

**Berrien County Board of Commissioners
Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Kenneth L. Wendzel Conference Room**

Finance Committee

Commissioner Mamie L. Yarbrough-Chairperson
Commissioner Jon Hinkelman - Vice-Chair
Commissioner Rayonte Bell
Commissioner Teri Freehling

Attendance:

Present
Present
Present
Present

Others Present: Annette Christie, Mike Sepic, Mac Elliott, Dan Fette, Shelly Weich, Thaddeus Hackworth, Mark Heyliger

The Chairperson asked the Vice Chairman to run the meeting and provide the committee report during the BOC meeting. The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman at 9:45 a.m.

Administrator and Chair Q & A

Interim County Administrator Mike Sepic sought direction on what types of things the committee would like him to report on during the weekly Q & A's. The committee noted budgetary items, projects in the works, time sensitive issues, and specific things that require the Finance Committee's input. While the BOC Chair and Administrator were still present, Jon asked for direction following the email from Administration Committee Chairman Jim Curran regarding the approval of waivers and bids for equipment and materials for the Road Department. He thought that the temporary loan to the department from the County was based on a cash flow timing issue due to the State's change in distributing funds. Jim's email seemed to indicate that there might be something additional. Road Department Director Mark Heyliger came in the room and was asked to provide additional information - he said that the cash flow issue is because of the new funding mechanism that the State is using and the January payment is not expected until March. Mark said that he expects that the department will be back in a favorable position when the funding picks up in April. He noted that he does not expect to have to come back and ask for additional funds and that they will be able to begin paying back the loan as described in the resolution. If the funding is delayed further by the state, it could impact primary road projects. Of today's action that the Finance Committee was considering:

- Waiver 2026-02-19-01 - (2) Falcon 4-ton Hot Box Transporters
- Bid 2026-015 - Asphalt Emulsion, Dust Stop & Fog Seal
- Bid 2026-016 - Aggregates

Discussion was held about the equipment and materials and Commissioner Freehling requested that Mark have a conversation with the Administration Committee about those items before moving them forward.

Committee Business

Approval of minutes of February 12, 2026 meeting – Motion by Commissioner Bell, supported by Commissioner Yarbrough – Motion carried.

Waivers presented to the Committee:

Waiver #	Vendor	Reason	Department	Budgeted Amount	Waiver Amount
2026-02-19-01	Alta Equipment Company	(2) Falcon 4-ton Hot Box Transporters	Road	\$66,665.24	\$66,665.24

The Committee held the waiver until the Road Department can have a conversation with the Administration Committee about their concerns. The Chairperson did not sign the waiver at this point.

****Following the Committee reports at the Board of Commissioners meeting, the Administration Committee stated that they were good with the waiver moving forward. The waiver was then signed by the Finance Committee Chairperson.**

Bid Results Reviewed:

BID #	DEPT	FOR	RESULTS	PROJECTED:
2026-018	ROAD	Hagar Township Scratch & Seal	Michigan Paving \$164,135 Rieth-Riley \$174,296	\$230,000
2026-019	ROAD	Sodus Township Scratch & Seal	Michigan Paving \$98,402.96 Rieth-Riley \$87,318	\$130,000
2026-020	ROAD	St. Joseph Township HMA	Base Bid Michigan Paving \$694,380.53 Rieth-Riley \$759,625 Alternate Bid Michigan Paving \$137,655 Rieth-Riley \$137,655	\$575,000
2026-021	ROAD	Benton Township Scratch & Seal	Michigan Paving \$279,135 Rieth-Riley \$285,155.75	\$350,000
2026-022	ROAD	Lincoln Township Ultra Thin	Michigan Paving \$345,135 Rieth-Riley \$335,978	\$450,000
2026-023	ROAD	Pipestone Township Scratch & Seal	Michigan Paving \$98,926.96 Rieth-Riley \$95,384	\$125,000

Motion by: Commissioner Bell Support by: Commissioner Yarbrough
to refer the bids to the department with the approval to move forward with the lowest bidder, if they are an approved responsible bidder that meets specifications and requirements. In addition, they authorize the County Administrator to execute any subsequent contract associated with the bid and any contract modifications up to \$10,000. Communication from the Road Department must be submitted to the Finance Committee in the event that they want to move forward with a bidder that was not the lowest bidder to provide justification and obtain additional approval. Motion carried.

BID #	DEPT	FOR	RESULTS - See Bid Tabulation	PROJECTED:
2026-015	ROAD	Asphalt Emulsion, Dust & Fog Seal materials	(2) Bidders Michigan Paving and Bit-Mat	\$1,700,000
2026-016	ROAD	Aggregates	(3) Bidders Kenneth Smith, Inc. The Klink Group Yellow Road Transport	\$300,000
<p>Motion by: Commission Yarbrough Support Commissioner Freehling to refer the bids to the department with the approval to move forward with the lowest bidder if they are an approved responsible bidder that meets specifications and requirements. Communication from the department must be submitted to the Finance Committee in the event that they want to move forward with a bidder that was not the lowest bidder to provide justification and obtain additional approval. Motion carried.</p>				

ROAD DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION - Mark Heyliger

Mark informed the committee that he would be meeting with Wightman & Associates today at 1:00 to have a discussion about serving as the Engineer on record following Kevin Stack's last day (March 6). Also, Mark has been informed that the Village of Baroda will be putting the dissolution of the village on the ballot for voters or at least that is the intent. While there are a whole lot of things that need to occur, Mark provided information to them about the roads and the process of taking them into the County road system as a part of Baroda Township.

Resolution(s): The following resolution was signed to move on to the full board:

- F2602018 – Weekly Bills and Road Payables.
- F2602153 – Schwark Drain property sale agreement amendment – Shelly Weich and Dan Fette provided information at the request of the committee prior to signing.
- F2602157 – Approve service agreement with Michigan Leadership Institute

Public Comments: None

Meeting Adjourned: 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Christie