REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026, 10:02PM | *Meeting called to order by* Barry Bolich
This meeting was held at the Gogebic County Road Commission office

In Attendance

Barry Bolich	John Matonich	Dennis Skinner	John Zorich
Garth Stengard	Phil Strong	Patti Hagstrom	5 Public Attendees

Excused

James Estola

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Skinner, 2nd by Zorich; all in favor, none opposed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Matonich, 2nd by Skinner; all in favor, none opposed.

- Finance Meeting of Tuesday, September 22, 2026
- Regular Meeting of Tuesday, September 22, 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

None

a) Plow Storm Act Resolution ~ Motion to adopt the following resolution was made by Skinner, 2nd by Zorich, roll call: Zorich, Skinner, Matonich & Bolich, Nays ~ none.

GOGEBIC COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PLOW STORM ACT

WHEREAS, the Gogebic 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 Gogebic 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 “re-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 Gogebic 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.

b) Gogebic Conservation District Appreciation Letter ~ This letter was presented to the Board. No action was taken.
c) Letters of Appreciation ~ These letters were passed for signatures. No action was taken.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 10:16 AM by Matonich, 2nd by Zorich; all in favor, none opposed.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

_____ _____

SECRETARY CHAIR