

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

November 10, 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 (Absent), Zoning Administrator Bob Clayton, and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser (Absent). Several residents of Edwards Township.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to approve the September 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the October 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the agenda with the addition of 7A Fire Board Update, 7B Ramp Estimate, and 7C Cemetery Ordinance. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: A resident asked if there was an update to the Budget to Actual. Rob Kowalski stated that we are going to go over that with Korey Kripli.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Bob Clayton had three building permits this month. The property on Priddy Road from last month had a conversation with Bob about splitting up the property into four sections. Bob is also monitoring the house on M-30 by the township hall for blight.

SEXTON REPORT:

Mike Laier sold 1 lot for \$800 to a non-resident. A business that takes pictures of headstones in order to find relatives reached out to Mike. Mike stated that they could walk the grounds, but he didn't have any other information to get them.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: N/A

FIRE BOARD UPDATE:

All of the townships that have a working relationship with the West Branch Fire Department give the department a percentage of the budget to facilitate operations for the Fire Department. This is based on the SEV of each township. For example, Mill's Township is a bigger township than Edwards so Mill's Township pays more of a percentage. Last year, Edwards Township paid around \$28,000. The board sent out some information to each township about an increase in their budget. "To address the current revenue deficiencies, the board hereby authorizes a temporary increase in municipal contributions for the fiscal years of 2026, 2027, and 2028. During this period, the annual increase in all appropriations shall be doubled." In turn, this means each township will pay double for what their SEV value is for their township to the Fire Department. This means Edwards Township will be paying around \$56,000 per year. Discussion will be made in 2028 to see if this increase will need to continue in fiscal year 2029 and beyond. The Fire Department needs one new engine as they are currently using an engine with a cracked frame. A stripped out fire engine with no equipment on it is \$750,000. By the time you add hoses, gauges, and other equipment the total cost is around \$1.3 Million.

RAMP ESTIMATE:

Robert Kowalski presented a plastic ramp to suffice last month's board meeting issue of handicap parking. The ramp is approved by the township's insurance company. The cost of the ramp with two handicap signs is \$150 and solves the problem of our handicap ramp at the main entrance of the township hall. These ramps can be put out and taken away when needed. Mid Michigan came to the township hall and told Rob Kowalski that it would be between \$4k and \$5k to fix the asphalt pitch by the main entrance. Dan Zettel provided an estimate from Hodgins Asphalt and they quoted \$1,750. Rob stated that he was confirmed with snowplowing with a permanent ramp. Dan stated that he has a similar ramp at his dental office and it has not been affected by snowplowing. Rob stated that this issue is a want and not a need since the township already is qualified by the state with the current handicap parking.

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the quote from Hodgins Asphalt for \$1,750 for the handicap ramp at the main entrance of the township hall.

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

Motion denied.

CEMETERY ORDINANCE:

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to adopt the Cemetery Ordinance Update.

Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve bills with payroll checks #10,298-10,313 and payable checks #7557-7575 for a total of \$15,277.07.

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

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

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

ATTORNEY BILLS:

The attorney bills were for the Portable Toilet Ordinance and the Cemetery Ordinance Update.

NEW HALL CONTRACT UPDATE:

For #2, it states that "Any item such as handicap signs, ramps, and/or ashtrays must be brought back in. If you leave them outside and they come up missing it will come out of your deposit." The township used to have white plastic buckets for cigarette butts. The township does not use those and they now have ashtrays.

Rob received an email from someone in our township that wants to rent the hall for another business not in our township. Rob stated that the township has two prices for hall rental. When you live in the township, the township gives their residences a discount for paying taxes to Edwards Township. This does not mean that an Edwards Township resident rents the hall and then gives those rights to rent the hall to an outside resident. Rob went over in the past how this was getting out of hand in the history of the hall rentals and that if anyone commits this act in the future they will not be allowed to rent the hall again. This will be updated in the new hall contract.

The board also thought that the lawyer for the township should take a look at the contract for sure measure.

VETS BUS 11/12/2025:

The VETS Bus will be parking in the Edwards Township parking lot from 8am to 4:30pm on 11/12/2025.

NEW REVENUE SHARING NUMBERS:

The shutdown in Lansing has affected our revenue sharing due to the government not approving a budget. The township will now lose 2% of our current Revenue Sharing. The township was set to receive \$146,683 and now we will receive \$145,266 which is a difference of \$2,964.

SUPREVISOR'S LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR:

Many Supervisors are upset with the government shutdown and the loss of Revenue Sharing. Supervisors for townships in Ogemaw County signed a DocuSign letter from MTA (Michigan Townships Association) to go to the Governor and the Representative that started the bill dictating how upset they were that every dollar that was taken from the Revenue Sharing was going to MDOT to fix the roads.

VACANT PLANNING SEAT:

Mike Poe has decided to vacate his position on the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is looking for another person to take Mike's place. The next Planning Meeting is in January 2026.

TOWNSHIP ESTIMATE POLICY:

The township does not have to post in the Ogemaw Herald for jobs such as Snowplowing or Lawn Cutting in order to receive estimates. Legally, unless the township prints their own newspaper, the township does not have to

post in the Ogemaw Herald in order to receive estimates. The township can post on their website or the Media Board outside the entrance of the Township Hall.

Rob Kowalski presented an Estimate Policy for Edwards Township.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to adopt an Estimate Policy. The policy states that the Supervisor or Clerk must approve the estimates or appoint someone else to retrieve estimates for township hall business.

Motion carried.

SHOP WITH A HERO:

Each year, the township budgets a \$500 contribution to Shop With a Hero with Sheriff Brian Gilbert. This is a great event for the kids of our county and we appreciate all involved in this great event.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Korey Kripli to write a check for \$500 to Sheriff Brian Gilbert in order to contribute to the program Shop With a Hero.

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Kowalski brought up the Budget to Actual stating that we still have problems with the numbers reporting. Korey Kripli stated that last month he was sick and not able to attend the board meeting. The Saturday before, he tried to reconcile the accounts and he was locked out of the bank account. He thought he could fix this problem Monday morning with the bank, but that Monday was Indigenous People's Day and the banks were closed. This affected a good portion of the Budget to Actual values. Currently, there are some GL numbers that need to be adjusted by Mercantile Bank and Korey Kripli. There are a few GL's that are not being reported correctly such as Defined Contribution, Permits, and Deputy Clerk Wages. Korey Kripli is currently working with Mercantile Bank to fix these problems. Payroll and Payables are running well, but numbers are just not being reported in the correct GL numbers in order to correct the Budget to Actual.

Rob stated that this issue will be fixed by the December Board Meeting.

Pat Miller brought up the Electric Bill for the Cemetery.

Rob stated that when he was doing the Fall Cleanup at the Cemetery, he opened the door to the chapel and he was hit with a heat wave. Rob told Mike Laier that the heat was on. Mike stated that he was in there last when he had a cremation and that he did not turn the heat on. Rob stated that he believes that he thinks all the breakers were accidentally turned on by John Raymond when he installed the lights at the cemetery and never turned them back off. In turn, this is the reason why the heat was on for the last two months and the bills have been higher than normal.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- MTA Meeting: November 25, 2025 7pm @ West Branch Township Hall
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2025 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to adjourn at 9:02pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk