

Michigamme Township
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Michigamme, MI 49861
Phone: 906-323-6608 Fax: 906-323-6344
Michigamme Township Board Meeting
Location: Community Building
February 9, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

CORRECTED OFFICIAL MINUTES

Guests: Debbie Kinnunen, Virginia Olson, Carla Skytta, Paul Olson, Brad DeLongchamp, William Seppanen.

- I. Call to Order by Clerk Hanson at 6 :00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.
- III. Roll Call by Clerk Hanson : Trustee Seppanen, Trustee Gregg, Treasurer Eliason, Clerk Hanson all present. Supervisor Leake excused ~~absent~~ **absence**. Quorum met. After the roll call, Clerk Hanson asked if someone on the board would make a motion for a board member to conduct the meeting due to the excused absence of the Supervisor. Motion by Treasurer Eliason for Trustee Gregg to conduct the meeting. Second by Trustee Seppanen. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- IV. Approval of Agenda : Motion by Hanson to approve the agenda. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- V. Approval of Minutes for January 12, 2026: Motion by Seppanen to approve the January minutes with the correction of the word Treasurer in #8. Second by Eliason. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Eliason went over the cash summary sheet handout provided. (The majority of monthly revenue was tax collected.) He continues working on reconciliations and BS&A. Motion by Gregg to approve the treasurer report. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VII. Clerks Report / Bills to be paid: Clerk Hanson went over the bills/expense report and presented two additional bills to be approved. Motion by Eliason to approve the bills to be paid. Second by Seppanen. Roll call. Gregg Aye. Seppanen Aye. Hanson Aye. Eliason Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- VIII. Public Comment / 3 minutes on Agenda Items Only: William Seppanen: When he was supervisor the public and board said no to a raise for him but yes to all other board members. The third year of his term Trustee Delangelo said he should get a \$10,000.00 raise to get him up to the level of other supervisors and because of past controversy, he declined the raise even though he was entitled to it. Supervisor Leake deserves to be paid at least what other township Supervisors make, and he hopes we rectify this problem. Debbie Kinnunen agrees the supervisor's salary should be at least comparable to other townships if not more due to all the grant monies she has worked hard to bring in.

- IX. Board Comment: Seppanen and Eliason both agreed with comments made in public comment. Hanson also agreed and elaborated that grant writing is usually contracted out and costs townships a lot of money; Leake took it upon herself to research and write grants that brought in over one hundred thousand dollars for the township in addition to all her other duties. In addition, the reason the supervisor's salary was so much lower in past years (prior to William Seppanen) was because the responsibilities were fewer and it was considered part time. John Gregg also agreed with past comments and added that going forward, the salary should reflect the responsibilities of the job, not the individual.
- X. Correspondence: Gregg reported the Red Cross is offering free smoke alarms to individuals. There are no financial guidelines to qualify. Contact Taylor Mikal at 906-295-1352 if interested. Hanson reported Michelle Benti. Julia Leake, and Kathi Hanson worked on an art grant from LSAA (Lake Superior Art Association,) and we were awarded the grant for \$650.00. These monies will be used to purchase art supplies for upcoming community art related classes. Senior Meal sent a thank you letter to the board for their monetary support and hope we continue to support them in the future.
- XI. Committee Reports
1. Fire Board- see report at the end of the minutes.
 2. Planning Commission- Gregg reported the Planning Commission met last week and worked on the Master Plan again navigating the technology being used. They received feedback from the public regarding the winter parking rules and informed us our enforcement officer Anthony Marsh is now working with those in violation of the parking ban. FYI: The board requested all future reports also be submitted in written form for proper documentation records.
 3. DDA- Scott Gravedoni reported the DDA met and held elections of officers, continued their efforts on making the Gateway Sign a reality, and setting dates for 2026 events. Tentative Spring Market date is either June 20th or 27th (they are not sure yet if they will be combining this event in conjunction with the car show), Holiday Market is November 7th, Kids Christmas Party is December 12th. The DDA and Jack Deo will be sponsoring a historical event about The Cohodas Lodge. More details to follow.
 4. DPW- no report
 5. Michigamme Area Seniors- Virginia ~~Olsen~~ **Olson** reported the board is researching the cost of purchasing new padded chairs for the dining room. The current chairs are very uncomfortable, and some need repair or should be tossed. A total of 50 chairs are needed to replace all existing chairs. Debbie Kinnunen assisted in the creation of their annual report (report at end of minutes). They have not yet had their election for officers.
 6. Friends of Michigamme- William Seppanen reported Debbie Kinnunen completed the 990 and compiled all the information requested by Scott Kenney (auditor) for their 509-3c status. They are hoping to meet at the end of this week (tentative day Thursday).
- XII. Old Business
1. Scott Kenney Report (accountant)- see report at the end of the minutes.
- XIII. New Business
1. Poverty Exemption Resolution (Justin Murawski)- Justin was absent so Hanson explained the resolution changes/updates. In short, the only language changes to the current/existing resolution document are, 1: the NEW Federal Guideline totals for poverty exemption, 2: Justin and the board agreed to increase the amounts for

LIQUID & NON-LIQUID ASSETS by \$2,500.00-non-liquid assets amount is now \$7,500.00 and liquid assets amount is \$10,000.00. This allows more people to meet the guidelines for approval. This resolution will go in effect for the March, July, and December 2026 Board of Reviews. Motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-02-09#1 Township of Michigamme Poverty Exemption Resolution by Gregg. Second by Seppanen. Roll call by Hanson. Seppanen Aye, Eliason Aye, Gregg Aye, Hanson Aye. (Leake absent.) 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

2. Board Salary Resolutions (separate votes) Prior to voting, there was much discussion regarding the current salaries of our board member positions versus the salaries of other township board members having similar responsibilities and time required in the office to do their jobs. Research on salaries and duties was done prior to the meeting so there were actual numbers to crunch and compare. This was a delicate subject to broach but one that has needed to be addressed for a long time due to the ever-growing responsibilities required to properly run a township the size of ours with all its amenities versus the pay scale created going back years when responsibilities were totally different. The board felt the responsible decision was to compare apples to apples and adjust pay according to job responsibilities closest to ours as the guide for each 2026-2027 salary. Some positions received large adjustments due to being underpaid, some received a much smaller increase, but they were right in line with other townships. We raised our amounts slightly to allow for a 2026-2027 raise since comparison townships were going to be receiving them in upcoming months.

Resolution #2026-03-09-#2 Resolution to Establish Township Supervisor Salary. Motion by Seppanen to increase the annual salary of the Supervisor to \$24,000.00 with a monthly pay of \$2,000.00. Second by Hanson. Roll call by Hanson. Hanson Aye, Seppanen Aye, Gregg Aye, Eliason Aye. Leake absent. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

Resolution #2026-02-09-#3 Resolution to Establish Township Clerk Salary. Motion by Gregg to increase the annual salary of the Clerk to \$27,000.00 with a monthly pay of \$2,250.00. Second by Seppanen. Roll call by Hanson. Gregg Aye, Eliason Aye, Seppanen Aye, Hanson abstain, Leake absent. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Gregg declared the resolution adopted.

Resolution #2026-03-09-#4 Resolution to Establish Township Treasurer Salary. Motion by Gregg to increase the annual salary of the Treasurer to \$26,000.00 with a monthly pay of \$2,166.67. Second by Hanson. Roll call by Hanson. Gregg Aye, Hanson Aye, Seppanen Aye, Eliason Aye, Leake absent. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Gregg declared the resolution adopted.

Resolution#2026-02-09-#5 Resolution to Establish Township Trustee #1 Salary. Motion by Hanson to increase Trustee #1 annual salary to \$6,600.00 with a monthly pay of \$550.00. Second by Eliason. Roll call by Hanson. Hanson Aye, Gregg Aye, Eliason Aye, Seppanen Aye, Leake absent. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Gregg declared the resolution adopted. (NOTE: The total salary for BOTH TRUSTEE'S is \$6,600.00)

Resolution #2026-02-09-#5 Resolution to Establish Township Trustee #2 Salary.

Motion by Eliason to increase Trustee #2 annual salary to \$6,600.00 with a monthly pay of \$550.00. Second by Hanson. Roll call by Hanson. Hanson Aye, Gregg Aye, Eliason Aye, Seppanen Aye, Leake absent. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Gregg declared the resolution adopted.

3. Fabick CAT Maintenance Quote (Steve): Steve reported we are coming up to our 500 hour maintenance requirement on our CAT. A full-service quote by a certified CAT technician was requested (to be reviewed and voted on by the board). Motion by Gregg to accept the CAT quote of \$2,172.82 & have John schedule the service. Second by Eliason. Roll call by Hanson. Eliason Aye, Hanon Aye, Gregg Aye, Seppanen Aye. Leake absent. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

4. DDA member appointment recommendations. There were three openings for the DDA. Leake highly recommends the two people who applied so far. (There is still one opening on this board.) Motion by Gregg to accept the appointment of Scott Gravedoni for a four-year term on the DDA board ending January 1, 2030. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote: 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Motion by Hanson to accept the appointment of Virginia Olson for a four-year term on the DDA board ending January 1, 2030. Second by Eliason. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed.

5. Web Design Change for Federal Law Compliance / Quote: The board tabled this agenda item. Further research required.

6. MTA Principles of Governance Affirmation and Practice (signatures): Hanson read the Principles of Government Affirmation and Practice. Board members present signed it. Leake will add her signature once she returns.

XIV. Public Comment: Debbie Kinnunen commented that our current website person is good, and she hopes we keep using her. Brad DeLongchamp commented he is concerned with the safety of the roadway on Mesnard (narrowing of road due to snow removal build up by a neighbor as well as his piles of wood encroaching the edges of the road). Our enforcement officer has been talking with that resident, but he feels we should get the County involved as well to get results. Paul Olson stated he is not against the board raises but questions where we will get the money to pay these salaries. He also questioned if a board member can vote for a raise for themselves. (FYI from Clerk: Even without their vote there was a quorum met so the motion would pass.)

XV. Board comment: Treasurer Eliason stated Monday 2/16 and Tuesday 2/17 the office would be open from 8-5 for residents to be able to pay their taxes in person prior to the deadline. The total Severance Tax payment for ~~Michigamme/Humboldt/Champion~~ MICHIGAMME/HUMBOLDT this year was \$5.5 million. After all distributions are completed, Michigamme Township will realize \$560 thousand dollars. This is down from past years but not unexpected due to the shutdowns in the mine this past year. Eagle Mine is transitioning to Talon Metals going forward exploration will resume in the spring. Gregg said he appreciates working with this board. Supervisor Leake update/ report below.

XVI. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Hanson. Second by Seppanen. Voice vote. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Accountant report.

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 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. The final adjustments were made, and the General Fund was closed and ready for audit on February 5, 2026.

2. Various bank accounts remain unreconciled, and following a planning meeting between myself the Supervisor and the Treasurer, it was decided that the Treasurer would continue completing the bank reconciliations and call on me for assistance when needed.

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

3. A meeting was held with a new Senior Audit Supervisor on January 15. This meeting laid out the plan for the audit and what the Township would be responsible for.

4. I assisted with the preparation and submission of the annual W2 and 1099 forms. This was completed during the month of January as required by law.

5. The Township received a notice from the State saying that the PA57 report (TIF) was delinquent. I prepared and submitted the report for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

6. I discussed and clarified the GASB requirements for the inclusion of various nonprofit organizations that need to be disclosed as part of the forthcoming audit. At this point, it appears that four (4) Discrete Component Units will be included.

7. I, again, worked with the various staff members to strengthen accounting procedures. 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.

Wednesday February 4, 2026

Present at meeting Jason Killoran, Tammy Schultz, Trudy Seppanen, Joe Swiedal and Fire Chief Joe Perry and First Responder Stan Starr. Absent Beth Koenig.

There were no bills for Fire department or EMS.

Fire chief update, January 11, 2026 fire department had training on ice rescue at Michigamme beach, 7 members present and 12 people from the sheriff's department.

On January 17th one fire run rescue with EMS went and got them with the side by side.

Fire department held their meeting on January 27th 9 present. Held nominations of members, and election will be held later. The department received retirement letter from Ed Olson and Jon Koski's last day will be February 28th.

Chief Joe Perry met with CSI and a few minor changes were made on the new responder truck. Once everything is complete, they can put it out for bids for 45 days. Posted bids by March 2, 2026. Make sure the bids are mailed in by April and received by Michigamme Township Hall by April 15, 2026.

Jay will check with the Township on when to open bids. Joe said on April 21, 2026.

EMS- Truck will be completed July 1, 2027.

Stan Starr said EMS had 4 runs with 6 members present.

Next fire board meeting Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 5:30pm Spurr Township Hall.

Also I asked Chief Joe if the fire department will March in the parade for the 4th of July in their dress uniforms and he said he would try to get them to march.

Also I thanked the Fire and EMS from the Township Office for turning in their new time sheets, they did a good job.

Board member salaries in neighboring communities' comparison chart.

***Water & Sewer Bonus**

***Ishpeming**

Supervisor- 25,750.00

Clerk- 25,281.00

Treasure -24,814.00

Trustee- 6,000.00

Negaunee

Supervisor- 21,000.0

Clerk- 25,000.00

Treasurer-20,000.00

Trustee- 7,500.00

Sand

Supervisor- 21,699.30

Clerk- 21,699.30

Treasurer- 21,699.30

Trustee- 5,382.96

Spurr

Supervisor- 15,000.00

Clerk- 18,000.00

Treasurer- 15,000.00

Trustee-2,240.00

Michigamme

Supervisor- 11,339.04

Clerk-24,543.60

Treasurer-15,594.60

Trustee- 4,760.38

Champion

Supervisor-9,600.00

Clerk-9,600.00

Treasurer- 10,200.0

Trustee- 1,800.00

Supervisors Update February 9, 2026

- 1- MCTA meeting on January 28th included a presentation by the Under Sheriff, Lowell Larson. He gave a presentation about the ongoing issues with the county jail because of the sheer numbers going through and the limited amount of space. He also reported on the diverse roles that the department plays. Road patrol, dedicated patrol towns, civil process, underwater body recovery, registering sex offenders, special operations and prisoner transport, which works nationwide.
Kathy from the Red Cross reported about a free smoke alarm program including installation that they are running. There are no financial guidelines to qualify and they do the installation. They are also looking for contacts for National Night Out and other public programs to set up a table for information about all Red Cross programs.
Date for the Township Spring Banquet is set for May 6th in Powell Township.
Marquette County Master Plan Update survey was shared to take back to our townships in hopes that folks will take the survey. On our web site too.
- 2- EGLE is working with us to complete our permitting process for the wastewater system. It is due March 27, 2026. I have been in contact with the consultants who did the application last time, met with the local MI Waters, and am in conversation with the state office of water resources.
- 3-The Michigan State Police Forfeiture report is completed.
- 4- The USDA sewer report will be completed and sent in before the March 1st deadline.
- 5- The office is preparing materials for the audit.
- 6- The Section 19 grant reimbursement was completed and sent in.
- 7- Nathan has passed his sewer exam and has had training with MI Waters for inputting data for our system. He has worked hard to catch it all up and has just recently finished. This data is vital for the permitting process.
- 8- Posting for two positions are out for the Board of Review, ending 3-26-26 at 1 p.m.
- 9-Enrichment classes and activities continue to expand so watch the postings.
- 10-CIP scoring is complete and went well. Time for budgets next.
- 11-Scott Kenney has worked with the local groups that fall under Governmental Component Units to get them in legal financial alignment with the township.
- 12- My focus will now turn to budgets for the 26-27 fiscal year.

**Michigamme/Spurr Area Seniors
2025 Calendar Year Report**

	Jan-March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Year To Date
INCOME					
Membership Dues Income	\$ 84.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 14.00		\$ 147.00
Meal Income	\$ 4,551.00	\$ 4,697.51	\$ 5,006.06	\$ 4,751.94	\$ 19,006.51
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 86.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 535.26	\$ 871.26
Michigamme Township Donation	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Spurr Township Donation			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Income	\$ 7,721.00	\$ 7,996.51	\$ 11,020.06	\$ 11,287.20	\$ 38,024.77
EXPENSES					
Food Expense	\$ 3,414.20	\$ 3,321.96	\$ 2,804.78	\$ 3,970.07	\$ 13,511.01
Miscellaneous - Supplies	\$ 88.37	\$ 71.97	\$ 21.68	\$ 59.95	\$ 241.97
Cook and Helper	\$ 3,090.00	\$ 3,445.00	\$ 3,685.00	\$ 3,045.00	\$ 13,265.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,592.57	\$ 6,838.93	\$ 6,511.46	\$ 7,075.02	\$ 27,017.98
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 1,128.43	\$ 1,157.58	\$ 4,508.60	\$ 4,212.18	\$ 11,006.79
Meal Count - Served					
	295	388	474	346	1503
Take out	376	340	293	356	1365
Total Meals	671	728	767	702	2868

Current number of members:

51/2