



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

FINAL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith 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		

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: Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins
ABSENT: Casey Venema

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, January 13, 2026, County Board Regular Session.

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

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, January 13, 2026, Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve approved the Consent agenda, as presented.

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

1. Authorize Board Chair to sign the Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Itasca County and AFSCME Local 1626.
2. Approve the 2025-2027 Teamsters 320 Probation Contract with Itasca County.
3. Approve the 2026 CEDA Contract and authorize necessary signatures.
4. Approve application for a 3-year term from 1/1/2026-12/31/28 for the PC/Boa.
5. Approve the updated Tobacco Use Policy.
6. Approve six (6) utility easements with Lake County Power for construction and maintenance over and across five (5) tax-forfeited properties and one (1) direct county parcel and authorize necessary signatures.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of January 21, 2026, in the amount of \$ 3,728,055.41.

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

2. ICHHS Warrants

Motion To: Approve Itasca County Health and Human Services Warrants for December 2026, in the amount of \$2,207,810.53.

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

3. Certificate of Need Request Letter

Motion To: Approve Certificate of Need Request Letter and signature(s).

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

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrative update, regarding the previously approved "Certificate of Need" request letter stating that the approval of this will include a savings to Itasca County and other counties as well.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending a MN Pollution Control meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending an ARDC meeting and met with MN Power.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending a MN Power and an MPCA meeting.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith provided comment regarding "Coffee with the Commissioners". They will be held on a Thursday each month rotating through each district, with dates and times to be posted in the paper.

X. CLOSED SESSIONS

XI. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:43 PM.

ATTEST



Cory Smith
Chair of the County Board



Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board