

# **EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**August 11, 2025 7:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Rob Kowalski, Clerk Korey Kripli, Treasurer Eileen Fournier, Trustee George Bodin, and Trustee Dan Zettel .

**ATTENDANCE:** County Commissioner Mark Surbrook, Zoning Administrator Bob Clayton, and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser. Several residents of Edwards Township.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Robert Kowalski to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

## **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the agenda with the addition of 13A Budget Adjustments, 14A Cemetery Signs, and 20A Kartes Property.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: N/A**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Mark Surbrook stated that he apologized for not attending the meetings in June or July. At the June Meeting, the county approved job descriptions for the prosecutor's office. County Building Security Department was updated. The Housing Commission had a vacancy and the Clerk in Rose City was appointed to the Housing Advisory Committee. At the July Meeting, the main subject was the School Resource Officer at Ogemaw Heights. County Commissioner stated that there was never an intent to eliminate the SRO from Ogemaw Heights. The contract was tabled at a previous meeting since the citizens of Ogemaw County wanted the 24/7 Road Patrol that was voted on in a previous millage needed to be enacted. An agreement was signed with Gladwin to house our inmates in their jail. The Animal Control Officer was discussed since the part time officer that the county had ended up taking a full time position in Arenac County unbeknownst to the commissioners.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:** Bob had zero permits this past month. He received a call from the airport controller about the tower on Green Road. There is no electricity at the tower so the tower does not have a red aviation signal.

**SEXTON REPORT:**

Mike Laier stated that he had one cremation and sold two lots. Met with a family about transferring their plots. Found ashes on the ground in the cemetery.

**TREASURER REPORT:**

Treasurer report presented by Eileen Fournier. Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by George Bodin to accept the Treasurer Report. Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve bills with payroll checks #10,254-10,270 and payable checks #7507-7524 for a total of \$33,125.89.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Bodin Y Zettel Y

Motion approved.

**HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:**

There was one hall return for \$150. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Korey Kripli to approve the hall returns. Motion carried.

**STEPHENSON & CO.:**

Stephenson and Company came to the board meeting in order to conduct a presentation of the Audit for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 that were completed. This audit was above and beyond better than the previous audits for the township. The total cost for the audit was \$13,305.

**MASTER PLAN APPROVAL:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to approve the Master Plan for Edwards Township written by Chris Grobbel and approved by the Planning Committee. Motion carried.

## **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:**

Rob Kowalski presented adjustments to the 2025-2026 budget for the townships. These budget adjustments will be available on the township website under this month's meeting minutes. Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the budget adjustments presented for the 2025-2026 budget for Edwards Township. Motion carried.

## **MTA SCHOLARSHIP:**

Charleigh Glasser was awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship from MTA to go towards her college expenses. Charleigh had to write an essay about something we changed in our local government and she ended up writing about how Edwards Township has backed up all of their information in the cloud. Charleigh will be attending Alma College in the Fall.

## **CEMETERY SIGNS:**

In the last year, Rob Kowalski and Mike Laier have found cremated ashes dumped in the cemetery. Rob stated that the cemetery needs more signs in order to coerce people from dumping ashes in the cemetery. Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve \$100 to approve two signs for the cemetery about the dumping of cremated ashes.

Roll Call: Fournier Y Kripli Y Kowalski Y Zettel Y Bodin Y

Motion carried.

## **DISCOUNT ON HALL RENTAL FOR VETERANS:**

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by George Bodin to eliminate the cleaning fee for Military Veterans that rent the hall. Motion carried.

## **BS&A SOFTWARE:**

Rob Kowalski presented a quote from BS&A for a total of \$33,490. This would include the training for the Clerk and the cloud based software. The annual fee for this software is \$5,725. There was a lot of discussion from multiple residents of the community about switching to this software. Rob Kowalski stated that he would like to use the money we are making from the MICLASS investment to pay for the service. Korey Kripli urged that the training needs to be done in July in order to accommodate his full time job. Dan Zettel was concerned that the software is extremely pricey for what the township does for bills and payroll. He stated that software companies like

BS&A will raise their prices and take the township to the cleaners in the long run. Numerous residents discussed their views of BS&A. This issue was tabled for the next meeting.

### **PORTABLE TOILET - BLIGHT ORDINANCE:**

It has been brought to the attention of the board that people are coming up on weekends and leaving portable toilets on their property on Frost Lake. Rob Kowalski presented an ordinance that the township could adopt in order to stop this issue. The ordinance will be published in the Ogemaw Herald for 30 days and then will be available to be adopted. Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to post the proposed ordinance in the Ogemaw Herald for 30 days.

### **OAKRIDGE TREE INVOICE:**

Oakridge tree service took out 6 trees in the cemetery for \$650.

### **ATTORNEY BILLS:**

The attorney bills were from the Mark White situation.

### **PROPANE QUOTES:**

Fick and Sons - \$1.79 per gallon

Webster Garner - \$1.349 per gallon

Going with Webster Garner will save the township around \$800 for the year on propane. Webster Garner did state that they can provide for local residents and the more residents the cheaper the price.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve Webster Garner to service our propane tank for the year at \$1.349 per gallon.

Roll Call: Bodin Y Zettel Y Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y

Motion carried.

### **KARTES PROPERTY:**

Brad Kartes reached out to Robert Kowalski stating that he farms 12 feet all the way around the township property. He stated that once his dad passes, he would like to talk with the township about deeding the 12 feet to him and he will deed the lot next to the hall where the drain field is located.

Brad would like to make this legal for the future. Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to have the conversation with Brad Kartes about deeding the 12 feet of property around the township property to Brad Kartes in return of the lot next to the hall where the drain field is located.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dennis Stephens stated the BS&A is an excellent software. Dale Sheltroun stated that there should be an end time to the Board of Review when it is posted. The start time was 11am, but there was no end time. He stated that a gentleman he knew wanted to come to BOR, but he was too late. Kim Glasser suggested that we could set an end time for BOR. Mark Surbrook suggested acquiring new bids for a CPA. Mike Laier stated that the timer for the lights at the last wedding that was held at the hall malfunctioned and the parking lot was really dark.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Public Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025 6:00pm
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025 7:30pm

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Dan Zettel to adjourn at 9:59pm.  
Motion carried.

---

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

---

Korey Kripli, Clerk