

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

September 8, 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 - August 11, 2025, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 21, 2025 Special Meeting

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2025 Special Meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 21, 2025 Public Meeting - Channel Lake

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2025 Public Meeting-Channel Lake. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the agenda with the addition of 20A Budget to Actual, 21A Veteran Hall, 21B Bill 4706, and 21C John Raymond. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: N/A

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Bob Clayton had two zoning permits this month. Another Amish family is moving in. The Cell Tower has vegetation in front. Bob received a call from an individual questioning Bob about what are the regulations for condominiums or Section 8 Housing on 12.5 acres. The property is

currently zoned for Agriculture at this time.

SEXTON REPORT:

Mike had one cremation. Lights were not working at the cemetery. Rob Kowalski stated he would check on them on his drive home.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

Mark Surbrook stated that the county adopted an Emergency Action Plan for County Building. Lapham has been approved to be the surveyor company for the county. The county purchased two vehicles for the sheriff's department. USDA paid 40%. Some county policies were updated. There was discussion of the Animal Control position being a part time position. The house that the RV Campground caretakers have lived in has been deemed unlivable. The original structure was never ventilated correctly. The Campground will now have seasonal caretakers. The mechanic for the Transit has set a date for retirement. Interviews have been scheduled for this position.

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 #10,271-10,283 and payable checks #7525-7541 for a total of \$21,257.14.

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

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

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

There was a damaged wall in the Men's Bathroom during one of the events at the hall. The deposit was \$200. The board decided to not refund the deposit because of the damage to the wall in the Men's Bathroom at the hall.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to not return the \$200 Hall Return due to the damaged bathroom wall.

OLD BUSINESS - BS&A:

Discussion was made about BS&A Software. Numerous points were made for and against the software between board members and the public. Rob Kowalski stated that the customer support is better for the server than the

cloud for BS&A. Rob talked with Caren Piglowski and she stated that Ogemaw County will be going to BS&A in 2027. The BS&A rep stated to Rob that the quote will increase up to around \$10,000 if the township doesn't approve the quote of \$31,290 that was decreased from \$34,290 when Rob made a phone call to the BS&A representative. Dan Zettel stated that he talked to Jon Dantzer (City Manager) and he said that BS&A is not affordable for what the software does. Dan asked why would the township pay \$30,000 to write 30 checks per month? He also believes that BS&A is a trade violation. "There can't be only one software that can be used. They can't be the only game in town. If I want to go get gas for my truck, I don't only have the option to go to Shell. There are other options for gas. BS&A can't be the only option." Mark Surbrook stated that BS&A is the only software that meets the state's specifications. Eileen was concerned about the House Bill 4706 where the townships may lose their revenue sharing. Eileen also asked, "Has anyone ever asked the county if we don't go with BS&A, how would we communicate with the county?" The other concern was that the training costs for the clerk at \$7,000. If the current Clerk were to hypothetically have a health problem or get voted out in the next election, the township would have to spend another \$7,000 to train the new Clerk for the BS&A Software. Eileen Fournier urged Rob Kowalski to table this issue again for the next meeting. Rob Kowalski denied this request. Rob stated that he needs to call the BS&A representative tomorrow for the quote that was presented so the board needs to vote at this time or the quote will increase. Korey Kripli stated the fact that BS&A would increase the quote due to tabling the discussion one more month makes the company look greedy. Ray Miller stated that he was concerned how other townships like Goodar could afford this software. Rob Kowalski stated that the other townships bought BS&A with their ARPA Funds and will eventually have to upgrade to the cloud. Once they upgrade to the cloud, their maintenance will probably go up 300%. Korey Kripli stated that we currently pay \$800 per year in software maintenance for BS&A for the Treasurer. If this is the case, it will be \$6,000 in maintenance for the Clerk

and \$2,400 for the Treasurer which will mean the township will pay \$8,400 in software maintenance for BS&A per year.

Motion by Rob Kowalski to vote for the BS&A Software quote presented.
Motion failed.

KARTES ROAD CULVERT:

There was a flood on Kartes Road a couple months ago. Brandy Curtis from the Ogemaw County Road Commission stated that someone came to the Road Commission Meeting and said the township doesn't use their tax money wisely for roads. Brandy stated that the two culverts will need to be replaced with one bigger culvert for the price of \$75,000. The Road Commission stated that they would do a 50/50 road share agreement. Pat Reinke sent Rob Kowalski an email saying to not waste the township's time and money on the situation. Pat did not state when or if the 50/50 road share agreement would end.

KARTES LAND TRANSFER:

Currently, the Kartes's farm between 12ft-15ft of the border of the township's property. Brad Kartes stated that his family is okay with exchanging the property they own to the west of the township hall for the property that he farms around the township hall property. Rob called a couple companies to get a survey done. The survey will be done through Lapham for \$1,700.

Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve \$1,700 for a survey through Lapham.

Roll Call: Zettel Y Bodin Y Kripli Y Kowalski Y Fournier Y Motion carried.

KITCHEN STOVE REPAIR BILL:

Advanced Appliance Solutions LLC came out to service the kitchen stove. To fix the stove, it would have cost \$628. During the Special Meeting on August 21st, the board approved for the new kitchen stove. The service fee for Advanced Appliance Solutions LLC is \$100. Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to approve the bill for Advanced Appliance Solutions LLC for \$100.

Roll Call: Bodin Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Zettel Y Kowalski Y Motion carried.

NEW STOVE PRICE:

The new kitchen stove that was approved on the August 21st Special Meeting cost \$1, 117.88 with a 5 year protection plan from Home Depot.

CEMETERY WELL REPAIR:

The cemetery well hand pump is in need of repair. It currently takes 15 minutes to pump the water up and if you stop pumping it takes another 15 minutes to get water again. The quote to fix the well is \$1,600 from M&R Well Drilling. It will only be \$800 if we don't need the screen replaced.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve up to \$1,600 for M&R Well Drilling to fix the cemetery well hand pump.

Roll Call: Kripli Y Kowalski Y Fournier Y Zettel Y Bodin Y Motion carried.

CEMETERY ORDINANCE:

The Cemetery Ordinance presented will be an amendment that was originally from 2013. This will be posted in the paper and then the board will move on from there.

PORTABLE TOILET ORDINANCE UPDATE:

The board is currently waiting for the 30 days for the Portable Toilet Ordinance being in the Ogemaw Herald which is September 11, 2025. This will be taken care of at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF L-4029:

The board approved the L-4029.

BUDGET TO ACTUAL:

The budget was updated and the board approved of the changes. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the budget adjustments. Motion carried.

JULY AND DECEMBER BOR GUIDELINES:

Dale Sheltroun brought up at the last meeting that the July BOR did not have an end time for the meeting. Rob Kowalski stated that the board does not have to put an end time for meetings. The only meetings that require an end time are the March BOR Meetings which are 9am to 3pm and 3pm to 9pm. Every other meeting is just like the township board meeting we have every month.

The other concern that Dale had was that the township board should look at the meeting minutes of other townships to see what they paid for their audit. Rob stated that he looked into this with every township and none of them had the price for the audit in their meeting minutes. Either they don't have a website or they just approve their bills and they don't state an amount.

VETERAN'S HALL:

The VES Mobile Clinic will be using the parking lot and the waiting area of the hall on Thursday, September 11th and Friday, September 12th from 8am to 4pm to service Veterans with free health evaluations. The township board is happy to support this service.

BILL 4706:

Currently, there is House Bill 4706 which is being headed up by Anne Bollin in Livingston County. She believes that the Revenue Sharing should go to the DOT (Department of Transportation). If this were to happen, the township would lose the \$100k+ of Revenue Sharing away from Edwards Township. This will also affect the other townships and this may make some townships close. The board urges everyone to give their local house of representative Mike Hoadley a call to talk about this issue. Mike will be at the Chamber of Commerce red train house building on Monday, September 15th from 11am to 12pm. The township urges residents to go to this event and talk about House Bill 4706.

JOHN RAYMOND:

John Raymond gave us a quote for the wiring for the cooler and the wiring for the light above the fridge for \$1,400. He ended up charging \$400 for the service.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Planning Meeting: Monday, October 7, 2025 6:00pm
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, October 13, 2025 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to adjourn at 9:17pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk