

Mary Hardies, Chair, District 1  
Michelle LaRose, Vice-Chair, District 4  
Bob DeVriendt, District 2  
Lloyd Peltier, District 3  
Michelle Hamlin, District 5



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## County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners

### Organizational Meeting Agenda

January 8, 2026

9:00 AM

Boardroom/Courtroom B

*(County Clerk presides over meeting for items 1-5)*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda *(moved DOWN)*
5. Election of Board Chairperson

*(Chairperson presides over the remainder of the meeting)*

6. Election of Vice-Chairperson
7. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. BOC Meeting: December 11, 2025
8. Claims & Accounts
  - a. December 12, 2025 through January 8, 2026
9. Limited Public Comment *(3 minutes)*
10. New Business – Organizational Actions:
  - a. Pending Attorney Review: Adoption of Board Rules
  - b. Appointment of Committees by Chairperson
  - c. Adoption of 2026 Meeting Schedule
  - d. Approval of Designations
    - i. Publisher of Record
    - ii. Auditor of Record
    - iii. Public Depositories (Resolution #2026-01)
    - iv. Attorney of Record (Resolution #2026-02)
  - e. Approval of County Reimbursement Rates
    - Per Diem: Currently – \$60 Half Day / \$120 Full Day
    - Mileage: IRS/Federal Rate (Currently \$0.70)
    - Meal Reimbursements: Currently – Breakfast \$10, Lunch \$15, Dinner \$20
  - f. Approval of Health Insurance Plan
11. Adjourn

NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held at 9:00AM on Thursday, January 22, 2026

***THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER OPEN MEETINGS ACT OF MICHIGAN, PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 267 OF 1976 PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES. PROFANITY AND PERSONAL ATTACKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.***

**MONTMORENCY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 8, 2026**

PRESENT: Michelle LaRose, Mary Hardies, Lloyd Peltier, Michelle Hamlin, Bob DeVriendt

ABSENT/EXCUSED: None

Meeting called to order by County Clerk Cheryl Neilsen at 9:00 A.M.

**PLEDGE**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON/VICE CHAIR:**

County Clerk Neilsen opened the floor for nominations to the office of Chairperson. Nomination by Peltier for Hardies as chair. Nomination by DeVriendt for LaRose as Chair. No other nominations, nominations closed. Comments by LarRose on experience. Show of hands in favor of Hardies as chair (3) Hamlin, Hardies, Peltier. Show of hands in favor of LaRose as chair (2) DeVriendt and LaRose. Hardies nominated the Chair by a majority vote. The meeting was turned over to Chair Hardies.

Nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson opened. Nomination by Peltier for Hamlin as vice-chair. Nomination by DeVriendt for LaRose as vice-chair. No other nominations, nominations closed. Show of hands in favor of Hamlin as vice-chair (3) Peltier, Hardies, Hamlin. Show of hands in favor of LaRose as vice-chair (2) DeVriendt, LaRose. Hamlin nominated as vice-chair by a majority vote.

**AGENDA:**

Motion by Hamlin, seconded by Peltier approving the agenda (moved action to just below election of the vice-chair). Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Hamlin approving the December 11, 2025, regular board minutes. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

**CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:**

Motion by Peltier, seconded by Hardies approving claims and accounts (Claims: \$221,319.72; EFT's: \$629,894.32; Desk: \$404,358.79 Total: \$1,255,572.83). Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Peltier, Hamlin, DeVriendt, Larose, Hardies) Nays:0 Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kristine Tolan, comments on financial decisions, effects, transparency, independent oversight, clear communication.

Judge Greene, comments on proposed changes to health insurance and effects.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ACTION:**

BOARD RULES: Attorney still reviewing. Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier to add a minute format to the board rules, summary type minutes. Discussion. Motion amended by Hardies and Peltier to send minutes to the lawyer for review, best practice recommendation. Yeas: 4 Nays: 1 (DeVriendt) Motion passed.

COMMITTEES: Discussion. Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier accepting board committees (see attached). Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

REGULAR MEETING DATES AND TIMES: Discussion. Motion by DeVriendt, seconded by LaRose to keep meetings as it was for 2026, with one night meeting (1<sup>st</sup> meeting is evening 6 p.m. and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is a day meeting 9 a.m.) Yeas: 3 (DeVriendt, LaRose, Peltier) Nays: 2 (Hardies, Hamlin) Motion passed.

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier accepting the meeting dates (see attached). Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

PUBLISHER OF RECORD: Motion by Hardies, seconded by Hamlin accepting Montmorency County Tribune as Publisher of Record. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

AUDITOR OF RECORD: Motion by Hardies, seconded by Hamlin accepting same CPA (Schulze, Oswald, Miller & Edwards PC) as Auditor of Record. Discussion. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

BANK DEPOSITORIES:  
RESOLUTION 2026-01

DESIGNATING PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES  
Hardies/Hamlin Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Hamlin, DeVriendt,  
LaRose, Hardies, Peltier) Nays: 0 Resolution passed.

ATTORNEY OF RECORD:  
RESOLUTION 2026-02

DESIGNATING THE LAW FIRM OF COHL, STOKER, AND  
TOSKEY, P.C. AS THE COUNTY'S CIVIL COUNSEL  
Hardies/Peltier Yeas: 4 (Roll call: LaRose, Hardies, Peltier,  
Hamlin) Nays: 1 (DeVriendt) Resolution passed.

PER DIEMS, MILEAGE, MEALS: Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier setting county per diems at \$60.00 half day and \$120.00 full day; mileage reimbursement based on federal rate (currently 72.5 cents), meal reimbursement breakfast \$10; lunch \$15; dinner \$20). Yeas: 5 (Roll call: LaRose, Hardies, Peltier, Hamlin, DeVriendt) Nays: 0 Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN: Discussion. Proposed change due to significant cost increase. Committee recommends going back to BCBS. Motion Hardies, seconded by Peltier approving health insurance as recommended by the health committee from Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, BCBS PPO (Option A). Discussion. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Hardies, Peltier, Hamlin, DeVriendt, LaRose) Nays: 0 Motion passed.

10:24 A.M. Meeting adjourned by the chair.

Minutes submitted by:

  
Cheryl A. Neilsen, County Clerk

approved: 1-22-2024

Mary Hardies  
Lloyd Peltier  
Michelle LaRose  
Michelle Hamlin  
Bob DeVriendt



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## **County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners**

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### **Resolution #2026-01**

#### **DESIGNATING PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES**

At the meeting of the County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners held in the County of Montmorency Building located in Atlanta, Michigan on **January 8, 2026**.

**PRESENT:** Bob DeVriendt, Michelle LaRose, Mary Hardies, Lloyd Peltier and Michelle Hamlin

**ABSENT:** None

The following resolution was made by **Mary Hardies** and seconded by **Michelle Hamlin**, to-wit:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the following being qualified public depositories under Act 40 of 1932 of the Michigan Statutes shall be and hereby designated as public depositories for all public monies coming into the hands of the County of Montmorency Treasurer, Michigan.

Nicolet Bank  
Huntington Bank  
Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union  
Community Financial  
Mercantile Bank

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this designation is applicable to all funds belonging to the County of Montmorency and in the custody of the County Treasurer.

**(Left blank intentionally)**



Mary Hardies  
Lloyd Peltier  
Michelle LaRose  
Michelle Hamlin  
Bob DeVriendt



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## **County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners**

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### **Resolution #2026-02**

#### **DESIGNATING THE LAW FIRM OF COHL, STOKER, AND TOSKEY, P.C., AS THE COUNTY'S CIVIL COUNSEL**

At the meeting of the County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners held in the County of Montmorency Building located in Atlanta, Michigan on **January 8, 2026**.

**PRESENT: Bob DeVriendt, Michelle LaRose, Mary Hardies, Lloyd Peltier and Michelle Hamlin**

**ABSENT: None**

The following resolution was made by **Mary Hardies** and seconded by **Lloyd Peltier**, to-wit:

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Commissioners is authorized under MCL 49.71 et seq., to employ an attorney to represent the County in civil matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board has determined that it is necessary to employ an attorney to represent the County in civil matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the law firm of Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. previously submitted a proposal to provide legal services and serve as the County's civil counsel.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the law firm of Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C., is designated as the County's civil counsel to represent the County in civil matters.

**(Left blank intentionally)**

**RESOLUTION DEEMED APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**APPROVE: LaRose, Hardies, Peltier and Hamlin**

**DENY: DeVriendt**

**ABSENT/ABSTAIN: None**

Signed by:  
*Mary Hardies*  
96E09ED27B284E9

Mary Hardies, Chairperson  
County of Montmorency BOC, Michigan

Dated: **January 8, 2026**

**CERTIFICATION**

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF MONTMORENCY )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Montmorency County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Montmorency County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held on the   8th   day of January, 2026, and that notice of said meeting was given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, and further certify that the above resolution was adopted at said meeting.

*Cheryl A. Neilsen*  
Cheryl A. Neilsen, Clerk  
County of Montmorency, Michigan

Dated: 1-6-2026

## 2026 Board Committee Appointments

Chairman	Mary Hardies
Vice-Chairman	Michelle Hamlin
Per Diem	\$60 Half Day/ \$120 Full Day
Mileage Rate	Federal Rate (Current -\$0.725/mile)

Meals - to be reimbursed through Payroll Only, Once Approved  
 Breakfast \$ 10.00  
 Lunch \$ 15.00  
 Dinner \$ 20.00

### Commissioner Committees

Function	Appointee(s)	Meeting Frequency	Meeting Day	Time	Per Diem	Mileage
Board of Commissioners Meeting	Full Board	Bi-Monthly	2nd Thursday	6:00 PM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
Board of Commissioners Meeting	Full Board	Bi-Monthly	4th Thursday	9:00 AM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
Working Session	Full Board	As Needed / No Decisions		Varies	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
Finance, Personnel, & Sheriff (2 Members)	Mary Hardies & Michelle Hamlin	Bi-monthly	Monday prior to BOC Mtg	1:00 PM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile

### Community Board Participation

Function	Appointee(s)	Meeting Frequency	Meeting Day	Time	Per Diem	Mileage
911 Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEP)	Main: Bob DeVriendt Alternate: Michelle LaRose	Quarterly	3rd Thursday	6:00 PM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
Community Corrections Advisory Board	Lloyd Peltier	Quarterly	4th Friday	11:00 AM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
District Health Dept. #4 (2 Members)	Mary Hardies & Michelle Hamlin	Monthly	3rd Tuesday	10:00 AM	\$60/\$120	Paid by Org
ILA - Materials Management Board	Michelle LaRose	Quarterly	3rd Thursday	1:00 PM	Paid by Org	Paid by Org
Materials Management Planning Committee	Mary Hardies	Monthly	3rd Thursday	1:30 PM	Paid by Org	Paid by Org
MI Northern Counties Association	Michelle LaRose	Monthly	3rd Monday	9:45 AM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
NE MI Consortium (MI Works)	Michelle Hamlin	Monthly	4th Monday	10:00 AM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
NE MI Mental Health	Lloyd Peltier	Monthly	2nd Thursday	3:00 PM	Paid by Org	Paid by Org
NEMCOG	Michelle LaRose	Quarterly Jan, May, August	3rd Thursday	10:00 AM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
NEMSCA	Lloyd Peltier	Monthly	1st Friday	12:00 PM	\$60/\$120	Paid by Org
NMRE (Substance Abuse)	Michelle Hamlin	Bi-Monthly Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov	1st Monday	10:00 AM	Voluntary	Paid by Org
Solid Waste Management (2 Members)	Bob DeVriendt & Michelle LaRose	Bi-Monthly	2nd & 4th Friday	9:00 AM	Paid by Org	Paid by Org
Thunder Bay Transportation	Main: Lloyd Peltier Alternate: Michelle Hamlin	Monthly	4th Thursday	2:30 PM	\$60/\$120	.725/mile
Local Court Management Council (2 Members)	Lloyd Peltier & Michelle LaRose	As Needed			\$60/\$120	.725/mile
PIE&G Liason Board	Lloyd Peltier	As Called	4th Tuesday	9:30 AM	Paid by Org	Paid by Org

### \*Boards of Component Units & Other Agencies Where BOC Member is a Non-Voting Member - Request Meeting Agendas, Minutes, & Updates

Commission on Aging		Monthly	3rd Thursday	5:30 PM		
Department of Health & Human Services		Monthly	3rd Wednesday	2:00 PM		
H.U.N.T		Quarterly	3rd Friday	Time		
Library Board		Monthly	January, April, July, October	Varies		
Road Commission		Monthly	2nd Tuesday	1:00 PM		
		Monthly	2nd & 4th Thursday	9:30 AM		

Mary Hardies, Chair, District 1  
Michelle LaRose, Vice-Chair, District 4  
Bob DeVriendt, District 2  
Lloyd Peltier, District 3  
Michelle Hamlin, District 5  
Aprille Williamson, County Controller



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Bill Scharfenberg, Assistant Controller  
Dawn Hubbard, Administrative Assistant

## County of Montmorency Controller's Office

### 2026 Board of Commissioners Important Dates

Board of Commissioners Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 6:00 pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 9:00 am in the Boardroom / Courtroom B. Finance-Personnel-Sheriff Committee meeting is at 1:00 pm the Monday prior to the Thursday BOC meeting in the same location. In the case of a holiday on that Monday, the meeting will be held on Tuesday or Wednesday at 1:00 pm. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the county website at [www.montcounty.org](http://www.montcounty.org). Agendas will be posted as they are finalized. Minutes will be posted on the website after they are completed and approved by the Board. All committee appointments are posted on the website with scheduled meeting dates and times. Please contact the Controller's office for more information.

### Board of Commissioner Meeting Dates:

#### Organizational Meeting – January 8, 2026

January 22, 2026	February 12, 2026
February 26, 2026	March 12, 2026
March 26, 2026	April 9, 2026
April 23, 2026	May 14, 2026
May 28, 2026	June 11, 2026
June 25, 2026	July 9, 2026
July 23, 2026	August 13, 2026
August 27, 2026	September 10, 2026
<b>Annual Meeting – September 24, 2026</b>	October 8, 2026
October 22, 2026	November 12, 2026
<b>*Tuesday, November 24, 2026</b>	December 10, 2026

### Holidays Observed for the County of Montmorency – Building Closed:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 19, 2026  
Presidents Day – Monday, February 16, 2026  
Good Friday – Friday, April 3, 2026  
Memorial Day – Monday, May 25, 2026  
Juneteenth – Friday, June 19, 2026  
Independence Day – Friday, July 3, 2026  
Labor Day – Monday, September 7, 2026  
Columbus Day – Monday, October 12, 2026  
Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11, 2026  
Thanksgiving Holiday – Thursday-Friday, November 26-27, 2026  
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Thursday-Friday, December 24-25, 2026  
New Year's Eve – Thursday, December 31, 2026  
New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2027