

Clerk, Tami Hillis
Treasurer, Marsha Nurkala

Supervisor,
Julia Leake

Trustee, Trudy Seppanen
Trustee, John Gregg

Michigamme Township
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Michigamme Township Board Meeting
Location: Community Building
Date & Time: July 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM
Minutes w/ corrections

Guests: Terry McBride, Rose McBride, Nancy Ferro, Virginia Olson, Kathi Hanson, Debbie Kinnunen, Joan Carlisle, Paul Olson, Brad Delongchamp, Carla Skytta, Joe Perry, Paul Peterson, Sandy Swiedals, Sheila Gorisch, Michael Jakobi, Anne Jakobi, David Niemi, Donald Leake, Bill Seppanen, Donald DeRoche.

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Leake at 6:01 p.m.
- II. Pledge Of Allegiance – Recited.
- III. Roll Call – Present: Trustee Seppanen, Supervisor Leake, Treasurer Nurkala, Trustee Gregg, Clerk Hillis.
- IV. Approval of Agenda – Remove #7 under committee reports. Gregg made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, second by Seppanen. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.
- V. Approval of Minutes for June 9, 2025 – Leake made the motion to table the minutes until they are corrected and more detailed to better serve the public, second by Gregg. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.
- VI. Treasurer's Report – Nurkala is reviewing the accounts and working with Scott Kenney to determine what accounts are kept and the ones that can be combined. The process has started to open Nicolet accounts. Money in the tax account will be moved after Kenney completes his review/reconciliation; then, the money will be put in the correct account. The ICSs are currently making a little money. Current CDs were rolled over and kept in Nicolet Bank; also discussed was the reconciliation process. Gregg made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, second by Seppanen. Roll Call Vote: Gregg – Aye, Hillis – Aye, Leake – Aye, Nurkala – Aye, Seppanen – Aye. Motion carried. In reference to changing banks from Range Bank to Nicolet Bank, Leake requested to put on the record that, "I think it's a good idea, but I think the timing for lack of a better word sucks."

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- VII. Bills To Be Paid – Hillis requested two additional bills be paid, one for Hannula and one for Menards. Gregg made the motion to approve the financial statements as presented, seconded by Nurkala. Roll Call Vote: Gregg – Aye, Hillis – Aye, Leake – Aye, Nurkala – Aye, Seppanen – Aye. Motion carried
- VIII. Public Comment – D. Kinnunen (change minutes to provide more information, Treasure’s report documents, distribution of severance money, reconciliation report , budget report), R. McBride (minutes correction), K. Hanson (communication failure, clerk and treasurer never in the office), B. Seppanen (bank reconciliation process), W. Saunders (board and community tension, both sides of the table, give grace).
- IX. Board Comment – Gregg (4th of July success, greater communication, positive intent), Hillis (new deputy-Whitney Saunders, learning BS&A, board members are doing their job), Nurkala (elected into this position with a full-time job, working after hours, available by email and phone all day), Leake (MCRC update, WiFi bridge to museum completed, laptop available for committee use, met with Land Bank, completed ARPA report and recycling grant report, legal zoning review, Township garbage tickets available, BS&A training report, ORV speed signs, SoS mobile office visit Aug. 11).
- X. Correspondence – One (online draft minutes availability, fireworks).
- XI. Committee Reports –
1-Fire Board – Seppanen report – current and past-due bills, fire calls and training on new portable pump, boat readiness, new FD member, new fire truck update, 4th of July events, new EMS member, purchase/cost of new EMS communication system, National Night Out Aug. 5).
2-Planning Commission – Gregg report – master plan, computer availability, recreation plan.
3-DDA – R. McBride report – successful Artisan Market and Car Show in the park.
4-DPW – Leake report – dock bumpers, Peshekee Grade dumpster cameras, supervisor/DPW list, park updates, water intrusion on building’s west side, library windows.
5-Michigamme Area Seniors – V. Olson report – serving more meals.
6-Fouth of July Committee – K. Hanson – thank all the volunteers, successful/busy concession stand, outstanding bills.
~~7-Museum Committee Report –~~
- XII. Old Business –
1-Cemetery Green Space – information packet provided to board members and will be discussed at joint meeting with Spurr.
2-Regulations Enforcement Officer – will discuss with Spurr at joint meeting, permission to post the position if Spurr decides not to do this, wage and position duties discussions, contract position. Gregg made the motion to post the position within the parameters of the budget, seconded by Hillis. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried

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3-WiFi Door Lock – Lock has been purchased. Policy verbiage being reviewed by legal.

4-Survey of Township Lots Contract/FYI – completed by Nov. 1, Township will provide an email and phone number for the surveyors for interested community members. Recommendation to post the information on the Township's website.

5-Proposed Language Change for Employee Handbook Travel Policy – board approved verbiage and agreed the next step is to have a legal review. Motion by Gregg to move to the next step, seconded by Nurkala. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

6-Fundraiser Second Chance Sale – Ferro requested to use the Engine House for the sale, beginning Aug. 6. She would like to start setting up 2 weeks prior. The sale will end at the beginning of September, and the Engine House will be cleared of all items NLT Sept. 6. The fire department will need to get into the Engine House Aug. 5 to take the antique fire trucks in and out for National Night Out. It was agreed that there would be a clear lane to get the trucks in and out. Proceeds will be used for a sign for the Engine House and cemetery memorial. Gregg made a motion to approve the fundraiser, Second Chance sale, from Aug. 6 to Sep. 6, with a lane open Aug. 5, seconded by Seppanen. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

XIII. New Business –

1-EMS Bank Account – Donations and other monies raised through fund-raising activities, such as the bottle caps at the 4th of July games, are considered as public funds under state law and must be receipted in, accounted for, and distributed in the same manner as other Township funds. The organization must be clearly recognized by its name and purpose as a separate entity from the Township. Gregg made the motion that the Township board has no objections to EMS independently controlling funds earned by their own fund-raising efforts, and EMS should incorporate a non-profit association, Nurkala seconded. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

2-Scott Kenney Report – Board members were given a written report based on Kenney's progress. He is currently on FY 2024-2025 financial records.

3-Clerk's Statutory Duties – MCL 168.31 (1)(I) states: Establish and require attendance by all new appointed or elected election officials at an initial course of instruction within six months before the date of election. Hillis stated the training requirement is within six months of the date of an election, not necessarily six months after being elected. Currently, Michigamme does not have an election in November. Hillis and Saunders will continue election training and, if possible, shadow Champion Township during its August 2025 election.

4.-Overband Crack Fill and Flex Patching Bid – The 2025 overband crack fill and flex patching bid tabulation for Michigamme is \$28,577 plus an 8.5% overhead fee. If the alleys (which need to be repaved) and FD/EMS aprons are removed, the cost would be approximately \$19,613. Nurkala made the motion to approve with the price adjustments of removing the alleys and aprons for a cost of \$19,618, seconded by Gregg. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

5-Main Street Sidewalk Along Community Building Solicited Bids – There were three bids, and Closner Construction was the most comprehensive bid. The Closner Construction bid was \$6,798 and the scope of work includes: Prep and infill two areas between the sidewalk and the stair landings. This includes cutting and prepping the existing landing and the sidewalks for new

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concrete. Patch sandstone at the base of the stairs. Remove and replace two sections of sidewalk along main street. Nurkala made the motion to award Closner Construction the bid of \$6,798, seconded by Hillis. Roll Call Vote: Seppanen – Aye, Nurkala – Aye Leake – Aye, Gregg – Aye, Hillis – Aye. Motion carried.

6-Michigamme-Spurr FirstNet/ATT Subscription w/Equipment – Michigamme-Spurr First Responders requested to add FirstNet by AT&T to their current communications system. The modem and iPad would enhance communication and data transmission capabilities and give the first responders a reliable priority and preemption communication on a cellular platform. The initial start-up cost for equipment and subscription is \$1,149.98. The modem with unlimited data will cost \$34.99 monthly; and there is an additional monthly fee of \$34.99 for the first two months. Leake made the motion to move forward and split the cost with Spurr, pending their approval, second by Nurkala. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

7-Legal Direction on ESTA/Language Change – Currently Michigamme Township exceeds the mandatory allowance of Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) to its employees. Leake said at next month's board, a resolution will be brought before the board for approval. Leake asked the board to give her permission to move forward with the resolution. Gregg made the motion to allow Leake to proceed to the next step, Seppanen seconded. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

8-Gravel Request for Township Owned Pink Road – Residents of Pink Road asked to have the Township pay for gravel for the Township's portion of the road. The previous boards chose not to use Township funds to gravel the portion of the road from the railroad tracks to US Hwy 41. The last time the Township paid for gravel was in 1991. The board was presented multiple documents: 1) Meeting minutes from the previous board that voted on the motion: "the Township will not pay for graveling or road maintenance on private roads or undocumented easements within the Township for any reason. The motion was approved with 5 ayes. However, Leake said the previous board was given incomplete/inaccurate information. 2) The supervisor received a list of roads from the Marquette County Road Commission stating that pink road is a Township road from the railroad tracks (minus the RR easement) to US 41 because the Township owns the land on both sides of the road. 3) A September 9, 2017, document addressed to Leake stating the board recognized that Pink Road was a Township road, but a gate and rocks were placed illegally on Township property, therefore Leake was told they must be removed by October 16, 2017, which was the date of the next board meeting. 4) The last document was from Leake's attorney to the Township attorney on October 12, 2017, stating the gate had been in place for approximately 60 years. He also said Pink Road is not an ORV trail, and that the gate would remain open. Leake also said the private property sign on the Townships property would be removed and stated the gate in question is a Township gate. Leake requested permission to get a bid for gravel. Leake made the motion to get a bid for gravel for the Township portion of Pink Road, with the stipulation that the private road sign comes down, and coordinate with the railroad, seconded by Seppanen. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried.

9-MCRC 2026 Paving Program Guidelines/FYI – Leake explained to the board that there is an option to have lines painted on the roads, which would cost money. Leake recommended board

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members drive or walk down the alleys and roads to get a better understanding of the current roads' condition.

- XIV. Public Comment – P. Peterson (thanks for support), W. Saunders (accident of Mesnard St, GPS wasn't correct for responding resources), B. Seppanen (board members are paid decent salary, especially the clerk, clerk hasn't been in the office much lately, fireworks), D. Kinnunen (fireworks, elections, how will BS&A save money, election), J. Perry (thanks to those who were part of the 4th of July activities, National Night Out, delay of new fire truck), K. Hanson (park-visitors impressed, elections is a lot of work), B. Delongchamp (gravel, advertise bids, miss dig).
- XV. Board Comment – Leake (beach, fireworks, move forward with better communication), Nurkala (great 4th of July events, car show and Artisan Market, park facilities), Hillis (election, ACH/invoices through BS&A will save money), Gregg (appreciate EMS, park usage).
- XVI. Adjournment – Gregg made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Seppanen. All in favor, 5 ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.