

# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

## GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026, 10:02AM | *Meeting called to order by* James Estola  
This meeting was held at the Gogebic County Road Commission office

---

### In Attendance

---

James Estola	John Matonich	Dennis Skinner (via web)	John Zorich
Garth Stengard	Phil Strong	Patti Hagstrom	9 Public Attendees

---

### Absent

---

Barry Bolich

---

### Pledge of Allegiance

---

### Approval of Agenda

---

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Zorich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matonich; all in favor, none opposed.

---

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

---

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Zorich; all in favor, none opposed.

- Finance Meeting of Tuesday, February 24, 2026
  - Regular Meeting of Tuesday, February 24, 2026
- 

### Public Comment

---

None

---

### Manager Report

---

This report was presented, discussed and will be made part of the recorded minutes. No action was taken.

---

### Engineer Report

---

This report was presented, discussed and will be made part of the recorded minutes. No action was taken.

---

### Old Business

---

- a) Lake Road at Mud Creek Presentation ~ Stephanie Pepin and Joe Bluma from Ayers reviewed possible eligible funding options and project alternatives/comparisons via the web. Phil Strong then explained options for the re-decking, replacement and post installed anchors. This item will be tabled until the March 24, 2026 meeting.

- a) CR519 Category A Grant Resolution ~ Motion was made by Matonich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Zorich; roll call: Ayes ~ Zorich, Matonich & Estola to adopt the following resolution.

**GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**  
**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CATEGORY A GRANT APPLICATION**  
**FOR COUNTY ROAD 519**

*WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation is accepting applications for grants from the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category A Program, and;*

*WHEREAS, Highland Copper Company has plans to locate at their facility at 1538 North County Road 519 investing \$425 Million and creating 325 jobs, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Gogebic County Road Commission has determined that County Road 519 North requires capacity and all-season upgrades, and;*

*WHEREAS, Highland Copper Company has expressed that County Road 519 North requires capacity and all-season status improves to allow the business to construct at this location, and;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of the Gogebic County Road Commission hereby authorizes for a Transportation Economic Development Funds Category A grant for the County Road 519 North project, wherein the Gogebic County Road Commission will commit to seek other grant funding sources and/or obligate Highland Copper Company to provide any required matching funds and continue to maintain the improved roadway, and;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of the Gogebic County Road Commission authorizes its Manager and Engineer to prepare and submit the application for the above-named project and to be designated as the authorized agents for all activities associated with securing and accepting any funding*

- b) 2026 ACT 51 Certification Maps ~ Motion to have the Chair to digitally sign the cover sheet was made by Zorich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matonich; roll call: Ayes ~ Matonich, Zorich & Estola, Nays ~ None.

---

Public Comment

---

Dan Siirila suggested that an employee of the Road Commission attend the retirement meetings. He asked about the 4-way stop in the City of Wakefield. He also asked about weekend plowing operations.

Roger Hill stated that he did not get paid for a grievance from March of 2025. He asked why his vacation time was reduced and asked about his clothing allowance reimbursement.

---

Adjourn

---

Motion to adjourn was made at 10:59AM by Zorich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matonich; all in favor, none opposed.

**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

---

SECRETARY

---

VICE CHAIR