LAW & LEGAL
OCTOBER 5, 2026

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Zahren Building in the Special Education Co-op Training Room. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Roger Ward, Riley Smith and Terry Thompson. Other persons in attendance were Ric Smart, Deborah Cousins, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Eric Blakeley, Deputy Clerk Kyah Beck, and County Clerk Jeremy Benson. Members absent were Clayton Cook, Travis Hiel, and Ryan Litchfield.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve September 14, 2026 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Smith to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update.

Received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

None.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

Ric Smart gave the report. 6 Veterans were given assistance in September. Total assistance amounted to $1,276.00.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Nick Petitgout gave the report.

Assessor's Office Update

Assessor Deborah Cousins gave the report. Equalization factors have changed as required by law and have been published. November 10th will be the last day that appeals can be submitted.

Approve Solid Waste and Recycling Management Plan

Joe Erlandson has been working with WIRC for a while to make a Tri-County waste and recycling plan in conjunction with Warren and Mercer County. This plan will end up going to Springfield if all counties involved vote to approve it. This will be moving to full board.

Member Durkin moved with a second by member Thompson to approve the Solid Waste and Recycling Management Plan. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Discuss Parental Leave Benefit

This was brought to Eric Blakeley from the 911 board at MDH. This gives a member of the family a chance to take 4 weeks paid leave to tend to a birth or placement of a child. This will be discussed in other committee meetings.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Ward moved with a second by Member Smith to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other Items as Needed

Joe Erlandson asked about the battery storage ordinance and what the County Highway Engineer, Rick Walker, would like to do with it. Although the county doesn't have legal say in the placement of a battery storage site, Rick would like the ordinance to go hand in hand with the Road Use Agreement. Eric Blakeley will be reaching out to the State's Attorney in regards to this.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

None.

County Board Chair Comments

Eric reminded the committee of the public hearing that will take place tomorrow night in regards to the Colchester Sun Solar Site.

Adjourn

Member Thompson moved with a second by Member Ward to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.