

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting * Thursday April 1, 2026

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Taylor.

Roll Call: Present- Commissioners Aaron Sogge, Jason Nelson, Mark Nyman, Sandy Bengelink, Michael Bush, Gary Taylor, Julie Theobald, Jason Baughan and Brian Potter.

Absent- None.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Addition: J.7. Enter Closed Session

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the agenda as amended.

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition-

Mistine Stark was presented with an award for 35 years of service.

Presentation and Reports-

Janie McNabb from Networks Northwest gave the 2025 Impact Report. Across the three categories they have had great success in Wexford County. In the talent section they help with jobs, training and general services. Out of the 10,000 individuals helped 1,600 are from Wexford County. Their youth program helped 282 young people, making up 20% of the youth helped. The adult education program has helped over 230 individuals without a high school diploma or GED to improve foundational skills. They highlighted Tina Spivey, of Cadillac, MI as she attended the learning lab, earned her GED and CNA certification at the same time. She stated the program helped her to realize she is capable of doing great things and was grateful to have people behind her to help get her through it. In the business section NNW helped local businesses obtain \$68,000.00 in grant funding to help train their employees. The APEX Accelerator program helped obtain collectively \$123 million in contracts with the Department of Defense. They are also assisting Wexford and Missaukee Counties with their material management programs. As well as mapping municipal water and sewer lines, through a MIDC grant which they will provide to municipalities at no cost.

Ben Townsend is on the board at Networks Northwest. He thanked Gary for putting him on the board all those years ago and wanted to thank the board for their continued support.

Public Comment-

John Roth stated that he was glad to be able to make it to a Commissioner Meeting and wanted to thank the commission for what they do. He informed the commission of a 9-point bill that is at

the House in Lansing. Not being sure if it will pass, he recommended keeping an eye on it. He feels that MDHHS needs to be broken back up, and they are hoping for that when there is a new administration. Regarding the juvenile justice system, they will propose working with the department to do better, on a regional basis rather than state led.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. Acceptance of Robert Hilty's Resignation from the Wexford County Road Commission (HR/PS 3/24/2026)

Agenda Items

1. James FOIA Appeal
MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Nelson to accept the advice of the County Prosecutor and Legal Counsel and uphold the denial of Ms. James' FOIA requested dated March 11, 2026, and authorize the chairman to sign a response letter to Ms. James communicating the Board's decision on her appeal.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

2. Applied Innovation Proposal Wexford Missaukee Public Defenders
MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nyman to approve Applied Innovation Proposal for Wexford Missaukee Public Defenders for a term of 60 months in the amount of \$234.50 per month and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

3. Prosecutorial Services Agreement
MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Nyman to approve Prosecutorial Services Contract for the City of Cadillac to provide limited prosecutorial services as a City Attorney at an annual rate of \$40,000.00 at an hourly rate of \$150.00 and the terms of the contract begin July 1, 2026, and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.
Commissioner Theobald asked if there was a cap on hours and if the \$40,000.00 and \$150/hour were flat rates and if Prosecutor Carey was happy with the agreement. Prosecutor Carey stated that she was happy with the agreement. This is the first increase in 12 years, and she also likes that there are increases built into the contract.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

4. Veterinarian Services Agreement

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Sogge to approve Veterinarian Services Agreement between Wexford County Animal Control and Meyer Veterinary Clinic and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

5. Janitorial Services and Snow Removal RFPs Discussion

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to direct Administration to issue two separate RFPs. One for Janitorial Services and one for Snow Removal/Lawn Care.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

6. Full-time Veterans Services Director

MOTION by Comm Nelson, seconded by Comm Potter to approve the Full-time Veterans Services Director and set the compensation rate at the M2 level.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

7. Enter Closed Session

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to enter closed session to discuss attorney client privileged legal opinion and invite the County Treasurer to attend.

Roll Call: Motion passed 9-0.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Joe Porterfield said that even with some staff on vacation we were able to make it through the IT issues that came up. Joe thanked Janie with Networks Northwest and Ben Townsend for all the of the work they do and stated that they are currently working with Wexford and Missaukee counties on their Materials Management Plan to present to the State.

Joe also mentioned that 35 years in one position is a long time and he would like to thank Mistine for her service.

Correspondence- None.

Public Comments-

Carl Ouwinga, Cadillac, owns Cadillac Janitorial which has provided the janitorial, snow removal and yard maintenance services for the last 17 years. He stated that he felt as though they were not wanted back, due to the motion for RFPs. He asked if they could

tell him how much notice they would have prior to switching companies. If it would be 90 days from their original contract or less as they currently do not have a contract. Chairman Taylor advised Mr. Ouwinga that the Commission is not able to respond during public comment but that he could speak with Administrator Porterfield after the meeting.

Don Koshmider, Cadillac, stated that he is just winging it and doesn't have bullet points or notes. Don said that it is a beautiful day out today but unfortunately there are a lot of chem trails, pointing out one in the sky, and the chem trails are spraying us with aluminum, barium and a few other chemicals. Some states and countries have outlawed it, they call it the stratospheric aerosol injection, SAI geo-engineering and it is not a conspiracy theory. We are all breathing in the stuff.

Don said that his friend Mike Mix must have given up on the address ordinance, but God bless him. Don would like to see this board pass a resolution that the Commission opposes the spraying of chemicals on our good citizens. As a formality as Don learned that the Emergency Management Director can't pass an order what they are spraying because of the Federal Government and FEMA funding the projects.

Don was at a state convention last week in Novi, MI. He presented a coloring book he received for school kids named "Pronouns not Schmonouns" teaching our kids about boys and girls. Don stated that our kids are under attack.

Don recommended that everyone keeps an eye on trackaipac.com to learn if your representative or congressman are receiving money from Israel. He stated that he thinks the commission is doing a fine job and hopes that they are not taking money from Israel. He thanked them for their service. Don recommended to go to InfoWars.com for your news before it gets shut down and then it will switch to the Alex Jones Network.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Nyman appreciates being able to be a part of Networks Northwest and stated that they gave a good presentation. Community Mental Health is still having financial issues and that they are working very hard on that as well as working with the new director. They are making progress on both.

Comm Bush reported that the Materials Management minutes for February are out and as soon as the March minutes are done, he will provide them to the board.

Comm Potter stated that Robert Hilty of the Wexford County Road Commission put in his resignation due to health issues and he will be missed and he hopes Bob gets well.

Board Comments-

Comm Theobald would like to thank Mistine for 35 years. She also wanted to thank Joe for all he does and for making sure that everything is handled.

Comm Potter would like to recognize Connie Roderick's retirement from MDOC after 30 years of service as well as thanking her for her service.

Comm Nelson missed the last board meeting due to the ice storm. He personally went to over 30 power line calls. He would like to thank Emergency Management and the Road

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Commission for the outstanding job they did, as well as the Fire Department and Law Enforcement.

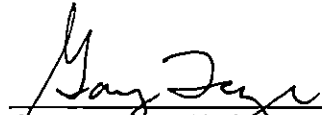
Chairman's Comments-

Chairman Taylor congratulated Mistine on her retirement and stated that Bob Hilty will be missed.

Adjourn

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:49 p.m.

All in favor.



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Ashley Hackert, Chief Deputy County Clerk