

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting * Wednesday, July 15, 2026

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

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

Absent- Aaron Sogge and Brian Potter

Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda-

Add: J.5. Community Corrections Position Change

Add: J.6. State Disaster Contingency Fund Grant Resolution

Approval of the Agenda

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

All in Favor.

Employee Recognition- *None.*

Presentation and Reports

Carrie Thompson, Executive Director of WexExpress, reminded everyone that they are on the ballot August 4th. They are requesting the same amount that they have for the last 20 years.

Ms. Thompson highlighted that they are experiencing record ridership with over 150,000 rides. Last October they saw over 15,000 just for the month, and in April and May they saw just under 15,000.

Ms. Thompson explained that during the school year they transport children, so they compared the month of June. This year, the month of June was up 1200 rides from last June. Through partnerships with the schools, they are able to transport children out to Caberfae for skiing and snowboarding. They also partner with the YMCA to provide rides for middle schoolers to be able to use the YMCA program for free. This was a grant funded program that the YMCA was awarded. WexExpress also is able to partner with Hope Network, Mobility Office and New Freedom to provide rides to a multitude of people.

They are able to keep the costs down because of advances in technology. They have developed an app to allow individuals to book rides right from their phone. There have been over 4500 installations of the app. They also were able to upgrade to an integrated virtual response to field the phone calls that they receive.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting* July 15, 2026

Commissioner Theobald asked what the best way is for business to call for rides for individuals. Ms. Thompson explained that the app is linked to an individual, so the best way is to call or book online for someone else. They are also working on developing a care giver app to allow for things like parents to book for multiple children.

Brian Beard from the US Small Business Administration spoke to the Board about loan opportunities for businesses and residents who were effected by the flooding and other severe weather that is not covered by insurance. He noted that there is no cost to apply for these loans, and there is no interest or payments due in the first year.

Mr. Beard noted that most home loans are only for primary residences, but these loans can be used for damage caused to rental properties also. Businesses can apply for any loss of revenue they may have seen also.

He encouraged everyone to apply as soon as possible. Applications can be done online, by phone, or in person. They are located at the Cadillac Water Operations Facility. Hours of operations are currently set at Monday through Saturday 8am to 6pm and Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

Commissioner Theobald confirmed that this is not just for flood damage. He explained that this covers any storm damage caused from April 10th through April 21st.

Public Comment- *None.*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the July 1, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Comm Bengelink seconded by Comm Theobald to approve the Consent Agenda.

All in Favor.

Agenda Items

1. Pitney Bowes Lease Renewal Agreement-Wexford County Court House

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Pitney Bowes Renewal Agreement for Wexford County Court House for a 60-month term in the monthly amount of \$329.10 and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

2. Pitney Bowes Lease Renewal Agreement-Wexford County Lake Street Building

MOTION by Comm Nyman, seconded by Comm Bush to approve the Pitney Bowes Renewal Agreement for Wexford County Lake Street Building for a 60-month term in the monthly amount of \$67.23 and authorize the board chairman to sign on behalf of the County.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

3. Wex Roof Quote-Civic Center Lobby

MOTION by Comm Bengelink, seconded by Comm Baughan to approve waiving the competitive bid process and approve the quote from G Freeland Roofing Systems to replace the roof over the lobby and bathrooms at the Wex in the amount of \$35,850.00.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Transfer of Vehicle to the Conservation District

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bengelink to approve the sale of the 2013 GMC Terrain to the Wexford Conservation District for the sum of \$1.00 and to authorize the transfer of ownership from Wexford County to the Wexford Conservation District for official district use.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

5. Community Corrections Position Change

MOTION by Comm Baughan, seconded by Comm Theobald to approve eliminating the M2 Community Corrections Senior Officer position and approve the presented Substance Abuse Testing Officer position description for a male tester at an L5 wage rate for a trial period of up to 5 months.

Roll Call: Motion passed 7-0.

6. State Disaster Contingency Fund Grant Resolution

MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Nelson to approve Resolution 26-21 State Disaster Contingency Fund Grant.

Roll Call: Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report-

Administrator Porterfield thanked Carrie for all that she does. Her and her staff do great things. They are giving rides to veterans, and they are giving rides to those needing to go to treatment. If he ever needs help with a grant, he contacts Carrie.

Mr. Porterfield also informed the Board that the previously approved 4 cadets will only be 3. One of the cadets fell through. They are working with an individual who is putting himself through the academy to potentially come work with them afterward.

He also shared that Northern Lakes Community Mental Health is around \$200,000 short in the budget. They are anticipating a more significant shortfall next year with the cuts to Medicaid.

There are almost no jail services being offered currently. They are looking into raising the wage for the Social Worker position by using jail commissary funds.

Mr. Porterfield also advised that the Airport will be in need of some repairs. That will be coming.

Correspondence- *None.*

Public Comments-

Brian Gall asked the Board if anything can be done about getting the ball drain cleared out. He owns 15 acres, however, 6 to 7 acres are junk because it is flooded. Mike Solomon came out and that was a waste. Bob Scarbrough has been trying to help him out. He has lived there for 51 years, and it has not been cleaned out since the 80s. It is the counties responsibility. What can be done?

Don Koschmider, Cadillac, is seeing the smoke fog around, and he knows there is an air quality report. There are a lot of chem trails around too. We are breathing in those chemicals. He would like the state to care about the air quality for chem trails. Mr. Koschmider would like to see a resolution passed by the Board against chem trails. The residents in Haring are in agreement against data centers. They want to get ahead of them.

Gary Anderson, 101st Representative Candidate, wanted to introduce himself to the Board. He believes we all need to work together. A lot of people have the same opinions and concerns.. We need to come together to listen to them.

Liaison Reports-

Comm Theobald attended LDFA meeting. They are looking at closing down the wells that have been in question. The testing came back with no chrome and low PFOS.

Board Comments-

Comm Bengelink thanked Carrie for all that she does.

Comm Theobald also thanked Carrie for all that she does.

Comm Nelson would like to see us get fans so residents aren't so warm.

Chairman's Comments-

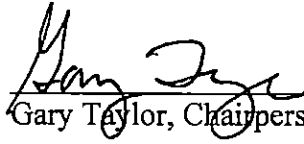
Chair Taylor thanked Carrie for her work and thanked everyone for attending.

Adjourn

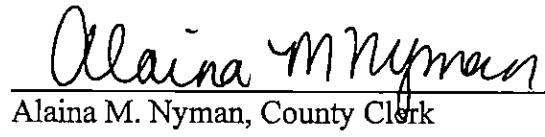
MOTION by Comm Theobald, seconded by Comm Bush to adjourn at 4:41 p.m.

All in favor.

Wexford County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting* July 15, 2026



Gary Taylor, Chairperson



Alaina M. Nyman, County Clerk