

Alcona County Road Commission December 17, 2025, Public Hearing Minutes

A public hearing was held by the Board of County Road Commissioners of Alcona County on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 301 North Lake Street, Lincoln, Michigan. It was opened at 4:15pm by Chairman Ted Somers. Present: Chairman Ted Somers, Vice Chairman Harry Harvey, Member Andrew Wright, Managing Director Jesse Campbell, Superintendent Mike Escareno, Clerk Renee LaVergne and Administrative Assistant Lori Grush. No guests were present.

Manager Campbell went over the proposed 2026 budget with the board including revenue, expenditures, general operating funds, primary road and bridge project estimates, local road and bridge project estimates, and capital outlay plan.

At the next meeting Campbell said he will have the amended 2025 budget and the 2026 budget for board approval.

Alcona County Road Commission December 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Alcona County was called to order by Chairman Ted Somers at 4:00pm on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 301 North Lake Street, Lincoln, Michigan with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Chairman Ted Somers, Vice Chairman Harry Harvey, Member Andrew Wright, Managing Director Jesse Campbell, Superintendent Mike Escareno, Clerk Renee LaVergne and Administrative Assistant Lori Grush. No guests were present.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Moved by Commissioner Wright, Harvey to accept the December 17, 2025, meeting agenda as presented. Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Superintendent Escareno shared that there's been steady work on snow and ice removal. In between, they've done some guard rail repair in Curtis Township, tree cutting in Harrisville Township, and have completed our year-end inventory.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Harvey, Wright to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2025, meeting as presented. Motion Carries

FINANCIAL REPORTS & OPEN ACCOUNTS

Discussion took place regarding the new funding calculations, sources, and timing.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, Harvey to approve payment of open accounts from December 10, 2025, in the amount of \$256,934.21, Motion Carries

Roll call vote: Wright - yes, Harvey - yes, Somers - yes

Motion Carries

CORRESPONDENCE

None

BUSINESS

Recess - 2026 Budget Public Hearing

Moved by Commissioner Harvey, Wright to recess the regular Alcona County Road Commission meeting at 4:15pm to hold the public hearing on the 2026 budget. Motion Carries

RECESS

Moved by Commissioner Wright, Harvey to close the 2026 Budget Public Hearing and resume the regular meeting at 4:25pm. Motion Carries

Present: Chairman Ted Somers, Vice Chairman Harry Harvey, Member Andrew Wright, Managing Director Jesse Campbell, Superintendent Michael Escareno, Clerk Renee LaVergne, and Board Clerk Lori Grush. No guests were present.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Manager Campbell shared that the 23rd is the Holiday Training Party at noon. He'll be passing out the new safety coats at that time. Manager Campbell brought up the topic of employee gifts. He shared what other road commissions do and legal opinions. Discussion ensued.

Campbell stated that in 2026 there will be 27 pay periods, instead of 26. We will have to adjust salaried employees so as to not exceed their annual salary.

He will have the weighmaster contract for board approval mid-January. Also, Mike is checking on the beaver trapping.

There will be a \$17.75 deduction per pay period from employees for the Health Equity health insurance for 2026. This would be a good time if the board wanted to reconsider an HSA contribution, it would be well appreciated.

He met with Huron Pines today regarding the Beaton Road and FR4433 bridges. They cannot contract it out so it's something we would have to do. Both have to be completed in 2026.

The clerk sent out RFP's for auditors and we've received two responses. Campbell will be sending those to the board for review.

He is finalizing the first road user agreement for the solar going in in Caledonia Township. Campbell explained the basics of the agreement and the payment structure.

Campbell is still working on the ice storm. Working with FEMA was great. Very slow now that it is with the state police.

Campbell informed the board that the new server had been installed and now we have a virtual server in addition to the onsite one. No one has been able to fix our phone issues, so he had the clerk order new ones for the office.

He sent three employees to the John Deere factory today.

Jesse mentioned to the board about having the December 30th meeting a little earlier so that banking can be taken care of.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, Harvey to change the regular board meeting start time on December 30, 2025, to 2:00pm

Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wright asked if it was too late to do something additional for the employees this year for employee gifts. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Commissioner Wright, Harvey to approve the manager to purchase twenty-six gift cards from the Lincoln Market in the amount of \$100.00 each.

Roll call vote: Wright - yes, Harvey - yes, Somers - yes

Motion Carries

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at the call of the Chairman at 4:51pm until the next regular meeting which will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 205 at 2:00pm.

Theodore Somers, Chairman

Lori Grush, Administrative Assistant