



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

Tuesday, July 14, 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: Add Item #6.7 (CEDA Quarterly Update) and approve the agenda as amended.

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

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 7, 2026, County Board Regular Session.

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

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Regular Agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Consent agenda, as presented.

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

1. Adopt the Taconite Environmental Protection Fund Grant Application Resolution through IRRR for the US Highway 2 Recreational Trail Integration Project, and authorize necessary signatures.

2. Approve the 2026 event lease agreement between Itasca County and the Northern Minnesota Swap Meet and Car Show and authorize necessary signatures.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Employee Recognition

Farewell to Audra Olson, who has retired from her position as a Social Worker in the Health and Human Services Department effective June 26, 2026, after 18 and a half years of service to Itasca County.

Farewell to James Pietila, who has retired from his position as Assessor/Appraiser II in the Assessors department after 13 years with Itasca County effective June 30, 2026.

Farewell to Jeremy Hanson, who has resigned from his position as Emergency Communications Specialist in the Sheriffs Department after 12 and a half years with Itasca County, effective June 26, 2026.

Farewell to Dana Thompson, who has retired from her position as Child Support Officer in the Health and Human Services Department effective June 18th, 2026, after 19 years of service to Itasca County.

Farewell to William Storm who has resigned from his position as Survey Technician in the Surveyor and Mapping Department effective July 10, 2026.

Farewell to Jake Olson who has resigned from his position as Road Deputy in the Sheriffs Department effective July 5th, 2026.

Welcome new staff member Anna Klous who has joined Itasca County in the Sheriffs Department as a Corrections Deputy, effective July 6th, 2026.

Congratulations to Daniel Popp who has been promoted from his position as Sheriff Road Deputy to Road Sergeant in the Sheriffs Department, effective June 7th, 2026.

2. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of July 15, 2026, in the amount of \$508,424.95

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

3. Schedule Budget Session

Chair Smith discussed a schedule for Budget Sessions and set the following dates: beginning July 28, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and each Tuesday after from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until complete.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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4. ESGR Patriot Award Presentation

Foster Thompson Transportation Safety Specialist and Frank Godec Regional Chair of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented Risk/Safety Manager Duane Dockter with the ESGR Patriot Award.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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5. Private Well Protection Grant

Motion To: Approve Public Health applying for the Private Well Protection Grant.

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

6. Trailhead Campground Long-Term Sites

Motion To: Authorize long-term rental of an additional 8 campsites in the Trailhead Campground at the Itasca County Fairgrounds on a yearly basis at \$900/month for calendar year 2026.

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

7. CEDA Quarterly Update

Tracy Hensley and Lisa Randall, Community and Business Development Specialists provided a quarterly update.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrator Update, including Fraud in MN Re: over \$100k paid back over one(1) case. He thanked Eric Villeneuve, Health and Human Services Director, and his staff for their hard work regarding fraud.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending an Itasca County Township Assn meeting and a Regional Rail Authority meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending an Itasca County Township Assn meeting, IRRRB Economic Development meeting, visited a waste site in Keewatin, and spoke on the Car Show coming up.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending a City-Council meeting, Itasca County Township Assn meeting, Mesabi Metallics meeting, and a land use meeting.

Commissioner Venema reported on visiting a solid waste site in Keewatin, got to see Bray Lake Compactors, and had a Western Mine Planning meeting.

Commissioner Smith reported on having many conversations with Constituents regarding different items.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding the heat and finding a way to stay cool.

Commissioner Venema provided comment regarding some rural sites being closed in the afternoons due to the high heat.

Commissioner Smith provided comment regarding participating in the Deer River Wild Rice Festival Parade.

X. CITIZEN INPUT

No input provided

1. Receive citizen input.

XI. CLOSED SESSIONS

XII. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:04 PM.

ATTEST

Cory Smith
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board