

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



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## County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners

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### Board Meeting Agenda

March 26, 2026

9:00 AM

Boardroom/Courtroom B

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. BOC Meeting: March 12, 2026
6. Claims & Accounts
  - a. March 13, 2026, through March 26, 2026
7. Limited Public Comment (*3 minutes*)
8. Special Presentations: NONE
9. Department Head Reports:
  - a. Emergency Management Director
10. Committee Reports
11. Controller's Report
12. Discussion Items:
13. Unfinished Business (Action Items)
14. New Business (Action Items)
  - a. MCCOA Millage Renewal Request – Bev Crawford
  - b. Resolution #2026-07: Supporting House Bills 5152 & 5153 (Clerk Request)
  - c. Invasive Species Grant Request – Avalon Lake, Judy Nichols
15. Adjourn

NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held at 9:00 AM on Thursday, April 9, 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  
REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 26, 2026**

PRESENT: Bob DeVriendt, James Madison, Mary Hardies, Lloyd Peltier, Michelle Hamlin  
ABSENT/EXCUSED: None

PLEDGE

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:**

Additions: None  
Deletions: None

Motion by Peltier, seconded by Hamlin approving the agenda. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Hamlin, seconded by Hardies approving the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2026, with a correction on pg. 2 Reassignment of Committee Appointments adding James Madison's name to the motion. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

**CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:**

Motion by Hardies, seconded by Madison approving claims for March 13, 2026-March 26, 2026 (Claims: \$42,782.53; EFT'S: \$61,094.79; Desk: \$18,987.12; Total: \$122,864.44). Yeas: 5 (Roll call: DeVriendt, Hardies, Peltier, Hamlin, Madison) Nays: 0 Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kristine Tolan: 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, free speech; transparency; public participation, salary adjustments, budget, VA grant funding, accountability, and access.

William Houston: MCCOA millage request.

Annette Sokol: Accountability, limited discussion, independent review.

Michelle LaRose: Vehicle lease decision, wage increases, constitutional rights, and oaths taken.

Denny Davis: Appointment of new BOC member, MCCOA millage.

Doug Morrison: Interview process for appointment of new BOC member; budget and lease vehicles.

Doug Smith: Safety on the roads with cable/fiber work going on.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:** Sara Melcher present. Topics: new logo for EM; attended career fair in Johannesburg/Lewiston; meetings to prepare ahead of the recent storm; weather spotter training May 15; request for congressional spending dollars for a project; grant submitted to MI. Service Commission; discussed RAVE contract; FEMA monies has become available for power companies.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Hamlin: FPS, DHD#4  
Peltier: Mental Health  
Hardies: FPS, ILA Materials Management; DHD#4  
Madison: None  
DeVriendt: 911/LEPC

**CONTROLLER REPORT:**

Aprille Williamson absent. Written report provided.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MCCOA MILLAGE RENEWAL:** Discussion. Motion by Hardies, seconded by Peltier to table the MCCOA request for renewal millage language. Discussion. Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2026-07**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILLS 5152 AND 5153 (MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS) DeVriendt/Peltier** Discussion. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Hardies, Peltier, Hamlin, Madison, DeVriendt) Nays: 0 Resolution passed.

**INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT REQUEST/AVALON LAKE:** Judy Nichols, Secretary, Lake Avalon Lake Property Owners Association present with request for grant to help pay for the insurance and bi-annual survey. Discussion. Motion by Hardies, seconded by Madison to utilize the funds from the Invasive Species for the public liability insurance and the bi-annual survey but not to exceed \$2000.00. Discussion. Yeas: 5 (Roll call: Peltier, Hamlin, Madison, DeVriendt, Hardies) Nays: 0 Motion passed.

10:04 A.M. Adjourned subject to the chair.

Minutes prepared by:



Cheryl A. Neilsen, County Clerk

approved: 4-9-2026

Mary Hardies, Chair, District 1  
Michelle Hamlin, Vice-Chair, District 5  
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## **County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners**

### **Resolution #2026-07**

#### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILLS 5152 AND 5153**

At the meeting of the County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners held in the County of Montmorency Building located in Atlanta, Michigan on **March 26, 2026**.

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

**ABSENT: None**

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

**WHEREAS**, House Bills 5152 and 5153 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, providing critical protections for homeowners during mortgage foreclosure proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, Officials from other counties in Michigan have identified a pattern of predatory practices where third-party firms target vulnerable residents who are facing mortgage foreclosure; and

**WHEREAS**, these firms exploit homeowners and heirs by convincing them to sell either the property itself or their statutory rights to surplus foreclosure proceeds and redemption, often stripping residents of tens of thousands of dollars in home equity for a fraction of the true value; and

**WHEREAS**, County officials from other counties have witnessed firsthand these firms targeting vulnerable residents after an auction has concluded, including an instance where an elderly heir was paid \$100 to sign away her rights to over \$10,000 in known surplus proceeds; and

**WHEREAS**, these predatory activities not only harm homeowners, they create a significant and ongoing burden for County's departments statewide, including the County Clerk, Sheriff's Office, the Register of Deeds, the Probate Court, and the Corporate Counsel, which must expend public resources to manage fraudulent claims and improperly filed probate estates; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 5153 would directly stop this predatory model by making a mortgagor's right to surplus money and right of redemption non-assignable and non-transferable after a notice of foreclosure is recorded, except through legitimate testate or intestate succession; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 5152 would further protect homeowners by requiring a mandatory, plain-English "Notice of Rights" for any conveyance of property after a foreclosure notice is recorded, ensuring the seller fully understands they are waiving their rights to redemption, occupancy, and surplus proceeds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Counties across Michigan have identified the burdens created by these practices and are asking the County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners for a resolution of support for this vital legislation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the County of Montmorency Board of Commissioners fully supports House Bills 5152 and 5153, which will protect Montmorency County residents and residents across the State of Michigan, from foreclosure fraud, preserve home equity for families, and reduce the burden on local government resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and all Michigan counties for their consideration and action and distribute to all County Clerks to be a posted communication in each county.

**(Left blank intentionally)**

**RESOLUTION DEEMED APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**APPROVE:** Mary Hardies, Lloyd Peltier, Michelle Hamlin, James Madison and Bob DeVriendt

**DENY:** None

**ABSENT/ABSTAIN:**

Signed by:  
*Mary Hardies*  
B8EE3639E59F4C3...

Mary Hardies, Chairperson  
County of Montmorency BOC, Michigan

Dated: **March 26, 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 26th day of March, 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: 3/30/26

Governor G. Whitmer  
 STATE SEN. Michele Hartenaga  
 STATE Rep. Cam Cavitt  
 Senate Maj. Leader Winnie Brinks  
 Speaker of the House MATT HALL  
 Economic Competitiveness Chair: Mike Hoadley  
 Bill Sponsors: Brad Paquette & Joey Andrews

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing instrument was served upon all parties to the above cause to each of the attorneys of record hereinafter at their respective addresses disclosed on the pleadings on 3/30 20 26

By  US Mail  FAX  
 Hand Delivered  Overnight Courier  
 Certified Mail  Other email

Signature C. Deussen County Clerk