

Edenville Township of Midland, County, Michigan
Minutes for Regular Township Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Swanton Hall Meeting Room, 6460 N. Water Rd, Edenville, MI 48620

Announcement by A. Peters that the meeting will be recorded via Zoom with post meeting access on the Township web page. A. Peters gave welcome, thanking all for support and attendance. Noted the lack of transition conducted by the former board had created deficiencies and set backs for new board.

Supervisor A. Peters called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

INVOCATION | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Peters led the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Poll of board by A. Peters to recognize/confirm OMA compliance. Confirmed.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Luty called the roll.

Present: Mr. Art Peters
Kathy Peters
Mr. James Sperling
Dr. Crystal Starkey
Tamie Luty

WELCOME | INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Also present:

Deputy Clerk Katrina Federer
Fire Chief Roger Dufrense
Ret. Supervisor Craig Gosen
Ret. Clerk Lydia Draves
Ret. F/LT Christopher Luty, MSP
Fmr. Clerk Anedra Lewis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the 12/17/24 Edenville Township Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

Motion by: Starkey

Seconded: K. Peters

Motions passed unanimously.

The agenda is approved.

APPROVAL | CORRECTION OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of the November 12, 2024 regular board meeting was approved with the following corrections:

“The motions made regarding the weed assessment to read exactly as made and voted on, “Move to set the week assessment to zero for the tax roll of December 2024 to acknowledge a possible error.”

The Clerks report to include the results of the Midland County November 5, 2024 General Election as follows:

“Election results per Midland county • Ballots cast 1,608 • Voter turnout 1,608 • Voter registration 2,260 The following are the 5 board positions filled by the election results: • Art Peters, Supervisor, received 1,219 votes • Tamie Luty, Clerk, received 1,198 votes • Kathy Peters, Treasurer, received 1,195 votes • Crystal Starkey, Trustee, received 1,112 votes • Jim Sperling, Trustee, received 1,105 votes • Per Anedra 629 people requested absentee ballots, 558 returned them and 227 early voters.”

Correction to the minutes regarding the statement of pond permit:

“The pond permit for Justin Finney was properly approved by the Planning Commission as reflected in the October 14, 2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes.”

Correction to minutes to change the verbiage regarding correspondence on Joe DeBernardo grant:

“A Fire Dept grant from the Deputy Chief Joe DiBernardo Memorial Foundation was received in the amount of \$4448.00 for 10 sets of PSS. A check was mailed to vendor Frontline for the PSS items to be ordered, Check #3677 on October 30, 2024.”

Correction to the partial motion regarding payment for cleanup of tree:

“This was an approved bid accepted by the board on October 8, 2024. There is no record on the tape recording of the November 12, 2024 meeting that the payment was approved.”

Motion to approve with corrections by: Sperling

Seconded by: A. Peters

Motions passed unanimously.

Minutes approved with corrections.

COORESPONDANCE

Resignation letter from Art Peters re positions on Board of Review and Planning Commission due to election to Township Supervisor.

Thank you letter from Township Board to Stephanie Davis and the Greater Michigan Construction Academy for donation of classroom tables for our meeting room.

Letter from Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, dated November 25, 2024, notifying Edenville Township of three late payments from August and September of 2024. Penalty waived with warning letter.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Kathy Peters reported fund beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, earned income and ending balance totals for 15 bank and investment accounts. All balances were taken from actual bank financial records. It was noted that the report does not include all accounts as the outgoing treasurer refused to transition the information.

Motion to approve the Treasurers report as stated.

Motion by Starkey

Seconded by Sperling

Motion passed unanimously.

The report is approved.

EXPENDITURES | CLERKS REPORT

Clerk Luty reported expenditures in the amount of \$173,611.24. Noted these are 6 weeks of bills and invoices due to the previous board ending payments on Oct 31, 2024. In addition, the board meeting was rescheduled a week out due to invalid notice by previous board. Some unpaid invoices were overdue, some dated back 2-3 months

Motion to approve invoices and expenditures for all funds, totaling \$173,611.24, for payment, as presented.

Motion by Sperling

Seconded by Starkey

Motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures are approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assessor:

Given by A. Peters. Assessor was in office for Board of Review meeting and field work. Training opportunities coming up for BOR committee members.

Board of Review:

Chair Kimberly Borchard reported all went well with Board of Review December 10 meeting.

Cemetery Report:

Met with manager. Shed and water tank removed by Matt Hall. Old field stone staircase exposed. Stump from fallen tree has been ground by Matt Hall. Supervisor secured arborist to donate evaluation of trees in Old Cemetery. Pricing on plots and niches will be reevaluated. Matt Hall inquired about shed that still exists, clerk will follow up.

Fire Department:

Report given by Chief Dufrense. 1 fire, 3 medical calls, 2 vehicles left roadway, 1 smoke investigation, 1 PIA-rollover, 1 car/deer. 9 runs for month. 306 for year so far. Shawn Helmrich in Fire Training. Fire truck attended Coleman Christmas parade. Looking at CSI purchase of pickup. Need for replacing 4 turn out gear.

Parks and Recreation:

Chairperson Mary Beth not present. Report given by Supervisor Peters. Still moving forward with DNR grant. Request for review of work being done by mowers that is doing damage.

Planning Commission:

C. Starkey reports no changes or updates.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Chairperson Tim Dana reports no news, meetings to come in 2025.

Museum Committee:

Chair Catherine Sias reports looking forward to new members. Reminds that museum operates without tax support, staffed by volunteers. Encourages community participation.

Ordinance Enforcement:

From Officer Greg Eagle, complaints progressing toward resolution. Of note, Mr. Crawford on Maplecrest made over two dozen complaints after enforcement on his property. Half were unfounded. Court did order \$450 reimbursement for time spent on enforcement at Mr. Crawford's property. So far this year 67 complaints processed. Supervisor A. Peters did a tour of township with Ordinance Officer. Mr. Eagle may consider taking on Zoning Enforcement Administrator position depending on details. Mr. Eagle did successfully handle one ZCLUP.

Code Authority:

Trustee Jim Sperling gave Code Authority report. New online submission of forms. New approval for online payments, may go live on Jan. 1. There is a demo for submitting forms online. Still working out bugs. Reminder that persons must call in to Board Authority for inspections.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Luty reported a Notice of Dangerous Building posted at 5845 N. Lake Dr, the site of a recent house fire. Pursuant to township Ordinance 177, notice was posted on site and mailed to last owner in tax file. There will be a hearing on Jan. 6, 2025, regarding the dangerous site. The owner will be given opportunity to resolve the danger. If necessary, the township will move forward to remediate the site, attaching a LEIN to property for all costs.

The township would like to dispose of old broken and obsolete office chairs currently stored in the museum building.

Motion made for the board to invoke resolution 2008-17 for the disposal of 6 old/obsolete and broken chairs.

Motion by Starkey

Seconded by T. Luty
Motions passed unanimously.
Disposal is approved.

Clerk Luty reported that the township will be posting a solicitation for applications to fill the vacant Zoning Enforcement Administrator position. We plan to have job posting up by the end of January 2025, 60-day application period, with interviews to be scheduled in April. In the interim, Supervisor Peters, with the assistance of Officer Eagle will be processing ZCLUPS.

Supervisor A. Peters requested the board consider and approve the allocation of up to \$2000 to hire consulting services for help with our accounting software and financial records. This will ensure that uncorrected misstatements for recent audit are located and corrected. It will also give us confidence in the starting and ending balances.

Motion made to allocate \$2000 to retain consulting expertise to assist with cleaning up and usage of township accounting software.

Motion by Luty

Seconded by K. Peters

Motion passed Unanimously.

Consulting funds approved.

AMEND GAA

Supervisor Peters proposed amending the GAA so that the supervisor's salary be lowered to reflect the correct amount approved. We will also codify the GAA into accounting software.

Motion to approve the adjustments needed in the accounting software to correctly reflect the 2024-25 GAA dollar amounts passed by resolution July 9, 2024.

Motion by A Peters

Seconded by Sperling

Motion passed unanimously.

Approval to codify the GAA into accounting software.

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

1. Planning Commission
 - a. Crystal Starkey-Board Representative
 - b. Jim Swanton
 - c. Dan Allen
2. Township Code Authority
 - a. Jim Sperling
3. Water Board
 - a. Art Peters
 - b. Stephen Dunkle
4. Board of Review
 - a. Cathy Ulman
 - b. Nick Finley
 - c. Catherine Sias

- d. Kim Borchard-Alternate
- 5. Zoning Board of Appeals
 - a. Nick Finley

Motion to accept and approve Planning Commission appointments as stated.

Motion by Sperling

Seconded by K. Peters

Motion passed unanimously.

Appointments to Planning Commission approved.

Motion to accept and approve Township Code Authority appointment as stated.

Motion by Starkey

Seconded by K. Peters

Ayes- A. Peters, T. Luty, C Starkey, K. Peters

Abstain-Sperling

Appointment to accept and approve Township Code Authority appointment as stated.

Motion to accept and approve Water Board appointment of Stephen Dunkle, A. Peters having been appointed in November 2024 by previous board.

Motion by Sperling

Seconded by K. Peters

Motion passed unanimously.

Appointment approved.

Motion to accept and approve the appointment to the Board of Review as stated.

Motion by Starkey

Seconded by Sperling

Motion passed unanimously.

Appointments approved.

Motion to accept and approve appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals as stated.

Motion by K. Peters

Motion Passed unanimously.

Seconded by Starkey

Appointments approved.

Motion to establish one-year appointments for all Edenville Township advisory committees, currently the Parks and Recreation and Museum committees, with terms to expire December 31 of each calendar year.

Motion by K. Peters

Seconded by Sperling

Motion passed unanimously

Term limits on advisory committees approved.

PURCHASE OF NEW EMS | FIRE SUPPORT VEHICLE

Motion to approve the purchase of the EMS | fire Support vehicle as written in the sales contract from CSI Emergency Apparatus. The purchase will be funded with the remaining ARPA funds in the amount of \$118,608.69, supplemented by \$62,059.31 from 206-991, Fire Capital Improvement/Vehicle Acquisition fund.

Motion by C. Starkey

Seconded by K. Peters

Motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of EMS | Fire Support vehicle approved.

Specification highlights were shared from spec sheet.

Chief Dufrense commented the truck could also be converted to brushland when it ages.

The truck being replaced is a 1996 suburban that will be sold.

ELIMINATION OF CEMETERY MANAGER POSITION

Motion to eliminate the cemetery manager position effective December 31, 2024. The cemeteries will be managed by the Clerks position.

Motion by Supervisor Peters

Seconded by K. Peters

Motion passed unanimously.

Elimination of cemetery position approved.

Outgoing manager Bobbie Jo Crawford thanked for her work over the past year. Her willingness to step in when needed is commendable. Mrs. Crawford offered to make herself available to share her knowledge. She portrays a genuine care and concern for our cemeteries.

ADOPTION OF 2025 MEETING CALENDAR

Board of Review

Meeting March 4, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Org Meeting, Twp Office

March 10, 2025, Appeal Meeting, 2:00p.m.-5 and 6:00p.m.-9, Swanton Hall

March 11, 2025, Appeal Meeting, 9:00am-12 and 1:00p.m.-4, Swanton Hall

July 22, 2025, Meeting, 6:00p.m. Twp Office

December 9, 2025, Exemption Meeting, 6:00p.m. Twp Office

Township Board Meetings

All meetings start 7 p.m.

January 14, 2025

February 11, 2025

March 11, 2025

April 8, 2025

April 22, 2025, Budget Workshop

May 13, 2025

May 27, 2025, Budget Workshop

June 10, 2025, Meeting and GAA

August 12, 2025

September 9, 2025

October 14, 2025

November 11, 2025

December 9, 2025

Motion to adopt the meeting calendars as presented.

Motion by K. Peters

Seconded by Luty

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting calendars approved.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

The township will retain the existing hours of operation, reserving the right to adjust the hours in the coming months if evaluation warrants.

Mon 6pm-8pm

Tues, Wed, Thurs, 11am-3-pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marlene Nelson, from Tobacco Ridge. Thank you for removing the aquatic weed assessment.

Mike Weaver, W. Shearer Rd., Would like more information on why the dams failed. Offered to join a committee to investigate. Mr. Gosen offered to share information as he has followed the FLTF.

Inadequate drainage was main cause for Edenville dam failure. Mr. Weaver does not have internet access at home to research.

Anedra Lewis, complimented the meeting. Very pleasant. Appreciated public comments at end of meeting. Disappointed that she was accused of sabotage. Stated not true. No intentional incorrect actions, only possible mistakes. Have a large strip of property on lake, it was nice that it was mowed

but no self-dealing involved. Township attorney reviewed last assessment, if it was improper, it was on him.

Citizen, If you are going to mow lakebeds please review contracts. They have continued to increase for no difference in work, in fact it was stated the work got easier.

Mike Richmond, firefighter. Wants to do community movie nights. Stymied by former board request for insurance. Would like to get things arranged so that movie night events can be organized. He is offering to do for free. Supervisor advised this could be organized through parks and rec committee.

Citizen, Did market have insurance over the summer? Trying to get fire department involved in the community and offer learning to children.

Citizen, Nice to sit and enjoy meeting, toxic environment is gone. Nice to see Crystal smile again thank you for hanging in there.

Citizen, Been attending meetings for 11 months, best and shortest meeting with the longest agenda, you all should be commended and a pat on the back.

Citizen, (Inaudible) With all the tables out, makes it feel more like a township gathering, feels like family instead of everybody fighting. It is beautiful in here.

Craig Gosen, Congratulations to all of you, thank you for taking this on, the townships in good hands.

Marlene Nelson, Thank you for what you do down here on the corner. The flag, the skeletons, the Christmas tree.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Jim Sperling-Board doesn't get a lot of information from FLTF. Wish the FLTF board had some elected officials. Would like a FLTF member to report at a township meeting. We as a board work well together. Communication is key.

Treasurer Kathy Peters-Announcement of Deputy Treasurer hired, Kim Hauser, strong accounting background, experience with our accounting software extraordinarily helpful, can't say enough good about her. Please stop in and meet her.

Trustee Crystal Starkey-Thank you Tamie for the ambiance of the room and new furniture, etc. Thank you to supervisor, treasurer, clerk for tolerating one of the worst board transitions ever. I could not be prouder than to be sitting here with them.

Clerk Tamie Luty-to Mr. Weaver, agree limited from FLTF, encouraged to take advantage of Coleman, Beaverton and Midland libraries for researching. I commend citizens like you who take the time to attend the FLTF meetings.

To Mrs. Nelson, thank you for your compliments on the recension of the weed assessment.
To Mr. Richmond, on the movies, if you would like to sponsor events, your business should hold liability insurance, the township would also need to notify insurer.

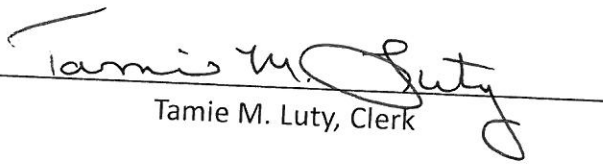
To Sumer, the cost of mowing will be investigated.

To Iris, thank you for all your support and encouragement over the past year. You are a really good person.

The political signs in yards need to be removed 30 days after the election. Not allowed to put signage on trees. Sign ordinance and blight ordinances will be enforced.

Supervisor Peters, Thank you all for your support and engagement. Next month we will have the 2025 road repair estimates in front of the board. Preliminary recommendations from road commission and supervisor have been distributed to board. Wishing everyone the Happiest of Holidays, the Merriest of Christmas, a wonderful Hanukkah, and any other celebration you do. We will see you all in 2025.

Meeting adjourned 7:34 p.m.



Tamie M. Luty, Clerk

Draft Minutes Posted 12/24/24

Approved Minutes Available 01/16/2025

Corrected/Approved 01/14/2025