

Clerk, Kathi Hanson
Treasurer, Marsha Nurkala

Supervisor
Julia M. A. Leake

Trustee, Trudy Seppanen
Trustee, John Gregg

Michigamme Township
202 West Main – Po Box 220
Michigamme, MI 49861
Phone: 906-323-6608 Fax: 906-323
Michigamme Township Board Meeting
Location: Community Building
September 8, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES (with DRAFT MINUTE corrections in Blue)

Guests: Debbie Kinnunen, Carla Skytta, Nancy Ferro, Bill Seppanen, Brad DeLongchamp, Kevin Hamel, John Mallad, Viki DeMars, David Niemi, Sheila Gorisch.

- I. Call to Order : Meeting called to order at 6 :00 p.m. by Supervisor Leake.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance : The Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.
- III. Roll Call : All board members present. Quorum met.
- IV. Approval of Agenda : Motion by Gregg to approve the agenda with additions. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. (Additional items in red.)
- V. Approval of Minutes for August 11, 2025, and August 27, 2025 (special meeting):
Motion by Gregg to approve August 11th, 2025, minutes with corrections. Second by Leake.
Voice vote. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
Motion by Gregg to approve August 27th, 2025, minutes with corrections. Second by Seppanen.
Voice vote. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Fireboat Fundraiser account is now closed. Monies now in Fire account. Tax account balance will go down once all checks have been dispersed.
- VII. Invoice Approval / Checks Issued / Balance Sheets / Profit and Loss:
One additional bill was added to be approved (Nicolet credit card). Motion by Nurkala to approve all bills to be paid. Second by Seppanen. Roll call. Seppanen Aye, Gregg Aye, Leake Aye, Nurkala Aye, Hanson Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VIII. Public Comment / 3 minutes on Agenda Items Only:
Kinnunen (good minutes).
- IX. Board Comment:

Hanson shared the Fire Department received a lovely letter and framed photograph of our new fire truck from the company that built our fire truck. Also thanked Julia, Keesha, & Debbie for all their support and assistance the last few weeks as she transitioned into her role as clerk. Leake reported the library is open again but please stay off the altar/ children's area not open. Road work starts tomorrow, please use the west entrance to town. Railings, concrete, and showers completed (by Closner). We are going back to using giant metal dumpsters; we get the metal price and transportation costs are also lower.

X. Correspondence: None.

XI. Committee Reports:

1. Fire Board: (Report by Seppanen) Fireboard Spurr met September 2nd. Bills were approved for the EMS conference; batteries were purchased for EMS pagers; a parka was purchased for Allie for EMS; and a battery purchased from Range Telecommunications. The Fire Dept had many fire runs for July & August (quite busy on July 4th). The new fire truck arrived July 26th. It has a small leak that someone will be coming up to fix. Family Night Out was a huge success (around 200 people in attendance).
.August 6th they were called out for a car accident where communication lines were down. Our firemen manned the Fire Dept for any emergency related calls all night until lines were fixed.
August 25th EMS met. Six members were present. There are a couple of changes coming up with the State for training; EMS will train, and it will be funded by the State.
August 26th The Fire dept met with 10 firemen present. Training on September 8th & 16th. (will be using tanker to back flush hydrants). September 21st is Clean up the Highway at 10:00 a.m. from Michigamme Market to Pink Road. Next meeting will be Tuesday October 7th at 5:30 (Michigamme Firehall).
2. Planning Commission: Gregg reported all members present at the meeting. They finalized language for Master Plan but still need to switch out some photographs. A public comment led to the addition on our agenda.
3. DDA: No report.
4. DPW: Leake reported DPW preparing for fall.
5. Michigamme Area Seniors: No report.
6. Friends of Michigamme: Sent the board a letter requesting that the board pursue signage bids for a duplicate Engine House original sign as well as refurbishing the current Museum sign. They will provide photographs and sign measurements. Second Chance Sale monies

raised by Nancy Ferro (and her crew of volunteers) are going towards these signs. Nancy reported she raised \$5,544.00 this year.

XII. Old Business

1. Finalized language for Earned Sick Time Act, Personal Handbook: All language edits have been completed by the lawyer. Our temporary and seasonal workers are eligible for PTO, the new handbook language states they are eligible. (Percentages pro-rated per hour worked.) Motion by Seppanen to approve the final language for the earned sick time act in the personal handbook. Second by Hanson. Voice vote. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

XIII. New Business:

1. Opening of bids for Wastewater Pumping: We received two bids. Motion by Gregg to accept Hamel bid. Second by Hanson. Roll call. Leake Aye, Seppanen Aye, Nurkala Aye, Gregg Aye, Hanson Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
2. Opening of bids for Propane Service: No decision made. Need additional information. Will have a special meeting moving forward and decide then.
3. Opening of bid for Township Road gravel: We received two bids. Motion by Seppanen to accept Laitala bid of \$1,660.00. Second by Gregg. Roll call. Nurkala Aye, Gregg Aye, Hanson Aye, Seppanen Aye, Leake Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
4. Scott Kenney Report: Written report listed all areas of our finance records he has been working on.
5. PFN (Peninsula Fiber Network) line changes from AT&T: As of now we only have AT&T lines for our elevator/fax machine, sewer, and wireless in Museum. We cannot change our sewer because it is a robosystem. Motion by Gregg to change our Elevator/fax machine line from AT&T to Peninsula Fiber Network. Second by Leake. Roll call. Gregg Aye, Hanson Aye, Leake Aye, Nurkala Aye, Seppanen Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
6. North Country Website Design Proposal: Tabled for now, need more information.
7. Resolution for 2025 Tax Rate Request: We receive this report yearly. It is compiled by our assessor who works with equalization and the county treasurer to arrive at these figures. Supervisor read the resolution out loud, motion by Gregg that we adopt the resolution tax rate for 2025. Second by Seppanen. Roll call: Leake Aye, Hanson Aye, Nurkala Aye, Gregg Aye, Seppanen Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Supervisor Leake declared the motion passed.
8. Receptionist Hire: We had 9 applicants, 3 interviewed by Supervisor, Administrative assistant, and Trustee Seppanen. Tonya Owens computer skills were off the map plus she saw herself at the township in five years. Motion by Leake to offer the position of

receptionist to Tonya Owens with a starting salary of \$19.00 per hour. If she receives a positive evaluation at 90 days, the salary will increase to \$20.00 per hour. Start date is September 9th, hours will be seasonal office hours plus 1 additional flex hour per day. Second by Gregg. Roll call. Gregg Aye, Hanson Aye, Leake Aye, Nurkala Aye, Seppanen Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

9. Ordinance Enforcement Hire: The interview team consisted of Michigamme's Supervisor, and Spurr's Supervisor and Treasurer. There were 5 applications, 4 were contacted by Leake, only 1 interviewed. The lone applicant's qualifications were superb. Both Spurr and Michigamme are discussing him at their meetings with a joint special meeting to follow if both townships decide to hire him. Motion by Nurkala to approve Anthony Marsh as our choice for Ordinance Enforcement Officer to be determined at the joint meeting. (Wage to be discussed with Spurr). Second by Seppanen. Roll call: Seppanen Aye, Nurkala Aye, Hanson Aye, Leake Aye, Gregg Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
10. **Pick Special meeting dates.** Motion by Hanson to have a Michigamme Township Board Special Meeting Wednesday September 10th at 5:30 and a Spurr-Michigamme Special Joint Meeting Wednesday September 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Michigamme Township Hall. Second by Gregg. Voice vote. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
11. **Lakeshore-River Zoning:** At the Planning Commission meeting, there was a public comment regarding waterfront development patterns they are seeing. The zoning ordinance is not being followed in some cases by select waterfront residents. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Planning Commission would develop an educational cover letter to be distributed to all **Lake Michigamme** property owners regarding the waterfront zoning ordinance and present it to the board for review.

XVI Public Comment: John Mallard (inquired on date for property listings). Debbie Kinnunen (regarding L-4029, the other two operating are for park, garbage, etc. with no millage. Eagle Mine pays us on those millages). Brad Delongchamp (if you smell gas, you should call the fire department to check it out). Sheila **Gorish** (went to the library, it was gorgeous).

XVII. Board comment:

Hanson thanked Nancy for all her hard work on the secondhand sale, and the amazing amount of money she raised.

Nurkala stated we should revisit office duty responsibilities now that we have hired a receptionist and have a full staff again.

Gregg mirrored Hansons's comment about Nancy.

XVIII. Adjournment: Motion by Seppanen to adjourn. Second by Gregg. Voice vote. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by Leake.