HILLSDALE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
September 24, 2026
MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Robert Godfrey, on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Road Commission Office.

Members Present: Bob Godfrey, Gary Leininger, Kathy Schmitt, and Mike Parney.

Members Absent: Mark Kline.

Staff Present: Bob Griffis, Manager.
Heather Boyd, Assistant Manager.
Katie Kirkpatrick, Office Manager.

Visitors Present: Ken Todd, Allen Township.
Doug Ingles, Hillsdale County Commissioner.
Wesley Wickham.

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#26-137 Kathy Schmitt moved, Mike Parney supported, to approve the agenda for September 24, 2026.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#26-138 Kathy Schmitt moved, Mike Parney supported, to approve the minutes for September 10, 2026, regular meeting.

Motion Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AS AUTHORIZED FOR PAYMENT BY THE STAFF

#26-139 Kathy Schmitt moved, Mike Parney supported, to approve the following:

Bills in the amount of $240,751.28 per Regular Accounts Payable Register dated September 17, 2026, as authorized by the manager and clerk.

Motion Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF PAYROLL AS AUTHORIZED FOR PAYMENT BY THE STAFF

#26-140 Gary Leininger moved, Kathy Schmitt supported, to approve the following:

Regular payroll in the amount of $137,868.74 per Payroll Check Register dated September 24, 2026, as authorized by the manager and clerk.

Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT PRESENTED

The treasurer's report was presented by the clerk as follows:

Beginning Balance-Cash & Investments	$ 3,147,339.95
Receipts	$ 137,993.83
Disbursements	($ 378,620.02)
Ending Cash & Investments Balance	$ 2,906,713.76
Less: CD Reserved for 2 trucks	($ 714,352.43)
Less: CD Reserved for NRF	($ 750,000.00)
Ending Available Fund Balance	$ 1,442,361.33

Note: Outstanding Accounts Payable = $156,771.39

As there were no questions or comments regarding the report, the chair declared the report to stand approved as read.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

At 10:10 A.M., the chair opened the meeting to limited public comment.

Doug Ingles discussed the Radio Tower at Bundy Hill transfer of ownership to HCRC.

Manager's Comments

Paving the approach for Harmon Road east of S. Hillsdale Road today.
2026 Spring Pavement Markings are ongoing.
The stop signs at the intersection of Pittsford Road and Hartley Road have been switched.
Bridge maintenance is ongoing.
Lanphere berm has not been taken care of yet.
State crews have been mowing and scraping shoulders on state highways.
Scraping gravel roads as needed.
Chop is working on the list of trees.
Still have patching for Amboy Township.
Eight interviews are scheduled for next week for the open Administrative Services Specialist.
We have posted an open Mechanic position.
Bob attended a meeting at Hillsdale College for the proposed ITC high tension transmission line possibly coming through the county in 2031.
Discussed changes to management job titles coming soon.
Will be posting a State Superintendent position soon.

Old Business

None.

New Business

RESOLUTION 26-007 ADDOPTED TO SUPPORT THE PLOW STORM ACT

#26-141 Gary Leininger moved, Mike Parney supported, to adopt resolution 26-007 in support of the Plow Storm Act.

Yeas: Bob Godfrey, Mike Parney, Kathy Schmitt and Gary Leininger. Copy of resolution attached.

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF THE 2026 TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

#26-142 Gary Leininger moved, Kathy Schmitt supported, to approve the 2026 Transportation Asset Management Plan.

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF THE OVERAGES ON THE PICKUP BUILDS THROUGH TRI-STATE EQUIPMENT CO. UP TO $1,500 PER PICKUP FOR A TOTAL OF $3,000 ADDITIONAL

#26-143 Gary Leininger moved, Kathy Schmitt supported, to approve the overages on the pickup truck builds through Tri-State Equipment Co. up to $1,500 per pickup for a total of $3,000 additional.

Motion Carried

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

At 11:00 A.M., the chair opened the meeting to limited public comment.

Ken Todd addressed the board regarding the state road shoulders being scraped. He also asked about an update on the spreading of the Primoris gravel.

Wesley Wickham spoke more on the ITC high tension transmission lines.

Meeting Adjourned– 11:05 A.M

As there was no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Chair

Administrative Assistant

HILLSDALE COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION 26-007
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PLOW STORM ACT

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Hillsdale, Michigan, held in the Hillsdale County Road Commission Office located at 1919 Hudson Road, Hillsdale, Michigan, on the 24th day of September 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Bob Godfrey, Mike Parney, Gary Leininger, and Kathy Schmitt,

ABSENT: Mark Kline

MOTION BY: Gary Leininger

SUPPORTED BY: Mike Parney

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale County Road Commission is charged by state law with maintaining safe and efficient transportation on county roads and highways for the residents, businesses, emergency responders and visitors to Hillsdale County; and

WHEREAS, county road agencies provide critical winter maintenance services, including snow and ice removal operations that allow law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, school transportation, utility crews and the traveling public to safely access Michigan's roadways during winter weather events; and

WHEREAS, many county road agencies throughout Michigan, particularly in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, conduct snow and ice removal operations on a near-daily basis during the winter season, often under severe weather conditions that include substantial snowfall, extreme cold temperatures, and prolonged storm events; and

WHEREAS, county road agencies operate specialized heavy-duty snowplow trucks equipped with front plows, underbody blades, wing plows, and material spreaders that are essential to maintaining passable roadways and ensuring continuity of transportation services; and

WHEREAS, modern diesel emissions systems installed on these specialized winter maintenance vehicles have demonstrated significant reliability challenges during snowplowing operations due to the unique operating conditions associated with winter maintenance activities, including prolonged idling, low-speed operation, stop-and-go movement, repeated maneuvering, highly variable engine loads, and extreme temperatures; and

WHEREAS, emissions-related system failures frequently result in engine derating, reduced vehicle performance or complete removal of snowplow trucks from service during active winter weather events when reliable operation is most critical; and

WHEREAS, county road agencies serve as "Pre-responders" during winter weather emergencies by opening and maintaining roadways so that police, fire, emergency medical services, utility crew and other emergency responders can perform their duties; and

WHEREAS, emergency vehicles are currently afforded exemptions under federal diesel emissions regulations in recognition of their public safety mission, yet municipally operated snowplow equipment performing similarly critical public safety functions is not included within those exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the PLOW Storms Act would recognize the unique operational requirements and public safety role of municipally operated snow removal equipment by including such vehicles within the existing emergency vehicle framework of the federal Clean Air Act while engaged in winter maintenance operations; and

WHEREAS, passage of the PLOW Storms Act would improve the reliability of winter maintenance fleets, enhance public safety, reduce costly downtime, and help ensure continuity of essential transportation services during severe weather events;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hillsdale County Road Commission hereby expresses its strong support for the PLOW Storms Act and urges its prompt consideration and passage by the United States Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission respectfully urges Michigan's congressional delegation to support legislation recognizing the critical public safety role of municipally operated snow removal equipment and the need for reliable winter maintenance operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote hereon be taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Board.

AYES: Bob Godfrey, Mike Parney, Gary Leininger, and Kathy Schmitt

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Mark Kline

ABSTAINED: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Chair, Hillsdale County Road Commission

Vice Chair, Hillsdale County Road Commission

Member, Hillsdale County Road Commission

Member, Hillsdale County Road Commission

Member, Hillsdale County Road Commission