



## Assistant Operator of Dams:

### Sam Harsh



Mr. Harsh has been serving as Assistant Operator of Dams since July 2023. He has over thirty years of experience repairing and maintaining vintage utility equipment and all things related to moving parts.

When he is not busy maintaining Antrim County's dam equipment, Mr.

Harsh lends a hand with restoration projects. Notably, he helped restore a 1928 REO Speed Wagon fire truck from Armada, MI for their 170-year celebration using almost all the original parts.

## 2025 Aerial Imagery: Available on County Website

The 2025 aerial imagery authorized by the Board of Commissioners in February is now available on the County's website. This imagery gives Antrim County, townships, and citizens access to more detailed and up-to-date aerial imagery.



1905 Antrim County Courthouse

The villages of Mancelona, Ellsworth, Elk Rapids, Central Lake, and Bellaire have imagery with 4" resolution; the remainder of the County is at 6" resolution. Through agreements, townships pay for half the cost of the aerial imagery. The imagery can be found at [antrimcounty.gov](http://antrimcounty.gov); click on the "Department &

Services" tab, then click on "GIS map." To access 2025 imagery, use the "Layer List" button at the upper right.

## Lake Level Management Update

The Elk Rapids-Chain of Lakes Watershed spans four counties. Both the Antrim County and Kalkaska County Boards of Commissioners have approved resolutions affirming that Leslie Meyers, Antrim County Drain Commissioner, has the authority to manage the lake levels.

Ms. Meyers is currently working with the Charlevoix and Grand Traverse County Boards for similar resolutions. Once all four are in place, Ms. Meyers will take the necessary steps with the Circuit Court to update the lake level orders and confirm the special assessment district boundaries.

## Public Safety Center Update

The County released a Request for Proposals for architectural/engineering services and construction management services for the Public Safety Center in early 2025. The review process included consideration of costs, experience, qualifications, project approach, and timeline.

The Board of Commissioners recently approved an agreement with The **Christman Company** for the Center's preconstruction services.

In late November, the Board approved an agreement with **Abonmarche-Byce** to provide architecture/engineering services for the Center.

In early November, the Board hired Plante Moran Realpoint (PMR) to provide consulting services. Abonmarche-Byce, Christman, and PMR will be working together to achieve the best possible facility design at the least possible cost.

A move-in date into the new facility is expected 12 to 16 months after construction begins. **The County will regularly communicate progress** through press releases, updates at Board meetings, social media posts, and a dedicated one-page newsletter that will be released every other month. Look for the first newsletter in January 2026.

Voters approved bonding for the Public Safety Center on November 4 by a 5.15% margin (52.57% to 47.43%). The approved measure authorizes the County to borrow up to \$18 million over a 15-year time frame to pay all or part of the costs to acquire, construct, furnish, and equip a new Public Safety Center. This critical facility will include the Antrim County Sheriff offices, jail, 911 dispatch center, and emergency management center.

## Upcoming Holiday Closures

The Antrim County Building, Courthouse, Commission on Aging, Animal Control, and Antrim County Transportation will be **closed** to the public on:

- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Wednesday, December 31
- Thursday, January 1

Law enforcement and dispatch will provide continuous services through the holidays. The Antrim County Airport will be on call Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

