

Clerk, Kathi Hanson
Treasurer, Steven Eliason

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: 906-323-6344
Michigamme Township Board Meeting
Location: Community Building
January 12, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

APPROVED (with corrections) MINUTES

Guests: Virginia Olson, Paul Peterson, Carla Skytta, Justin Murawski, William Seppanen, Antonio Ada, Debbie Kinnunen.

- I. Call to Order : The meeting was 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 : Roll call by Hanson. Leake, Seppanen, Hanson, Eliason, in attendance. Trustee Gregg, absent. Quorum met.
- IV. Approval of Agenda : Leake added under New Business #6 *US 41 & County Road 607 Light Pole* . Motion by Hanson to approve the agenda with the addition of #6 under New Business. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2025: Motion by Seppanen to approve December 8th, 2025, minutes with the correction of type on page 3 (delete the word robes, insert ropes). Second by Leake. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Motion by Eliason to approve the Special Meeting on December 18, 2025, minutes. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Eliason shared printouts of all Township investment account balances and said his intent is to have additional comprehensive reports in the future once he and Scott get all the numbers current. He is also currently working on reconciliations, both audits with Scott, continues BS&A training and getting access to various banking institutions and investment accounts. Motion by Hanson to approve the Treasurers report. Second by Leake. Roll call

by Hanson. Seppanen Aye. Eliason Aye. Leake Aye. Hanson Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

- VII. Clerks Report / Bills to be paid: Hanson shared printouts of all bills paid and stated the IRS-State Treasury payment on the list was penalties/fees for payroll taxes May -August not reported or paid in. Hanson stated to her knowledge this should be the last time we owe more money for past filings not turned in on time from the last clerk. Motion to approve bills by Seppanen. Second by Eliason. Roll call by Hanson. Eliason Aye. Leake Aye. Seppanen Aye. Hanson Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VIII. Public Comment / 3 minutes on Agenda Items Only: Kinnunen said she liked the ~~Treasurer's~~ TREASURER'S Report and that you voice what your thoughts are going forward.
- IX. Board Comment: Hanson stated all boards and staff are getting better at turning in timely reimbursement/mileage/ charge sheets (including receipts) but some receipts are still not being turned yet. Reminded everyone again that she needs all WEX card receipts turned in (many were not turned in this past month again). Eliason stated he is continuing to learn more about BS&A. Leake report

:1- DNR Land Transaction Proposed Conservation Easement

\$20,275,000.00 for 73,063 Acres of Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, LLC

*Financed by the USFS Legacy Grant *Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant * National Fish and Wildlife Grant. Pledge from Lyme Great lakes Timberlands for \$650,000 to an endowment to support long-term monitoring and enforcement of conservation easements.

2- WMCSA We are billed yearly in two categories.

a-The facility maintains a CIP for larger projects. Population numbers from the 2020 census are multiplied by \$2.00. Which has not risen in two years. Our part of the CIP will be \$654.00. Currently the CIP fund has \$141,856.70

b-Cost Sharing of the closed WMCSA landfill. This is based on % of population. Our cost is \$174.00. Maintains test wells, fencing, mowing etc.

- Projecting that dumping fees will go to \$110.00 a ton in July. Prepare budgets with this in mind.
- Employees, manager and bookkeeper will receive a 2.8% COL wage increase.

3- *MCSWMA Will be purchasing a 3d guidance compactor that will track compaction of the levels and rows. \$38,163.72.

*The new Leachate Management Wastewater Treatment Plant which filters the leaching H2O from the landfills to take out contaminates, should be up and running by January 12, 2026.

*Recycling prices have remained the same this month. They have a new buyer for the glass, Sabelco of Minnesota. Some haulers take their recycling to other areas in WI. Encourage your townships to include in their contracts where they must haul them too.

4. Lundin Mining has announced the sale of EAGLE Mine and the Humboldt Mill to Talon Metals creating a multi-asset U.S. Nickle-Copper Company-Talon Metals Corporation.

There are still lots of details to work through so the spring community forum will sure be something you may want to plan on attending.

- 5- Michigamme -Spurr joint meeting will be held on January 21st at 6:00 in Spurr.
- 6- Capital improvement information was sent to all departments and are due on the 20th, scoring will be on the 27th at 9:00 a.m. Open to the public.
- 7- Watch the website for a new business tab for business cards. This is to support local businesses and was set up through the DDA. Thanks to Virginia Olson.

X. Correspondence: Hannula Insurance informed us they are retiring and the Kevin Decker Agency will be taking over our policy. The policy will not change at all, just our agent.

XI. Committee Reports

1; Fire Board: Trustee Seppanen report/ see last page attachment

2: Planning Commission: William Seppanen reported the board met and worked on The Master Plan, and the approval of the Rec Plan (will be online). Unfortunately, they missed the Rec Plan deadline.

3: DDA: Virginia Olson reported the board met and discussed the Children's Christmas Party and decided they might hold it upstairs in the gym next year. They also prepared the new budget, discussed the "Gateway Sign", and CIP.

4: DPW: No official report. Leake stated they have spent a lot of time doing snow removal.

5: Michigamme Area Seniors: Virginia Olson turned in their yearly report. Most months were in the red due to losing members weekly (most likely due to cold weather), and price very low compared to food costs. Possible solutions to consider. Increase membership to \$10.00, charge \$1.00 more each week, put an additional charge on "to-go" containers.

6: Friends of Michigamme: Debbie Kinnunen reported they are waiting on the engine sign, and they ordered/received topiaries and planters to place on either side of the bench to be placed in the cemetery.

XII. Old Business

1. Land Bank Update: Leake reported the titles for all properties are clear. The lots by the cemetery are deemed wetlands so the Land Bank is not interested in developing them. We can sell them on our own if we want (Leake spoke with our assessor regarding moving forward on this). The board reviewed the negotiable purchase agreement drawn up by our lawyer and asked clarification questions to Antonio regarding legal language. Next step, Antonio is presenting this purchase agreement to The Land Bank to review and then both lawyers will correspond regarding possible changes.

2. Scott Kenney Report (accountant): see attachment on last pages

XIII. New Business

1. New BSA Module for work orders and maintenance schedules: The quote we received was very high. We tabled this agenda item for now to further research prices/ additional options.
2. Assessors Contract 2026: The board reviewed the new 2026 contract and discussed the salary increase request (from \$1,500.00 monthly to \$2,000.00 monthly). Justin had not received a raise for two years plus there are additional trainings/responsibilities this year to justify the increase he requested. He reported he has been working on all records being added to our data base, doing additional fieldwork/photos, and trying to get property values up for the township. All board members agreed he is an exceptional assessor and an asset to the Township. Motion by Hanson to accept the contract. Second by Eliason. Roll call by Hanson. Leake Aye. Seppanen Aye. Hanson Aye. Eliason Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
3. Language addition to bank reconciliation policy: After reviewing the policy for reconciliation, it was apparent new language was needed to clearly clarify the bank reconciliation process. This new language was stated at the meeting and voted on. The motion to approve the language change 4.9 reconciliations of Michigamme Township Policies was made by Hanson. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
4. DDA member openings: There are three DDA openings for a four-year term. DDA Applications will be available in the office and posted tomorrow.
5. Generator Maintenance Contract: Arflin Lake residents requested a light pole be installed on the corner of 607 & US 41. Leake applied for an application, and these are the costs to date compiled. The pole would cost \$2,000.00. To install the pole would be an additional \$3,000.00. We would have to still get a permit (either \$500.00 or \$100.00) and pay to run electric to the pole (no figures on this cost yet). Much discussion to follow. The board is not sure if a light pole at this location is necessary. It was decided to put this agenda item on hold until we have all cost figures to make a final decision. Leake will put in a work request for a designer to work up an official quote.

XIV. Public Comment: William Seppanen stated he was glad we signed Justin's contract for another year as our assessor. He is very diligent. Also congratulated the board for all the work being done, great meetings, and working together. Kinnunen asked if replacing sewer pumps is covered/ part of a CIP.

XV. Board comment: Hanson reported the 4th of July committee met and Fireworks contract has been secured. She also reminded everyone about Friday Game Night; Pickle Ball and Yoga classes being offered. For more information on this see the website or notices up.

XVI. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Seppanen. Second by Eliason. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Scott Kenney

Report to the Board and Supervisor:

This report is intended to provide an update of the work that I have undertaken since my last report to the Board.

1. I assisted the Township staff with investigation and selection of a new auditor for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years. I feel very good about the interviews and your selection of Andrews, Hooper and Pavlik, CPA's as your new auditor. I feel you will be well served by the firm.

2. I, again, assisted the staff with some of the bank/investment account reconciliations. The General Checking Account has not been completely reconciled for August. In addition, the months of September, October and November also need to be reconciled. We continued to pursue some unreconciled items and to update procedures to make this process more streamlined.

The new Treasurer has been working with the reconciliation process as well and this part of the process will greatly assist the Township.

The reconciliations continue to be a key internal control item and remains a high priority for the staff.

3. The new Treasurer and I held several discussions regarding the Primerica investment portfolio over the past month and I fully agree with the recommendations that he will be presenting to the Board at the meeting.

4. Due to the holidays and work schedules, the decision has been made to delay combining the various Fund checking accounts until the beginning of February. I feel this is an appropriate decision at this time.

5. I continued working on adjusting the various funds for the 2024-25 fiscal year. During December, I continued to work on the balancing and closure of the General Fund. Substantial progress is being made, and the record should be ready for audit within the next two weeks.

As I complete various portions of my engagement, I have been and will continue making recommendations to the staff members for procedural changes that will be necessary to remedy the situation that requires my engagement. I will also summarize these recommendations in a report to the Supervisor which can be shared with the Board, if the Board members so desire.

Fire Board report by Trustee Seppanen. See next page.

Members present Jay Killoran, Tammy Schultz, Trudy Seppanen, Fire chief Joe Perry & First Responder Stan Starr. Absent Beth & Joe.

1 Fire bill which was all paid by the Township and no bills for responder team. The books for the NFPA class will cost \$ 320.85 instead of \$450.00

Fire Chief update fire dept. meeting, 8-member present. John Koski & Ed Olson will be retiring April 1, 2026. Also, on January 10th a classroom training for ice rescue in Negaunee. The ice rescue training will be on the west end of Lake Michigamme Beach where they have cut a hole and put up poles and tape around it.

3. Runs for fire Dept. in December, person locked in a bathroom December 26 car accident but there was no car accident and December 31st snowmobile accident, Chief Joe made up a proposal for training and equipment for the fire dept.

Stan Starr reported there were 6 runs for the EMS.

Also, a discussion on the pay for firemen and Chief Joe said the firemen have been paid the last 5 years \$30 an hour and automatic 2 hours for \$60 and \$15 hour after the 2 hours. Weren't sure when this had started so Jay Killoran will check on it.

Chief Joe Perry received drawings back from the new EMS truck from CSI and they will be back up here within 3 weeks.

Also, Joe talked about having a plan in place for any disaster that occurs. Power outages, large fires etc. and also get a list of people with medical issues who would need help if something like this occurs.

Jan 21, 2026, joint meetings of Townships in Spurr 6:00

Next fire board meeting February 3, 2026, at 5:30 Michigamme Firehall.