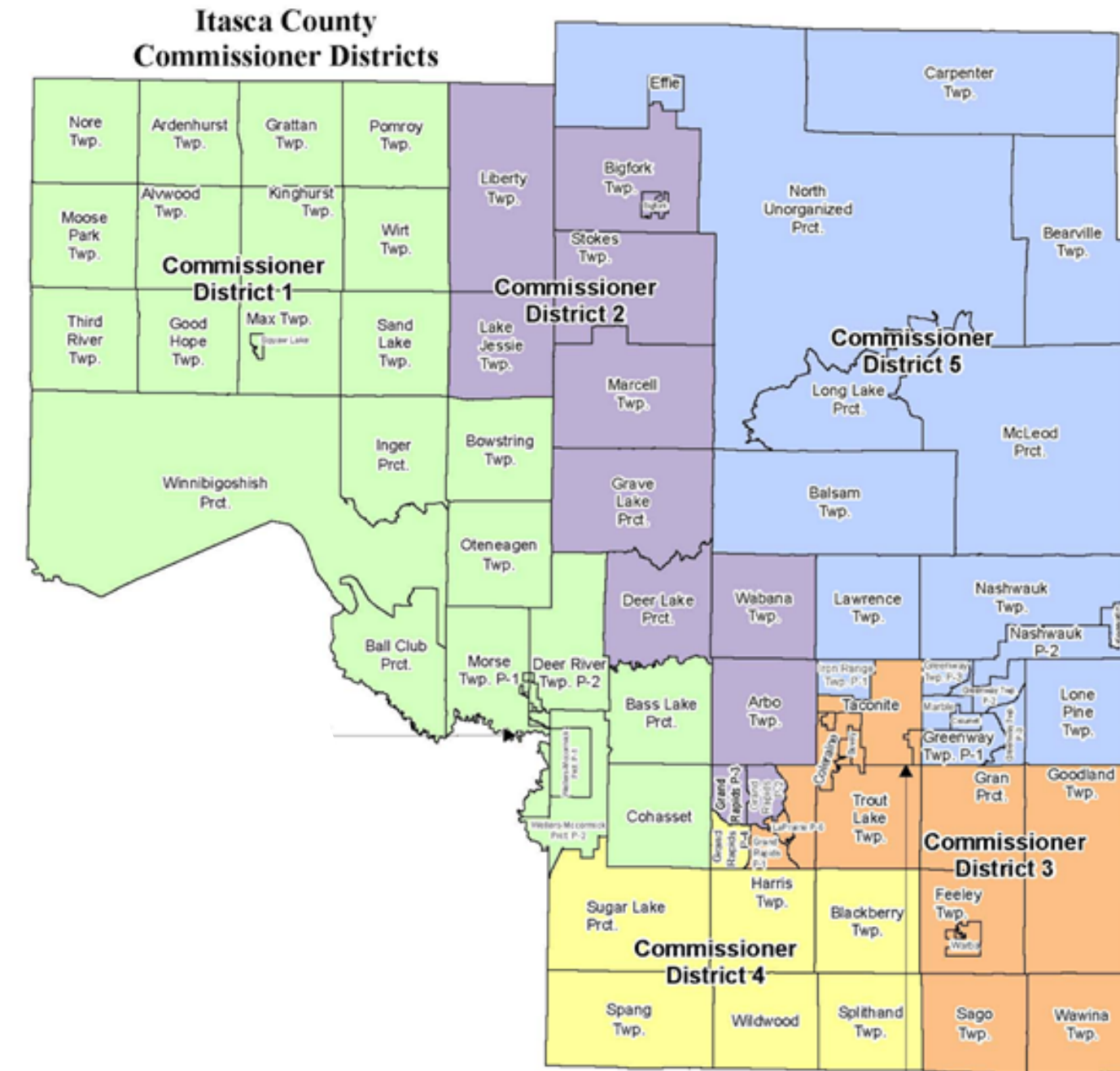
Amanda Lamppa



Tracy Hensley



Lisa Randall



Community Projects

Southeastern Communities

- **No Central MN Farm & Antique Ass'n**
in Blackberry Township



- **Feeley Township**
Legion Campground Complete
Town Hall and Cemetery Improvements



- **Warba Feeley Rec Board**
Three Phase Park Improvements



Regional Recreational Hub

Coleraine

➤ Best positioned with many unique amenities

- Eagle Ridge Golf Course
- Trout Lake
- Mount Itasca
- Ravenstone Abbey
- Mesabi Trail
- Greenway Rec Association
- Longyear Park
- Historic Walking Tour
- Cotton Park & Beach

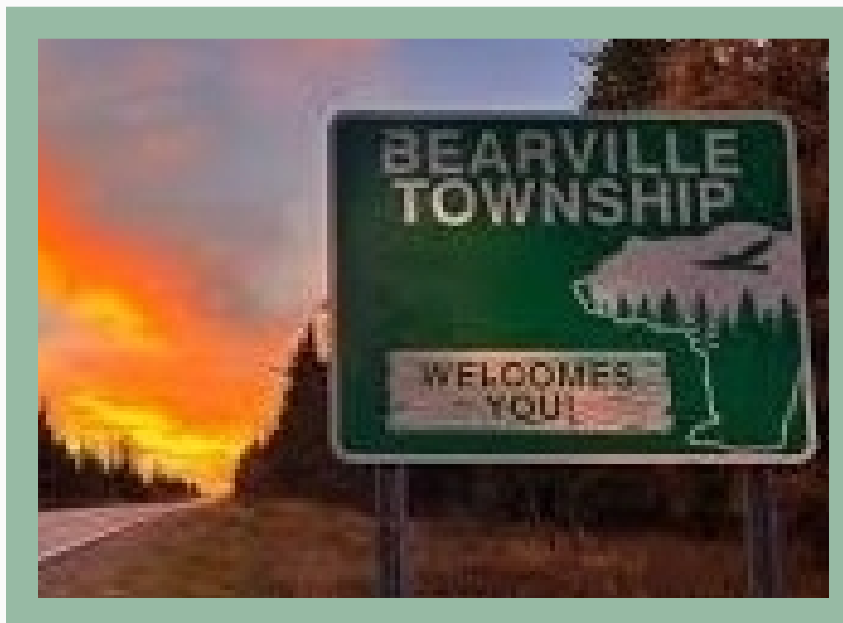
➤ Bringing partners together for discussion and strategizing



Community Projects

Northeastern Communities

- Carpenter Township
- Bearville Township Fire Hall
- Business Surveys and Visits



Business Visits

Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)

➤ **15 Businesses Visited**

➤ **5 Referrals to other agencies**

➤ **Common Comments from Businesses**

- State regulations hinder small business growth.
- Paid leave mandates strain budgets; FMLA will likely add more pressure.
- Cash flow is a major startup challenge.
- Incentive programs would likely boost local business growth.

Community Projects

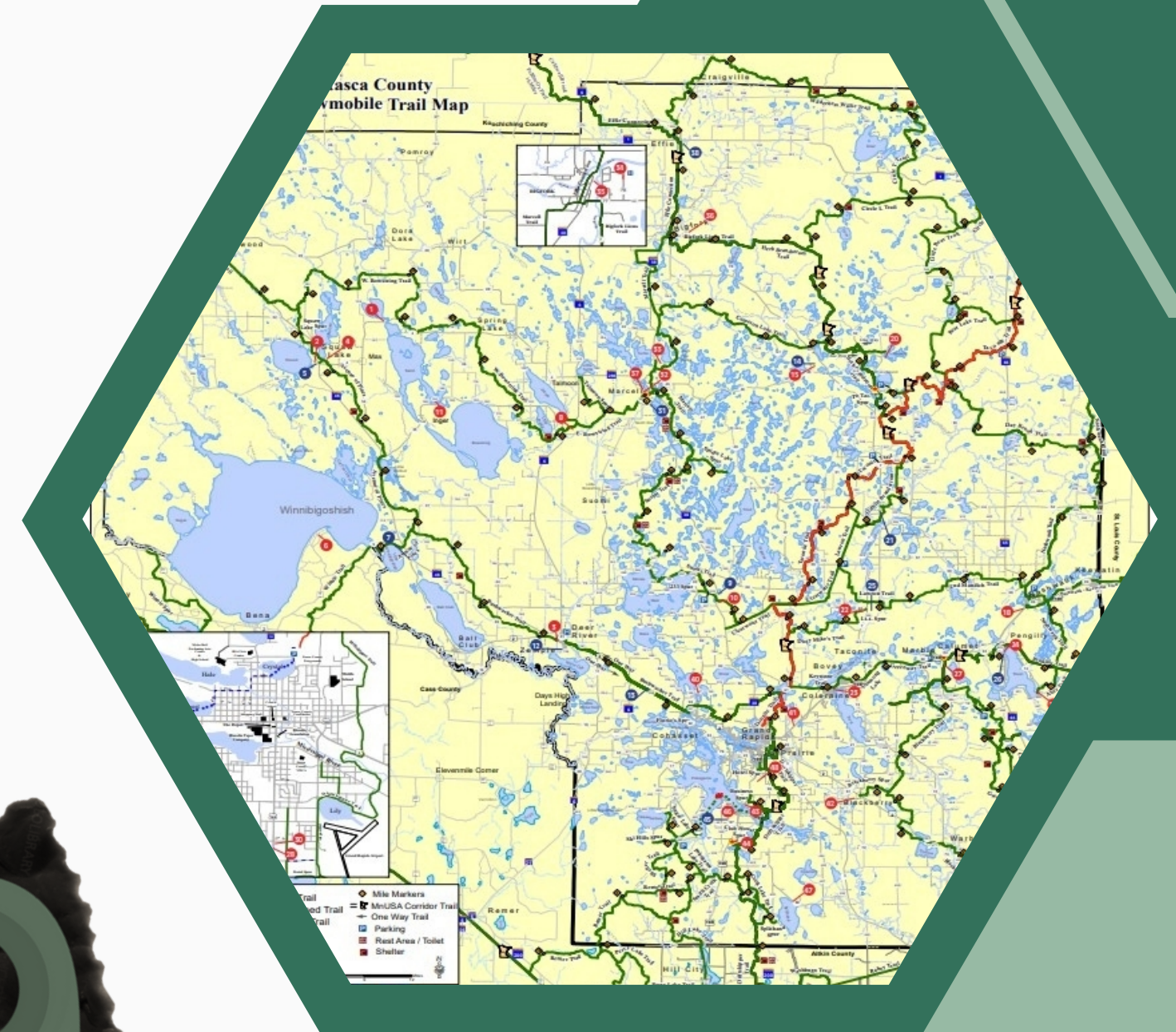
Western Itasca County

- Deer River City Park Collaboration
- Bowstring Township Nature Park
- Winnie Dam, Inger and S. Lake
LIC's Pavilions



Itasca County Trail Study

- **18 Month Study will evaluate trail user habits, spending patterns, and overall economic impact.**
- **Comprehensive study of all trails, gather data on user counts and activity levels**
- **Partners: Itasca County, Plum Catalyst, and the U of M**



S. Lake Multi-Use Bridge

- **Multi-use recreational trail bridge in S. Lake**
- **A stand alone bridge for recreational use only**
- **Awaiting environmental review before construction begins**



Nashwauk Trailhead

Baby LaRue

➤ Original Costs & Project

\$1.3 million to bring infrastructure up and build a wash station, restrooms and structure

➤ What can the City afford?

Maintenance is unaffordable at this time.

➤ Scale Down and Planning

A pavilion, parking lot and gathering area with satellite restrooms will still be added.



Grants in Q3

Grants with Communities

- **20 Grant Applications Submitted
Totaling \$521,800**
- **7 Grant Applications Under Review**
- **13 Grants Awarded = \$395,800**

Thank you!

CEDA serving Itasca County



Amanda Lamppa

Community and Business Development Specialist

✉ amanda.lamppa@cedausa.com

☎ (218) 259-6611



Tracy Hensley

Community and Business Development Specialist

✉ tracy.hensley@cedausa.com

☎ (704) 819-0838



Lisa Randall

Community and Business Development Specialist

✉ lisa.randall@cedausa.com

☎ (218) 259-0326





1500 South Hwy 52
PO Box 483
Chatfield, MN 59923
Phone: 507.867.3164
www.cedausa.com

TO: Itasca County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Tracy Hensley, Amanda Lamppa, Jessica Pellinen, Lisa Randall - CEDA

DATE: October 28, 2025

RE: Itasca County Community Project Updates

District 1 - Cory Smith

Bowstring Airport

- CEDA assisted with advertising their annual Fly-In & Camp-Out held September 26-28. About 30 airplanes camped under wing both Friday and Saturday nights. About 70 airplanes came in over the weekend.
- Airport Layout Plan (ALP) is nearing completion.
- Discussions have begun around a possible new hangar with an attached pilot's lounge, MnDOT grant information will be available soon.

Bowstring Township

- Pavilion concrete poured and built marking the start of this larger community enhancement park- Next phase is electricity & pathways and pickleball courts.

City of Squaw Lake

- City spending underway for upgraded marquee sign and other city beautification projects.

Inger Local Indian Council (LIC)

- New signage and architect rendering of pavilion- acquiring bids currently.

S Lake LIC

- Waiting for the tear down of school- LL Project- before pavilion project.

Winnie LIC

- Pavilion renderings and bidding process in session.

District 2 - Terry Snyder

Arbor Township

- Tracy will be speaking before supervisors November townhall meeting about possible grants.

Lake Jessie Township

- The township has decided to not pursue any grants for projects at this time.





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District 3 - John Johnson

Bovey

- Pickleball/tennis courts resurfaced; dog park fencing is complete.
- Splashpad funding- using amended Blandin Funds and other funders. Culture & Tourism grant will be applied after previous grant spent; DNR grant is another possibility.
- Submitting grant to MN Power for financial assistance upgrading city skid steer.

Coleraine

- Regional Recreational Hub discussions are underway.

Feeley Township

- An IRRR \$52,000 Public Works grant was awarded for improvements to Feeley Town Hall and cemetery.

Goodland Township

- An IRRR site visit was conducted in August when projects were discussed.
- An IRRR \$84,000 Public Works grant was awarded for community center upgrades.

Greenway Joint Recreation Association

- An IRRR \$9,000 Culture & Tourism grant was awarded for new entrance doors.

Warba American Legion Campground

- Phase 2/Year 2 of a two phase/two year project was completed in October. The total cost was about \$150,000, funded in part by Itasca County ARPA funds. Highlights are:
 - Campsites 18, 19, and 20 received upgraded electrical hookups.
 - The shower house interior was fully renovated.
 - New highway signage was installed.
 - The swimming beach was renovated from a steep slope to a sandy beach.
 - Shoreline preservation rip-rap was installed.
 - A maintenance utility cart was purchased.
 - Park benches and indoor dining tables were purchased.

Warba Feeley Joint Recreation Board

- An IRRR \$9,000 grant was awarded from Culture & Tourism grant for phase 1 of a three-year project for park improvements. Phase 1 is installing electricity to structures throughout the park, specifically the concession stand (also pavilion, skating rink, warming shack and outdoor biffies).





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City of Warba

- Snowmobile trail concerns and discussions are ongoing.

District 4 - Larry Hopkins

Harris Township

- The Crystal Park Pollinator Garden installation ran into some seasonal and weather delays.
- A new pavilion was installed at Wendigo Park.

North Central MN Farm & Antique Association (Blackberry)

- They intend to finish the interior of the back half of their Morton Building for additional temperature controlled indoor space. Project estimate is \$135,600.
- An IRRR \$30,000 Culture & Tourism grant was awarded this quarter.
- A Kootasca \$25,000 Business Energy Retrofit grant was awarded this quarter.
- Efforts continue to fund the remaining \$35,600 funding gap.

District 5 - Casey Venema

Balsam Township

- Applied for Culture & Tourism Grant.

Bearville Township

- Blandin Grant awarded: \$175,000; Public Works Grant to be applied for the same amount.
- Next steps: seek additional funding and solicit bids to complete the fire hall.

City of Calumet

- Tracy is working with the city on creating a community survey in regards to opportunities around the depot building.

Carpenter Township

- Blandin Grant awarded: \$20,000; Public Works Grant applied for.
- Focus: repair town hall (rotting posts, energy-efficient windows/doors, chinking).
- Cemetery: seeking assistance for falling headstones.

Greenway Township

- Still have Blandin, County ARP, MnDNR (boat landing), and Culture and Tourism dollars.
- The city plans to apply for a public works grant to build a pavilion but isn't ready yet.

City of Keewatin

- Older Adult Wellness Fair in the early stages of planning.
- Community Survey to be completed for the old 'boy scout' cabin.





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City of LaPrairie

- Currently serving on Blandin Foundation Strategic Doing Commission and free housing technical assistance from North Shore Development Co. (NSDC) through funding from Northland Foundation. The purpose of this meeting is to convene a group of local stakeholders to discuss the local housing market and establish priorities that will guide NSDC's work with the City of LaPrairie.

Lawrence Township

- Applied for the following grants Culture & Tourism, TMobile, and GRACF - for the playground updates.
- Lake Country Power Operation Round Up awarded for \$2000.00.

City of Marble

- City would like to add lights to the ballfield and in the area of where the new homes were built. The city would like to make town hall improvements.

Nashwauk Township

- Nashwauk: \$150,000 Blandin Grant for trailhead; trail taskforce active.

City of Nashwauk

- Playground updates have been put on hold at this time.

City of Taconite

- Water and sewer issues and placement plans - Bolton and Menck.
- \$30,000 left with Blandin grant funds, this is for a new entrance sign.

Trout Lake Township

- Looking for grants to purchase a new or used skidsteer.

Wabana Township

- Wabana: \$30,000 Culture & Tourism grant applied for playground updates.

Business Surveys and Visits: 15 businesses visited

Survey Purpose

- Goal: Identify business needs, challenges, and opportunities for growth
Responses will help guide county economic development priorities and support strategies.

Survey Focus Areas

- Business Information - Ownership, years in operation, funding sources, hours/shifts.





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- Employment- Number of employees, openings, hiring challenges (daycare, housing, transportation, wages, competition.)
- Business Climate - City and county support, regulatory challenges, infrastructure concerns.
- Future Outlook - Growth and succession plans, overall business confidence.

What was learned

- State regulations hinder small business growth.
- Paid leave mandates strain budgets; FMLA will likely add more pressure.
- Cash flow is a major startup challenge.
- Incentive programs would likely boost local business growth.
- The survey is ongoing.

Next Steps

- Continue personal visits with business owners to gather additional feedback.
- Include comprehensive data analysis in the year end report.

Grants:

- 20 grant applications were submitted, totaling \$521,800.
- 7 of those grant applications are still under review.
- 13 applications were funded, totaling \$395,800.

County Wide Projects:

- Comprehensive trail study underway with Placer AI for identifying future recreational projects based on data collected.
- LaRue 'rest stop' trail pavilion will go in Nashwauk by new sliding hill- Project has been scaled back due to city staff and costs of larger project not being feasible for long term success.
- Coleraine could use some organizational help with their current recreational assets. New leadership in the greenway park & rec could possibly help Mt Itasca as a champion. A designated trail hub is desired- collecting the data will be useful. Perhaps this facility could be in conjunction with a new hotel or convenience store. Making this a hybrid of a business as well as destination.
- Publish our maps that the Itasca County GIS department has made- Link them to the trails and add filters to them for easier navigation for our residents as well as guests
- Talk about a 3% county wide lodging tax as these extra funds captured by guests could go for marketing through digital content on our new maps
- County wide incentive programs so that the county can better assist small towns in financing opportunities should they be trying to attract that.





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Miscellaneous:

- CEDA held their annual meeting on July 31, 2025 in Winona, MN.
- Attended quarterly Iron Range Economic Alliance at IRRR in June.
- Tracy attended a week long Economic Development training in Duluth.
- Attended Mesabi Metallics tour
- Attended Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) tour in Coleraine
- Tracy Hensley and Lisa Randall serve on the steering committee for 100+ Women Who Care - Itasca. At the group's second event on October 5, 170 women each contributed \$100, raising over \$17,000 for KAXE Community Radio. In a surprise twist, an anonymous donor matched the total, giving another \$17,000 to the runner-up, the Itasca Cancer Crisis Fund. The next event is Monday, May 4, 2026.

Upcoming Events:

- The 2026 CEDA Annual Meeting is slated to be hosted in Itasca County.





**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-607

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair Venema

AGENDA ITEM:

Public Input

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Discuss Public Input

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

The consensus of the Board is to hold Citizen Input after the meeting has been adjourned.
10/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2025-611

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
PRESENTER:

TIME REQUESTED:

AGENDA ITEM:

Hold a closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(c) regarding parcel ID: 91-018-1303.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Hold a closed session pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(c) regarding parcel ID: 91-018-1303.

BACKGROUND:

- (c) A public body may close a meeting:
 - (1) to determine the asking price for real or personal property to be sold by the government entity;
 - (2) to review confidential or protected nonpublic appraisal data under section [13.44, subdivision 3](#);and
 - (3) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: No

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

20/28/2025

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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