

**Berrien County Board of Commissioners  
Finance Committee Minutes  
Thursday, February 26, 2026  
Kenneth L. Wendzel Conference Room**

**Finance Committee**

Commissioner Mamie L. Yarbrough-Chairperson  
Commissioner Jon Hinkelman - Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Rayonte Bell  
Commissioner Teri Freehling  
Commissioner Sharon Tyler  
Board Chairman Mac Elliott

**Attendance:**

Absent  
Absent  
Absent  
Present  
Present  
Present

**Others Present:** Annette Christie, Mike Sepic, Mac Elliott, Shelly Weich, Thaddeus Hackworth, Lora Freehling, Dana Black-Kozminski, Sara, Cindi, Camille

**Meeting called to order: 9:22 a.m.**

**Administrator and Chair Q & A**

Interim County Administrator Mike Sepic inquired about the history of the Committee of the Whole meetings. He shared that finding topics to be discussed at those meetings is sometimes difficult. As of right now, the only one that we have a subject for is the March 19 meeting - where the Parks Department needs to do a Public Hearing as a requirement for a grant application. Discussion ensued. His recommendation was that we still continue to have the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee of the Whole meetings and cancel the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> going forward. The committee was in favor of trying that format. Mike said he would have the same discussion with the other 2 parent committees to get feedback. Commissioner Teri Freehling suggested a plan for celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Nation could be a subject. Board Chair Mac Elliott asked about interest in the MAC Conference and asked that those who are interested to provide that information to Annette by next week if possible.

**Committee Business**

**Bid Results Reviewed:**

Bid #	Department	Goods/Services Description	Results	Response
2026-026	Road	Yore Ave. Reconstruction	Kalin - \$1,901,255.50	1/5
2026-027	Road	Watervliet Township Ultra Thin	Michigan Paving - \$53,200.61 Rieth-Riley - \$54,197.75	2/4
2026-028	Road	Watervliet Township - HMA	Michigan Paving - \$64,768.16 Rieth-Riley - \$77,555	2/4
2026-029	Road	New Buffalo Township HMA & Trench & Widen	Rieth - Riley \$757,501 Michigan Paving - \$806,655	2/4
2026-030	Road	New Buffalo Township Scratch & Seal	Michigan Paving - \$129,455 Rieth - Riley - \$159,504	2/5

2026-031	Road	Coloma Township Ultra Thin	Michigan Paving - \$31,429.22 Rieth - Riley - \$39,556	2/4
2026-032	Road	Coloma Township Scratch & Seal	Michigan Paving - \$170,510.48 Rieth-Riley - \$179,041	2/5
2026-033	Road	Weesaw Township Scratch & Seal	Rieth-Riley - \$97,444 Michigan Paving - \$104,155	2/5
Motion by: Commissioner Mac Elliott		Support by: Commissioner Sharon Tyler		
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.				

**Approval of minutes of February 26, 2026 meeting** - Motion by Commissioner Freehling, supported by Commissioner Tyler - Motion carried.

**Waivers presented to the Committee:**

With no objection from the committee, Commissioner Freehling (serving as Chairperson) signed the waivers.

Waiver #	Vendor Name	Goods/Services Description	Requesting Department	Budgeted Amount	Waiver Amount
2026-03-05-01	RW Lapine	Walk in freezer repairs BC Jail	Building & Grounds	\$ -	\$ 18,362
2026-03-05-02	Stafford-Smith Inc.	Atosa reach in freezer for Juvenile Center	Building & Grounds	\$ -	\$ 7,343
2026-03-05-03	Wightman	Surveying services for construction staking on Red Arrow Hwy project	Roads	\$ 65,425	\$ 65,425
2026-03-05-04	Wightman	Professional engineering services to support federal aid road projects	Roads	\$ 123,925	\$ 123,925

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

F2603020 - Weekly Bills & Road Payables

**Public Comments:** Register of Deeds Lora Freehling introduced her new Chief Deputy Dana Black-Kozminski.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:50 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Christie  
Executive Assistant