



Cass County Historical Commission

120 N. Broadway - Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: (269) 445-4420 Fax: (269) 445-8978

MEETING AGENDA

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HALL
24725 Jefferson Center Street
Cassopolis, Michigan

TEMPORARY
CHANGE OF
LOCATION!!

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of the Agenda– **ACTION ITEM**
- D. Approval of the January Regular Meeting Minutes – **ACTION ITEM**
- E. Financial Report – January 2026 – **ACTION ITEM**
- F. Bills – January 2026 - **ACTION ITEM**
- G. Report from the Chair
- H. Old Business
 - a. Space in the Historic Courthouse / Annex
- I. New Business
- J. Committee Reports
 - a. Newton House
- K. Privileges of the Floor
- L. Public Comment

Next Meeting – March 12, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

Chair- Bernie Williamson ⚡ Vice Chair- Darren Bettinger ⚡ Secretary/Treasurer- Jane Bergman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Amy Davidhizer ⚡ Dianna McGrew ⚡ Della Bundle ⚡ Nate Robinson ⚡ Mary Howie ⚡ Derek Carr

2026 CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Jane Bergman, Secretary/Treasurer 20501 Cara Ave. Cassopolis, MI 49031 269-845-1573 Jbergmanand7@yahoo.com Term expires: June 30, 2027	Nate Robinson 52507 Gards Prairie Rd. Decatur, MI 49045 269-228-1045 nerobinson73@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2026
Darren Bettinger, Vice Chair 64489 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031 574-306-8959 Djbett74@outlook.com Term expires: June 30, 2027	Derek Carr 69089 Maple Street Edwardsburg, MI 49112 Carrderek93@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2028
Amy Davidhizar 18525 Warren Rd. Decatur, MI 49045 618-303-3161 amyeast34@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2026	Della Bundle 24081 Jefferson Center Street Cassopolis, MI 49031 720-272-8408 jmdellajune@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2028
Mary Howie 23768 Davis Lake Street Edwardsburg, MI 49112 574-361-2422 mguljas8491@gmail.com Term Expires: June 30, 2026	Bernie Williamson, Chair 26260 M-60 Cassopolis, MI 49031 269-445-9100 bernie@northstarlandscape.net Term Expires: June 30, 2027
Dianna McGrew 20500 Cara Ave. Cassopolis, MI 49031 269-358-4497 mcgrewassessing@gmail.com Term expires: June 30, 2028	*Note: Yellow highlights reflect Commissioners who will be up for reappointment in 2026. Just an early heads-up! 😊

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 9, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Bernie Williamson __X__, Jane Bergman __X__, Darren Bettinger __X__, Della Bundle _X_ , Derek Carr ____, Amy Davidhizar __X__, Mary Howie __X__, Dianna McGrew __X__, Nate Robinson _____

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bernie Williamson at 5:30 p.m.

Note: The meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The Council on Aging was closed on January 8, 2026 and will be closed evenings through March.

Approval of the Agenda: Chairperson Williamson explained that the election of officers should be removed from the agenda because this would not be necessary until July.

Williamson asked to add a discussion of the Edwardsburg Museum's request to consider a collaborative effort to obtain software for cataloging artifacts. A motion was made by Vice Chair Bettinger to make these two changes and to approve the amended agenda. Dianna McGrew seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dianna McGrew to approve the minutes of November 13, 2025. Seconded by Vice Chair Bettinger and the motion carried.

Financial Report: The Chair explained that the county had completed financial reports for both November and December and the board would be voting to accept both. Della Bundle made a motion to approve the both financial reports. Vice Chair Bettinger seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bills: The summary of bills paid in both November and December was made available. A motion was made by Dianna McGrew to approve the bills from both months. Della Bundle seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote, it was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Report from the Chair: Chairperson Williamson indicated that the topics would be covered under items listed in the agenda.

Old Business:

Use of the Newton House for County Celebrations: Vice Chair Bettinger believes there are indications that additional county offices or departments may be interested in reserving the Newton House for county celebrations. The existing reservation document can be used for this purpose.

Report on the Red Brick School Grant Application: Chairperson Williamson informed board members that she had completed a draft of a letter in support of the Cass County Historical Society's effort to obtain an America 250 Grant to replace the roof and soffits at the Red Brick School. She will email board members a copy of the draft for their review.

Consideration of a Collaborative Effort with the Edwardsburg Museum: Barbara Dempsey, of the Edwardsburg Museum, has expressed interest in having the Historical Commission join with the museum to pursue an America 250 grant to purchase software and the appropriate hardware for a cataloging system that could be used by entities throughout the county to inventory artifacts.

Board members discussed possible vendors and agreed to research cataloging software that might be available. Vice Chair Bettinger will inquire about the system used at the Air Zoo. Amy Davidhizar will contact several museums to see what systems they use and what opinions they hold of various vendors. Della Bundle will speak with her daughter who works in information systems. Jon Weupper and Steve Arseneau were also mentioned as people to contact.

Committee Reports:

The Newton House: Vice Chair Bettinger explained that students from the School of Forestry might play a larger role in the Fall Festival.

Chairman Williamson reported that she had spoken with someone who was trying to locate documentation outlining provisions of the endowment.

Amy Davidhizar suggested that looking at probate records could be useful and Vice Chair Bettinger will see what records the Historical Society might have.

Privileges of the Floor:

Vice Chair Bettinger reported that the Historical Society had received a donation of \$18,000 from an individual who prefers to be unnamed.

Amy Davidhizar inquired whether there was any indication, now that Jennifer Renfro has become County Administrator, that the Historical Commission would be allocated additional space in the annex. Chairperson Williamson will inquire about this.

Della Bundle inquired about the corrections for the text on the history wall in the courthouse. Chairperson Williamson suggested that we contact all the interested parties again to obtain their corrections. She will share them with Ambrosia Neldon who will edit them and prepare the QR codes.

Della Bundle offered to inquire whether the Historical Commission could meet at the Jefferson Township Hall for the February and March meetings. She will let board members know whether this is possible.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m
Secretary Jane L. Bergman



Cass County Historical Commission

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2026

CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The Cass County Historical Commission REGULAR meetings are **held at the Cass County Council on Aging** (60525 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, Michigan) at **5:30 p.m. (EST)**, on the **second Thursday of each month**. These dates are as follows:

January 8, 2026
February 12, 2026
March 12, 2026
April 9, 2026
May 14, 2026
June 11, 2026
July 9, 2026
August 13, 2026
September 10, 2026
October 8, 2026
November 12, 2026
December 10, 2026

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF LOCATION

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HALL
24725 Jefferson Center Street
Cassopolis, Michigan

For more information, contact Chairperson Bernie Williamson at 269-445-7017 or e-mail cchistoricalcommission@gmail.com. Questions can also be directed to the Cass County Administrator's Office at 269-445-4420.

Date	JNL	Type	Description	Reference #	Debits	Credits	Balance
Fund 270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND							
10/01/2025			270-000-001.001 CASH - HUNTINGTON BANK		BEG. BALANCE		5,920.02
10/01/2025	JE	JE	1ST QTR TRANSFERS	30454	1,750.00		7,670.02
10/07/2025	CR	RCPT	TRANSMITTAL #26-01 OCTOBER 7, 2025	20260033	10.00		7,680.02
10/16/2025	CD	CHK	JEREMIAH FULKS	1206107		5,000.00	2,680.02
10/22/2025	CR	RCPT	TRANSMITTAL #26-02 OCTOBER 22, 2025	20260137	370.00		3,050.02
10/22/2025	CR	RCPT	TRANSMITTAL #26-02 OCTOBER 22, 2025	20260137	35.00		3,085.02
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	DELLA BUNDLE	1206115		34.00	3,051.02
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	JANE LEE BERGMAN	1206138		34.00	3,017.02
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	NATHAN ROBINSON	1206161		34.00	2,983.02
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	BERNIE WILLIAMSON	1206173		34.00	2,949.02
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	AMY DAVIDHIZAR	27198 (A)		34.00	2,915.02
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27219 (A)		115.89	2,799.13
10/24/2025	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27219 (A)		60.31	2,738.82
11/07/2025	CD	CHK	ADAMS MOWING & TRIMMING	1206235		400.00	2,338.82
11/07/2025	CD	CHK	ADAMS MOWING & TRIMMING	1206235		160.00	2,178.82
11/21/2025	CD	CHK	MARY HOWIE	1206363		34.00	2,144.82
11/21/2025	CD	CHK	JANE LEE BERGMAN	1206365		34.00	2,110.82
11/21/2025	CD	CHK	NATHAN ROBINSON	1206395		34.00	2,076.82
11/21/2025	CD	CHK	BERNIE WILLIAMSON	1206412		34.00	2,042.82
11/21/2025	CD	CHK	DIANNA MCGREW	27384 (A)		34.00	2,008.82
12/05/2025	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27462 (A)		108.18	1,900.64
12/05/2025	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27462 (A)		60.31	1,840.33
12/05/2025	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27462 (A)		647.92	1,192.41
01/01/2026	JE	JE	2ND QTR TRANSFERS	30640	1,750.00		2,942.41
01/02/2026	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27605 (A)		116.74	2,825.67
01/02/2026	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27605 (A)		752.42	2,073.25
01/02/2026	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27605 (A)		60.31	2,012.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	DELLA BUNDLE	1206860		34.00	1,978.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	DEREK CARR	1206863		34.00	1,944.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	DARREN BETTINGER	1206881		34.00	1,910.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	MARY HOWIE	1206895		34.00	1,876.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	JANE LEE BERGMAN	1206899		34.00	1,842.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	BERNIE WILLIAMSON	1206957		34.00	1,808.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	AMY DAVIDHIZAR	27653 (A)		34.00	1,774.94
01/16/2026	CD	CHK	DIANNA MCGREW	27675 (A)		34.00	1,740.94
01/30/2026	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27757 (A)		123.10	1,617.84
01/30/2026	CD	CHK	MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE	27757 (A)		60.21	1,557.63
01/31/2026			270-000-001.001	END BALANCE	3,915.00	8,277.39	1,557.63
TOTAL FOR FUND 270 HISTORICAL COMMISSION FUND					3,915.00	8,277.39	1,557.63

#3 - FUND 270 – HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REVENUES & EXPENDITURES ~ CHECK DETAIL
BUDGET ~ \$7,500

DATE	PAYMENT RECIPIENT	CREDIT / DEBIT	BALANCE
		0	
	TOTAL AVAILABLE AS OF 09.30.2025	5,920.02	5,920.02
10.01.2025	1 ST QTR. TRANSFER IN	+1,750.00	7,670.02
10.07.2025	DONATION	+10.00	7,680.02
10.16.2025	JEREMIAH FULKS (NEWTON HOUSE TREES)	-5,000.00	2,680.02
10.22.2025	BOOKS / MAPS SALES / SCHULTZ DONATION	+370.00	3,050.02
10.22.2025	BOOKS / MAPS SALES	+35.00	3,085.02
10.24.2025	DELLA BUNDLE	-34.00	3,051.02
10.24.2025	JANE BERGMAN	-34.00	3,017.02
10.24.2025	NATE ROBINSON	-34.00	2,983.02
10.24.2025	BERNIE WILLIAMSON	-34.00	2,949.02
10.24.2025	AMY DAVIDHIZAR	-34.00	2,915.02
10.24.2025	MIDWEST ENERGY	-115.89	2,799.13
10.24.2025	MIDWEST ENERGY	-60.31	2,738.82
11.07.2025	ADAMS MOWING & TRIMMING	-400.00	2,338.82
11.07.2025	ADAMS MOWING & TRIMMING	-160.00	2,178.82
11.21.2025	MARY HOWIE	-34.00	2,144.82
11.21.2025	JANE BERGMAN	-34.00	2,110.82
11.21.2025	NATHAN ROBINSON	-34.00	2,076.82
11.21.2025	BERNIE WILLIAMSON	-34.00	2,042.82
11.21.2025	DIANNA MCGREW	-34.00	2,008.82
12.05.2025	MIDWEST ENERGY	-108.18	1,900.64
12.05.2025	MIDWEST ENERGY	-60.31	1,840.33
12.05.2025	MIDWEST ENERGY	-647.92	1,192.41
01.01.2026	TRANSFER IN – GENERAL FUND	+1,750.00	2,942.41
01.02.2026	MIDWEST ENERGY	-116.74	2,825.67
01.02.2026	MIDWEST ENERGY	-752.42	2,073.25
01.02.2026	MIDWEST ENERGY	-60.31	2,012.94
01.16.2026	DELLA BUNDLE	-34.00	1,978.94
01.16.2026	DEREK CARR	-34.00	1,944.94
01.16.2026	DARREN BETTINGER	-34.00	1,910.94
01.16.2026	MARY HOWIE	-34.00	1,876.94
01.16.2026	JANE BERGMAN	-34.00	1,842.94
01.16.2026	BERNIE WILLIAMSON	-34.00	1,808.94
01.16.2026	AMY DAVIDHIZAR	-34.00	1,774.94
01.16.2026	DIANNA MCGREW	-34.00	1,740.94
01.30.2026	MIDWEST ENERGY	-123.10	1,617.84
01.30.2026	MIDWEST ENERGY	-60.21	1,557.63
	TOTAL AVAILABLE AS OF 01.31.2025		1,557.63

= Identifies DEPOSITS to fund.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The County provided a budget of only \$7,000 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with an additional amount of \$500 from donations/book sales – for a total of \$7,500.*

Of that, they placed \$2,000 in the per diem fund, and the remaining \$5,500 in the expenditures fund.

Total POSSIBLE per diems COULD BE \$4,080 (if everyone attended every meeting and requested their per diem); which would obviously overdraw the per diem account and require either a transfer from the Expenditures fund, or a request for additional funds from the County.

If the County chose to transfer funds (instead of allotting additional funds), our Expenditure fund would be reduced by \$2,080, leaving only \$3,420 for expenditures.

With @\$200 being spent on utilities each month (not including propane), there would only be about \$1,020 left in the expenditures account for propane (@\$600/fill), and mowing and any other services we might need; and again, we would be overdrawn.

IN OTHER WORDS, even though we are now in the 2nd Qtr. of the County's fiscal year, and in spite of the fact that we don't all attend all meetings and/or request per diems, it appears that funds could fall short this year.

With that in mind, we are either going to have to:

- #1 – Ask the County for additional funds,*
- #2 – Pursue/Create another revenue stream,*
- #3 – Increase efforts to transfer responsibility for the Newton House to the CCHS,*

...or some combination of the above.

In addition, this possible lack of funds seriously hampers our proposed efforts to support our history-focused partners. This is an important topic for discussion that we may/may not have time to address tonight, but it is important that we address it soon.

Your thoughts?

Bernie