



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, May 19, 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	Absent	
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: Pull item #6.1 (Legislative Session Wrap-Up) and approve the agenda as amended.

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

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 12, 2026, County Board Regular Session.

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

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Consent agenda, as presented.

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

1. Award SP 031-070-010 HSIP Intersection Signing and Pavement Markings to H&R Construction Co. and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents pending County Attorney approval.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

2. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of May 20, 2026, in the amount of \$ 263,638.48.

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

3. Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy and upcoming Youth Citizens Academy Presentation. Chief Deputy, Chris Peterson, presented information on the Citizens Academy and an upcoming Youth Academy.

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

4. MN State Flag

Motion To: Approve flying both the old and new flags on separate poles. All aye, except Johnson absent.

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

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrator Update, including thanking all who reached out to Legislators, highlighted technology updates, SNAP costs, increased supervision services and the Nuclear Committee.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending a Law Enforcement Memorial Rededication.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending the Bearville Township Meeting and a Range Mining Forum.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hopkins provided comment regarding the next Coffee with Commissioners in June.

Commissioner Snyder provided comment on lots of conversation regarding the flag discussion, calls about the Chloride treatment being included in the \$500,000 cuts made, and a reminder for Elections coming in the Fall and researching candidates.

Commissioner Smith provided comment on the Nuclear Committee and appreciating all the input from people on current issues.

X. CITIZEN INPUT

Dave Holmbeck provided input on MN State Flag, Deer Lake and the DNR.

Jake Langeslag provided input on the County Attorney not present, public comment being shut down in Coleraine, HRO against himself, Zoom Court/Mental Health Court, and popcorn.

Adrienne Reiners provided input on having data that tracks people's wishes and transparency.

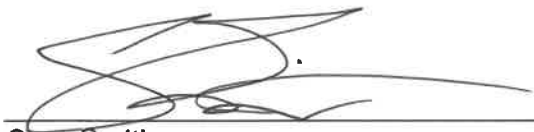
Terri Hill provided input on paying an Ambulance fee per parcel and she has 5 parcels with 4 of them being under an acre per parcel.

XI. CLOSED SESSIONS

XII. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:26 PM.

ATTEST



Cory Smith
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
(218) 327-2847

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

2:30 PM

Itasca County Boardroom

DRAFT

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	Present	2:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Agenda as presented.

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

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Regular Session.

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

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 5, 2026, Regular Agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Add Item #5.3 (Trail Capacity Grant Application) and approve the Consent agenda, as amended.

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

1. Schedule a Public Hearing Re: Off Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for Resort 1941 LLC located at 52385 County Road 31, Wirt on June 2nd, 2026, at 2:30 pm during regular board meeting.
2. Approve donation of 1 laptop to Morse Township.

3. Approve Trail Capacity Grant Program application submission through the American Trails organization and authorize necessary signatures.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Legislative Conference Call
Unable to make call due to technical issue.

2. Employee Recognition

The County recognized the following employee(s): Riley Savolainen.

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

3. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of May 13, 2026, in the amount of \$721,209.15.

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

4. Northeast Minnesota Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment

Motion To: Approve amendments and adopt a Resolution RE: amendments to the Northeast Minnesota Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

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

5. MN Flag Discussion

Chair Smith spoke about the current MN State flag and allowed citizen input.

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

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrator Update, including a quick call to action RE: HWY 160 Coalition for a letter of support. He also encouraged the public to reach out to the Legislature asking them not to pass any bills onto the County.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending a CEDA meeting and an Itasca County Township meeting.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending an Itasca County Township Association meeting and a Fairgrounds Taskforce meeting.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending the Commissioning of the PNH Shovel at Mesabi Metallics and an Itasca County Township meeting.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending a meeting with local Veterans regarding the possible move of the Veterans Service Office into the former County Administrative Services office on the 1st floor.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hopkins provided comment regarding fishing opener, taxes being due this week and wanted to communicate better with constituents regarding the taxes

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding this being the final week of the Legislative Session with many deals and decisions being made this week that will affect our taxes and this being that most expensive week of the year. He also thanked the constituents for not letting the Commissioners off the hook by continuing to reach out.

Commissioner Smith provided comment regarding constituents calling/emailing Legislators all week long to let them know what you want to see.

X. CITIZEN INPUT

Craig Nelson provided input on a book titled "Doctrine of Lesser Magistrate", and also requested the Commissioners write letters and make calls to the State.

Jim Raise provided input on dropping the Dust Control as it is both hazardous and unhealthy.

Dave Holmbeck provided input on DNR Fisheries and Living Word Bible Camp.

Jake Langslag provided input on his respect for Native Americans, shared parenting in MN, Free Spirit Syndrome, YMCA funding, Coleraine City removing citizen input from meetings, his son's birthday and his HRO.

Addie Best provided input regarding her thanks for getting the new military flags up and flying.

XI. CLOSED SESSIONS

XII. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:31 PM.

ATTEST

Cory Smith
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, May 19, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-407

DEPARTMENT: Transportation
PRESENTER: Ryan Sutherland

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM:

Bid Award - SP 031-070-010 HSIP Intersection Signing and Pavement Markings

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Award SP 031-070-010 HSIP Intersection Signing and Pavement Markings to H&R Construction Co., and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents pending County Attorney approval.

BACKGROUND:

Bids were opened May 12, 2026 @ 10:00 am. Results are listed below.

Engineer's Estimate \$153,032.00

H&R Construction Co. \$239,980.00

Sir Lines A Lot, LLC \$276,266.00

The significant factor that led to the large variance between the engineer's estimate and the low bid was the unit price of one pay item. We relied on an average unit price that was not directly applicable to this project.

A minimum of \$181,080.00 in Highway Safety Improvement Project federal funds were awarded for this project.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
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, May 19, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-161

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 15 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair Smith

AGENDA ITEM:

Legislative Session Wrap-Up

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Review how this Legislative Session affects our County.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

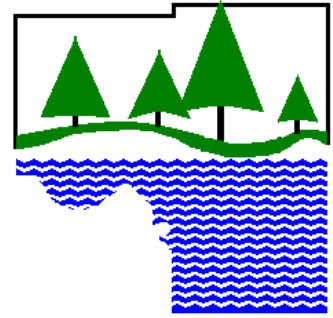
1. 2026 Legislative Priorities FINAL

05/19/2026

RESULT:	PULLED FROM AGENDA
----------------	---------------------------

ITASCA COUNTY

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



Itasca County 2026 Legislative Priorities FINAL

- Hwy 169 – Support efforts for double lane completion
- Increase PILT Reimbursement, Emphasis on Lakeshore Property PILT
- 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
- Update/Change current sulfate standards

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, May 19, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-162

DEPARTMENT: Auditor / Treasurer

TIME REQUESTED:

PRESENTER: Gail Guck

AGENDA ITEM:

Commissioner Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of May 20, 2026, in the amount of \$263,638.48.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 TO 0)
MOVER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
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, May 19, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-187

DEPARTMENT: Sheriff
PRESENTER: Joe Dasovich

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM:

Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy and Upcoming Youth Academy Presentation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Receive a presentation from the Itasca County Sheriff's Office regarding the successful completion of the 2026 Citizens Academy and information about the upcoming Youth Citizens Academy planned for summer 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The Itasca County Sheriff's Office recently completed its 2026 Citizens Academy, a community engagement program designed to provide Itasca County residents with a behind-the-scenes look at the operations and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office. The academy is a twelve-week program consisting of weekly sessions featuring presentations, demonstrations, and facility tours covering topics such as patrol operations, investigations, narcotics and task force operations, corrections and the jail facility, dispatch, emergency management, K9 operations, SWAT, search and rescue, and other specialized units.

The Citizens Academy provides participants with an opportunity to learn more about law enforcement operations, build positive relationships between the Sheriff's Office and the community, and increase public understanding of the role of law enforcement in Itasca County.

The Sheriff will provide a brief overview of the academy, highlight program participation and outcomes, and recognize the value the program brings to strengthening community partnerships.

In addition, the Sheriff will share information about the Sheriff's Office Youth Academy planned for summer 2026. The Youth Academy is intended to provide young residents of Itasca County with an educational and interactive experience that promotes positive relationships with law enforcement while introducing participants to careers in public safety and the criminal justice system.

These programs support the Sheriff's Office commitment to community engagement, transparency, and building trust with the residents of Itasca County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

05/19/2026

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



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-406

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair Smith

AGENDA ITEM:

MN State Flag

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Review MN State Flag with possible action.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

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