

**Douglass Township
3521 W. McBrides Rd
Stanton, MI 48888
989-762-8014**

**Minutes Regular Board Meeting
3-18-26
7:00 pm**

Call to Order 7:01 pm

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Roll Call

Present: Kathy Rasmussen, Holly Huff, Ken Bunting, Eric Tester, Kristi Cordray

Approval Agenda Items

Motion made by Tester to approve agenda, seconded by Cordray Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Passed.

Approval Minutes from February 18, 2026 Regular meeting

Motion by Tester to approve minutes, seconded by Rasmussen Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Passed.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Wayne Watts, Supervisor, Belvidere Township	fire contract payment concerns
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Reports

Treasurer Cordray report

- Township paid fire contracts for 2025, including to Belvidere Township. We have 175,909.02 in checking, \$420,008.64 in property tax account. Will be attending the MTA conference in April, and will be getting information on MIclass investment opportunities as well as .gov website communication options.
- Motion made by Tester to accept treasurer report, seconded by Huff . Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Report accepted.

Clerk Huff report

- Completed electronic funds transfer backlogs. Provided current bills report, explained several Amazon purchases.
- Motion made by Bunting to accept clerk report, seconded by Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Report accepted.

Supervisor Rasmussen report

- The township will have a recognition for Don Larson, our retiring sexton, on April 15 at the beginning of the board meeting.
- The .gov website is coming together and will be ready to launch April 1. It is ADA compliant.
- We had two applications for short term rentals on Clifford Lake and one on Indianhead Lake.
- Belvidere Township is requesting \$15,000 in payment for 2023 and 2024. We did not receive invoices for those years 2023 and 2024 until recently, despite multiple attempts. 2025 has been paid, and 2026 will be paid in the next fiscal year.
- Motion made by Bunting to pay Belvidere Township \$7500 now for 2023 and \$7500 next month for 2024, Eric Tester. Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 Motion passed.
- Rasmussen voted nay, as the township treasurer did due diligence in attempting to get the previous invoices, and does not think it is good practice for the township to pay bills

without proper invoicing. Rasmussen further shared that moving forward, invoices need to be provided in a timely manner for timely payment.

- Rasmussen will bring fire contracts and any other contracts that need board approval to the April meeting.

Clerk Huff asked if the clerk report could be reopened to discuss an additional item regarding elections.

- Bunting made a motion to reopen the clerk report. Cordray seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Huff reported that in order to have the county do early voting, we need to sign a contract with the county.
- Motion made by Bunting to have Clerk Huff sign early voting contract with the county clerk when said contract arrives, seconded by Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

Trustee Ken Bunting report, Fire board report

- Provided update on Stanton fire chief. They held 3 interviews and selected Dwayne Peterman as new chief. He has 20 years experience with Stanton Fire. Ken has a meeting with Chief Peterman tomorrow.

Trustee Eric Tester report, PC report

- Reported on the data center ordinance special meeting the PC had with our lawyer in February. PC changed 45 lmax to 40. Discussed closed loop cooling system, onsite energy source, limiting size. The renewable energy zone would be the space available, which is 500 acres. A public hearing on the data center ordinance will be held at the regular PC meeting in April. Huff raised a concern on a company potentially leasing out to other companies, and wondered if there is a way we can get a disclosure on who would be using the data center buildings. The PC also discussed accessory unit dwellings.

Zoning Administrator Kelsey report

- Gave report on tickets, permits, etc.

Old Business

Groundskeeper

- Rasmussen reported that Aaron Hadley had excellent references and would like to offer him the position of groundskeeper.
- Motion made by Tester to approve aron Hadley as groundskeeper, seconded by Cordary Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Moton passed.

Permit application language

- Dave Kelsey had brought up that he would like our application to require applicants to call him before scheduled digging, pouring, and siding, etc.
- Motion made by Bunting to add language to permit application requiring the applicant to contact Zoning admin prior to holes being dug, footings being poured/walls going up, and exterior finishing (siding, etc). Seconded by Huff Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Budget amendment 2025/26 narrative

- Rasmussen provided a budget amendment narrative for the fiscal year 2025. The narrative includes adjusting line items in both the revenue and expenditure sections, reflecting increases in state revenue sharing, permit fees, interest, refunds, legislative costs, supplies, and fire contracts. Rasmussen also requested board support for making last minute amendments before March 31, when the budget year will be closing out.
- Motion made by Bunting to accept the budget amendments for the 2025 year, and to allow Rasmussen to control any other amendments needed from March 18 to March 31, seconded by Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Budget amendment approved.

Fire millage

- As requested by the board at the February meeting, the attorney provided ballot

language to use for the August 2026 ballot, which would renew the current fire millage of .5754 and increase it by .1746 for a total of .75.

- Motion made by Tester to put the fire millage language as provided by the attorney on the Aug. 2026 ballot, seconded by Bunting. Ayes: Huff, Rasmussen, Bunting, Tester, Cordray Nays: none. Motion passed.

Road Commission Projects

- Discussion on road projects presented by the road commission. Board is allotting approximately \$100,000 for roads.
- Motion made by Huff for the following projects: Brush spray, chloride, crack seal, gravel resurface on Nevins, chip seal on Briggs and Musson for a total of \$109,682.22. Rasmussen asked about the crack seal, as there are no designated roads. Township will request an itemized list of which roads were crack sealed at the end of 2026. Motion then seconded by Cordary. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.
- Motion to sign road contracts made by Bunting, seconded by Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

New Business

Schedule conflict on May meeting

- Due to graduation conflicts, the May meeting is changed to Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm.
- Tester made the motion to change the date to May 19, seconded by Rasmussen. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

PC annual report 2025

- Rasmussen shared the PC report, which summarizes the activities of the Planning Commission during the year 2025. It outlines terms, work goals, and ongoing discussions.
- Rasmussen made the motion to accept the PC annual report, seconded by Cordray Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Report accepted.

Spring clean up help

- Saturday April 25, 9–12. NHS Lakeview needs volunteer hours. Cheer team and track will also be asked. Tester will work on signs for the clean up.

Budget Public Hearing 8:31 pm

Open Public hearing

Public Comment on proposed budget: none

Board discussion on budget

- Rasmussen presented the narrative on proposed budget for fiscal year 2026. Board discussed Assessor supplies, board of appeals meetings, infrequent tax items, adding GL number for paying out for burials, setting up cemetery bank account, refund due to new insurance company.
- Board passed resolutions for officers and election workers as follows:
Supervisor Salary: \$10,506.00 paid over twelve months. Motion made by Tester seconded by Huff. Roll call vote: Aye: Bunting, Tester, Rasmussen, Cordray, Huff Nay: none. Passed.
- **Clerk Salary:** \$18,649.18 paid over twelve months. Motion made by Tester seconded by Cordray. Roll call vote: Aye: Huff, Cordray, Rasmussen, Tester, Bunting Nay: none. Passed.
- **Treasurer Salary:** \$15541.67 paid over twelve months. Motion made by Tester seconded by Huff. Roll call vote: Aye: Tester, Cordray, Huff, Bunting, Rasmussen

Nay: none. Passed.

- **Trustee Salary:** Trustee Salaries: \$208.50 per month plus \$50.00 per meeting. Motion made by Tester seconded by Rasmussen. Roll call vote: Aye: Huff, Cordray, Rasmussen, Tester, Bunting Nay: none. Passed.
- **Election workers:** \$15.50 per hour, and election chairpersons at a rate of \$16.50 per hour. Motion made by Tester seconded by Cordray. Roll call vote: Aye: Rasmussen, Tester, Bunting, Cordray, Huff Nay: none. Passed.

Vote on budget

- Motion made by Tester to accept the 2026 budget proposal with adjustments as presented, seconded by Cordray. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Passed.
- General Appropriations Act motion made by Eric Tester, seconded by Kristi Cordray, to adopt the foregoing ordinance (resolution). Upon roll call vote, the following voted:
- Aye: Huff, Cordray, Tester, Bunting, Rasmussen nay: none The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted on March 18, 2026.

Close budget public hearing

- Motion made by Bunting to close budget public hearing, seconded by Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Public hearing closed.

Announcements Spring Clean Up date April 25 9-12 signs placed outside buildings for direction Eric will put up signs.

Next meeting date April 15, 2026 7:30 pm

Public Comment 9:25

Wayne Watts	Thanked township for paying the fire contracts. Stated that the township is getting a good deal.
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Board Comments

Adjournment

- Motion made by Cordray to adjourn, seconded by Huff. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm

Respectfully,

Kathy Rasmussen

Holly Huff