



ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Tuesday, August 25, 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: Added additional information to Item #6.5 (Above Ground Fuel Tank) and approved the agenda, as amended.

RESULT: APPROVED (5 TO 0)
MOVER: Commissioner Larry Hopkins
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, August 18, 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, August 18, 2026, Itasca County Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Consent agenda, as presented.

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

1. Appoint Jason Hebrink to the Bowstring Airport Commission fulfilling an unexpired vacancy.

2. Accept the resignation of Jan Noles from the Bowstring Airport Commission, effective August 12, 2026.
3. Approve signing Letter of Support - Royalty Beneficiaries of Itasca County State Taconite Mineral Leases.
4. Authorize IMCare Director and County Board chair to sign the contract between IMCare and Full Circle Counseling and Wellness, PC
5. Approve application for Medica Foundation grant.
6. Approve the Student Engagement & Attendance Support Program Services contract between ICHHS and Ross Resources, Ltd., for the period of September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.
7. Award Contract 59301 SAP 031-593-001 County Road 540 Grading and Aggregate Surfacing to the lowest responsible bidder, Hoover Construction Company, in the amount of \$689,705.95 and authorize the required signatures on the contract documents.
8. Approve submitting a letter of support to the City of Cohasset for the County Road 76 Trail Connection project and authorize the signature of the County Board Chair.
9. Authorize the required signatures on the LRIP Grant Agreement and adopt the grant resolution for the County Road 540 Grading and Aggregate Surfacing project.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Employee Recognition

The following Employees were recognized:

Farewell to Cindy Bergman, who is retiring from her position as Accounting Technician in the Health and Human Services Department, effective August 14, 2026.

Welcome Dakota Czerny who has joined Itasca County Sheriff Department as a Sheriff Road Deputy, Effective August 17, 2026.

Welcome Tae'Von Wells who has joined Itasca County Sheriff Department as a Sheriff Road Deputy, Effective August 17, 2026.

Farewell to Anna Klous, who has resigned from her position as Corrections Deputy in the Sheriffs Departmnet, effective August 12, 2026.

Congratulations to Sarah Vosen who transferred from her position as Legal Secretary to Administrative Coordinator in the Attorneys Department effective August 16, 2026.

2. Commissioner Warrants

Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of July 22, 2026, in the amount of \$194,810.03.

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. ICHHS Warrants

Motion To: Approve Itasca County Health & Human Services Warrants for August 2026 in the amount of \$2,042,475.86.

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

4. Job Posting Approvals

Motion To: Approve 1 Social Worker in the Family Services Division of Health and Human Services.

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

5. Above Ground Fuel Tank

Motion To: Approve low bid from Valley Petroleum Equipment for a new above ground fuel tank and authorized necessary signatures.

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

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator Brett Skyles provided an Administrator Update, including State assessed properties (transition lines, power lines, etc. Ex: Enbridge). Enbridge is suing the State again and if they lose, there are possible implications to the taxpayers.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending the County Fair and serving the Seniors a meal, attended a Budget session and a Grand Village Board meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending a meeting with Congressman Stauber and Representative Igo, attended an AFSCME Leadership meeting, Budget session, and Grand Village Board meeting.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending the County Fair, was part of "Farm Family", Budget session, Grand Village Board meeting, and Mesabi Metalics meeting.

Commissioner Venema reported on attending a tour with IRRRB to several locations, Budget session and Grand Village Board meeting.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending the County Fair, Budget session and the Grand Village Board meeting.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding listening to Gary Gensler, Security & Change Commission Speaker, Re: Data Centers, Metro event including Chair of Senate HHS Committee Re: challenges of HHS in MN.

Commissioner Smith provided comment on Coffee with Commissioners at 6 p.m. on August 25, 2026, at Cohasset City Hall.

X. CITIZEN INPUT

1. Receive citizen input.
No input provided.

RECESS

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 3:14 PM.

RECONVENE

Chair Smith reconvened the meeting at 3:18 PM, with all members present.

XI. CLOSED SESSIONS

1. Hold a Closed Session per MN Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) Re: Courthouse Security.

Motion To: Go into Closed Session per MN Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(d) Re: Courthouse Security.

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

Others Present: Administrator Skyles, Deputy Clerk of County Board Shelley Kebart, IT Director Jennifer Sutherland.

Motion To: Go into Open Session.

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

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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XII. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:21 PM.

ATTEST

Cory Smith
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board