

Edenville Township
Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Swanton Hall Meeting Room
6460 N. Water Rd,
Edenville, MI 48620

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00.
2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, OMA call, Welcome.
3. Roll Call, Starkey, Luty, Sperling, APeters. KPeters all present.
4. Motion to approve agenda by Sperling, second by KPeters, approved.
5. Approval of minutes. March 11 minutes approved by default as not approved at March 26 meeting. March 26 meeting minutes approved by default as not approved at April 3 meeting. Minutes from April 3 meeting approved without changes, Sperling motioned, Starkey second, approved by consensus.
6. Treasurer's report given by KPeters, Sperling motioned to accept and file, second by Starkey, approved by consensus.
7. Luty explained employee forms that are needed to be kept on file when someone is hired and offered to help anyone who needed with making sure all forms are completed for the file. KPeters questioned the need of forms for her deputy. Luty directed the board to resources.
8. Luty discussed past practice of treasurer paying special bills and clerk paying all others except tax fund. Sperling and Starkey agreed this was past procedure. This was found to be incorrect according to MTA. Luty made a motion to follow the advice of MTA and have clerk pay all bills from all funds except the tax fund. APeters made motion to table the motion until the following month. APeters offered to make calls and come back to board with more information.
9. Motion from Luty to contact and reschedule presentation from BS&A software company in anticipation of change from Quickbooks to BS&A,

with all board members and deputies invited, second by APeters, motion approved by consensus.

10. Reminder to all board members to turn in pay sheets for commission and committee meetings, hopefully by the end of each month so that members can be paid. APeters confirmed the recent email of March BoR paysheet.
11. Discussion of bill for evaluation of dead tree to support ordinance violation. Luty pulled the bill for discussion after Sperling had marked it "No." Luty explained the evaluation was needed to support enforcement. After lengthy discussion it was decided to pay the ordinance enforcement expense. Luty noted that someone with knowledge of the board packet, prior to its public distribution had leaked regarding the bill being in the board packet, and that Guy Gaskell, the former treasurer's husband had written disparaging comments on social media calling for the board to exclude the business from any further consideration. Luty felt this kind of action to be unacceptable. The bill was included in the packet to be paid.
12. Discussion of attorney bill for consultation from Feb 17-28. Sperling has asked for an explanation why Luty chose the local attorney. Luty explained that she had sought proposals from two attorneys for board consideration. Luty explained that the board choice of attorneys couldn't be made because the board could not seat a quorum during the time the attorney was needed. The decision was made to use local attorney Andrew Thompson based on criteria the local attorney came highly recommended by county officials, was local to the township, had many more years of experience, and offered a substantially cheaper hourly rate. It was noted by Starkey and Luty that bills and invoices could be reviewed and questions answered prior to the board meeting in the interest of efficiency. Motion by Starkey to approve bills, second by Sperling, Vote, Starkey Yes, KPeters Yes, Sperling Yes, Luty Yes, APeters No. APeters stated he voted no because he did not look at the packet prior to the meeting. The Peters couple ask for the check audit ledgers to be emailed to them prior to the meeting. Luty noted that the check ledgers and audit pack are in the office and available for review generally the Thursday prior to the meeting and on Monday evenings prior to the meeting, when both Peters are scheduled in the office.

13. Official correspondence. KPeters acknowledged she had an official correspondence but declined to read it. APeters suggested it just be included in the packet.
14. Work has been done in the cemeteries. The last shed was removed, and numerous trees were taken down and trimmed. The board agreed they had voted to hire Brent Federer as cemetery manager. Starkey spoke with him and said Federer agreed to take the position. Motion by Luty to formally offer job to Federer, provide training and equipment needed, with the position directly reporting to the clerk. Starkey second, Starkey Yes, KPeters Yes, Sperling Yes, APeters Yes, Luty Yes. Motion passed.
15. Fire report given by Chief Roger Dufrense. Call and run report submitted. Proposal for fire extinguisher contract to replace and maintain extinguishers. Crystal is working on grant for air packs. Chief requested updated budget numbers. Noted Jill Dufrense still waiting for reimbursement for January purchases. The check was in packet. Frustration voiced by both over recent board dysfunction. Chief noted that he would like to request an additional captain position. No one will be paid the training pay for the first calendar quarter of 2025.
16. APeters mentioned the recent workshops and the recordings online.
17. Fire grants, Motion by Starkey to enter into contract with First Responder Grants for \$1795.00 for the period of 5/1/25 to 4/30/26. This will allow us to have 3 grants written for the township, two smaller and one larger. Funds have already been budgeted. Motion second by Sperling, Vote, Starkey Yes, KPeters Yes, Sperling Yes, APeters Yes, Luty Yes. Motion passed. It was noted that the \$500 payment approved in February to Schmidt consulting will be submitted shortly. Additional motion for Crystal to sign the contract with First Responders passed by unanimous consent vote.
18. Motion for KPeters to complete reporting for the American Rescue Plan Appropriations (ARPA), Moved by APeters, second by Sperling and approved by unanimous consensus vote.
19. Motion by APeters to move forward with the Spectrum phone system upgrade to a Unified Business system, slight decrease in monthly cost, \$500 installation fee, second by KPeters. Starkey Yes, KPeters Yes, Sperling Yes, APeters Yes, Luty Yes.

20. APeters presented an agenda development resolution. Luty disagreed with statements in resolution suggesting board dysfunction. Luty offered a policy and procedure taken from the MTA manual. After discussion it was agreed to table the topic and APeters would continue to put together the board meeting agenda and packet for now.
21. APeters informed the board he is still waiting for audit proposals.
22. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the office hours will change to reflect APeters and KPeters available from 6-8 pm on Monday, KPeters available on Tues from 9am-noon, and Thursday from 7am-11am. Luty and both Trustees available by appointment. APeters will have web updated to reflect. Motion made by Crystal, second by Sperling, motion passed by unanimous consent.
23. Motion made by Sperling second by KPeters to accept a bid from Matt Hall Lawncare in the amount of \$1800 to do 2025 upkeep of Harper Park. Starkey Yes, KPeters Yes, Sperling Yes, APeters Yes, Luty Yes. Motion passes.
24. Mary Beth Seasholtz gave a presentation on the financial status of the Vanderbush land acquisition. The sources of funding listed as \$48192 from 2020 insurance overpay, \$55,869 from MACF, \$121,200 from DNR Grant. Report attached.
25. Sperling made a motion to appoint APeters and Steven Dunkle to finish the terms on the Water District 1 Board. KPeters second. KPeters, APeters, Sperling, Starkey aye, Luty opposed. Starkey asked to reserve the right for appointment to next term.
26. APeters to post for bids for 2025 lawn service requesting bids by the end of April. APeters agreed to send out solicitation to previous bidders and vendors.
27. KPeters presented a motion to adopt an official statement asking the board to post a disclaimer that the township does not endorse any social media, specifically naming the Friends of Edenville Township group. Sperling seconded and then voiced discomfort with the posting. Starkey voiced discomfort with the posting. Luty spoke about someone spreading false

rumor regarding the fire chiefs pay by posting on Edenville Strong social media group. A member of the audience, Steven Dunkle, shouted, "Lie, Lie!" Luty protested some information that is on the township website. Sperling motioned to table, Luty seconded. Action tabled.

28. KPeters presented a Code of Conduct for board review. No action taken.
29. APeters presented a complaint from another unidentified board member about unauthorized modifications to township buildings. He asked for board approval for any modifications, specifically noting his disagreement with posting signs and drilling holes. Luty noted this was not an issue for other work like the back door repair and hanging a cash drop box. Luty noted the "Restricted Area" signs were hung after a citizen challenged his right to enter the private offices where money and other assets were kept. Luty questioned the need for board approval when these areas were known to be restricted and that the board was remiss in not hanging signage. APeters asked for all employees and all buildings to be covered by his proposal.
30. APeters brought up letters sent to support Brightspeed grant for Broadband expansion in the township. In response to a written statement made by APeters that Luty sent a support letter without board approval, Luty made the board aware that she did send a letter of support two weeks earlier. The letter was sent after being made aware of a two-week response window, and knowing the boards support for broadband development in the township. Consent vote, KPeters, APeters, Starkey, Sperling aye. Luty nay.
31. KPeters motioned for the board to approve purchase of the Owl meeting device purchased by APeters in the amount of \$1800. Sperling seconded. Luty suggested the board use the \$600 camera set up for 2 meetings then compare the two systems before purchasing one. APeters said he saved \$200 on the purchased of the \$1800 Owl and that price might not be available after two months. Luty asked for motion to be amended. No action on the amendment. APeters called for a vote on original motion. KPeters Y, A Peters Y, Sperling Y. Starkey Y, Luty N.
32. Two applications for Zoning Enforcement Administrator position. APeters asked who would like to be a part of the interview panel. Luty questioned why the board would interview an applicant who doesn't meet

the minimum requirements for the job. Luty pointed out that the remaining applicant was already an employee with zoning knowledge. Art made an independent decision to interview both applicants and appoint Sperling to lead the interview of the applicants. Luty, Starkey, Sperling, KPeters to comprise interview board.

33. Luty presented a reimbursement check for \$199.06 for office supplies purchased by her in January. The purchases were approved at the February 11 meeting. When KPeters returned from resignation she refused to issue the payment. After much protest by KPeters it was determined that the purchases were valid and had been approved previously. It was agreed to go forward with the reimbursement.
34. Public Comments, one man spoke about the poor condition of the fire barn garage doors and the need for replacement. Another man spoke for 10 minutes of his concern for why the dams failed and who should be responsible for the cost of rebuilding them.
35. Sperling requested earlier start time. Starkey agreed and motioned for a 6:30 start time. KPeters seconded, passed by consent. There was discussion about a 3 hour or 9:30 cutoff time. Concerns voiced about recessed meeting and board members not able to attend readjourned meeting. Luty suggested that the agenda be shortened.
36. APeters announced he may call a special meeting for May 10th if road commission is available.
37. Adjourned 11:000p.m.

Tamie M. Luty, Clerk
Edenville Township
4/17/25