

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners conducted their annual meetings with township officials at the Road Commission offices north of Stephenson, on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following persons present or absent:

Present: Leonard (Denny) Kosewski, James Marsicek, Ken Bower, Darrell Cass, and John Olsen. Also, present were Matt Miller, Henry Golding, Stephenson District Foreman Scott Phelps, and Menominee District Foreman Brent Stanislawski.

Absent: None.

LAKE TOWNSHIP

(8:30 a.m.) Present for Lake Township were Treasurer Barb Peterson, Clerk Misty Bottkol, and Trustee Dave Pomeroy.

Cass and the Board welcomed the township officials and made introductions.

Cass provided an overview of the 2025 Transportation Funding Package approved last fall. Cass noted that the first component was to exchange the Sales Tax on gasoline sales for a consistent twenty-one cent Fuel Tax – all dedicated to roads. This tax starts to be collected January 1, 2026, and is expected to reach the Road Commission by mid-year 2026. These funds are part of the MTF fund and will be subject to the existing MTF rules. He noted that the previous Individual Income Tax allocation was removed effective Oct 1, 2025, and has resulted in a temporary 19% reduction in 2026 Road Commission funds.

Cass explained the new Neighborhood Roads Fund. The NRF is expected to consist of a new allocation of Corporate Income Tax and a Wholesale Marijuana Tax. The Corporate Income Tax is replacing the Individual Income Tax component of the MTF. It is expected that the Road Commission will see these funds sometime in FY2027.

Next, Cass explained the Road Commission 2026 Proposed Budget. He reviewed the revenues and expenditures, noting that all revenues were committed to specific expenditures. A pie chart demonstrated where the funds come from and where they are used-noting that nearly all revenues result from mandatory expenditures. Cass noted that the Road Commission has been working to maintain a healthy fund balance to account for fiscal year shifts of major expenditures and catastrophic events.

Cass provided a map and summarized the road projects completed in 2025. Significant work was completed throughout the county, thanks to the countywide road millage. Projects included over thirty miles of chip sealing and over eight miles of asphalt paving.

Cass shared a map of the anticipated 2026 road projects. Additional projects will be programmed after all the Townships have provided their input on priority projects. A project selection meeting will be held in late February.

The specific areas of concern within the township were discussed. Cass provided a list of concerns that the Road Commission has identified and asked the Township officials what road concerns they have.

-Cass noted that he had no update at this time on the corridor planning grant, but he would update as he learned more.

-Township announced that their board has committed to list of road projects for 2026.

-Township would like additional ROW clearing. Also requested possibly salting shady segment of CR356.

-Township inquired about solutions to fix the entrance to the park on 20.5 Rd. Cass will examine for possible solution.

-Township noted that S-1 Rd needs maintenance shouldering between CR577 and the Koss Bridge.

-Township noted that mowing on G-12 last summer significantly reduced the number of dead deer along the road.

Township officials left the meeting at 8:54 am.

MELLEN TOWNSHIP

(9:05 a.m.) Present for Mellen Township were Supervisor Tom Philipps and Trustee Tim Starzyński.

Cass and the Board welcomed the township officials and made introductions.

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-Cass mentioned that the segment of Wildwood Rd that was pulverized last year is scheduled to be paved this summer. Cass and Township discussed upgrading pavement to Class A. The township expressed no concerns in the upgrade to Class A as long there were no additional costs to the township.

-Township inquired about CR348. Cass noted that it is possible candidate for paving with road millage funds.

-Township stated that it was looking into chip sealing 14 Rd in the future, noting that it may also need culvert replacements beforehand. Cass will provide an estimate.

Township officials left the meeting at 9:22 am.

INGALLSTON TOWNSHIP

(9:28 a.m.) Present for Ingallston Township were Trustee Carl Johnson, Clerk Kay Keefer, and Treasurer Pat Cheski.

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-Cass and the Township discussed options for Jimtown Road. Cass reiterated that federal aid funds have been committed through 2028, but that Jimtown Rd could be a candidate after that. He also mentioned that it could possibly be a candidate for road millage and/or neighborhood roads funds in the future. They discussed pulverizing it, but that would require a Township commitment to pave in the near future.

-Cass noted that Wildwood would be a higher priority due to the traffic level and the adjacent work being done on it by Mellen Township. It would be another possible candidate for millage or NRF funds.

-Township inquired about pulverizing a segment of Million Dollar Rd. The soil condition was discussed, noting that significant improvements would likely be necessary after pulverizing.

-Township asked for an estimate to pave Wildwood Road to Butchli Rd if Mellen Township agreed to pave to their portion to the township line.

Township officials left the meeting at 10:00 am.

HARRIS TOWNSHIP

(10:00 a.m.) Present for Harris Township were Supervisor Pete Kleiman, Clerk Tom Draze, and Trustee Alex Jorasz. Powers District Foreman Dave Blahnik joined the meeting.

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- Cass discussed the partnership project with the Hannahville Indian Community to pave CR400.
- Cass noted that CR557 south is a candidate for primary millage funds and Eustis / No. 41 Rd is a candidate for local millage funds.
- Township requested crack seal on CR400 segment that was paved in 2023.
- Township noted that Hansen Ln needs gravel resurfacing, and Old US2/41 needs gravel and lifts in preparation for future paving.

Township officials left the meeting at 10:47 am.

MENOMINEE TOWNSHIP

(10:54 a.m.) Present for Menominee Township was Supervisor Lori Patzke.

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- Cass announced the River Rd (CR581) project set for 2026 contingent on environmental approval.
- Cass and Township discussed 6.25 Rd improvements: double chip seal with future maintenance sealing versus paving it.
- Cass and Township also discussed options for 2.5 Rd from Countryside to Bay de Noc.
- Township requested lane markings in various areas.

Township official left the meeting at 11:22 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Finance Director / Clerk

Chair