

# **EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**February 9, 2026 7:30pm**

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

**ATTENDANCE:** County Commissioner Mark Surbrook, Zoning Administrator Bob Clayton, Deputy Treasurer Sydney Lademan (absent), and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser. Several residents of Edwards Township.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 12, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the January 12, 2026 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 13A Letter for Cabin on Greenwood. Motion carried.

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

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:**

Bob had one permit for Sawyers, the logging company.

## **SEXTON REPORT:**

Mike Laier stated Karen Brewer transferred lots to her kids. She has 4 lots total, but wants to keep one. Rob Kowalski bought three utility trash cans with lids for the cemetery.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER:**

Mark Surbrook stated the county interviewed care takers for the Nature Park. Interviews were conducted for the county administrator controller position. One of the two candidates backed out and the county did not select the second candidate. Salary has now increased from 120k to 140k. The Sheriff's office is currently fully staffed.

## **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 #10,343-10,359 and payable checks #7619-7643 for a total of \$74,998.01.

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

Motion approved.

## **HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:**

There were two hall returns for Gail Keister (\$250) and Vicky Read (\$150) for a total of \$400. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the hall returns. Motion carried.

## **POVERTY GUIDELINES AND ASSET TEST:**

Every February, we have to accept the government's poverty guidelines or create our own. This year, the guidelines did not change from last year. Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to accept the poverty guidelines and the asset test for 2026. Motion carried.

## **BS&A ASSESSMENT APP PRIDDY ROAD:**

A township resident at first wanted to create Section 8 Housing. Then she wanted to build a horse barn for weddings. Now she wants to put up four houses to become a land developer. The first thing the township told her to do was to get a soil sample. The letter provided at the meeting stated that the township supported the testing company to perform the test. This does not give the resident permits to do anything at this time. The address is on Stillwagon Road and not Priddy Road. This must be changed before the test is done. The resident must provide the township with the results of the soil test before a permit may be issued.

## **LETTER FOR CABIN ON GREENWOOD:**

A letter containing multiple violations was posted on the door of the cabin located on Greenwood Road. Thirty days have been given to the resident to respond to this letter. The township attorney will follow up on March 9, 2026. According to Ogemaw County Equalization, last name Graye is the owner and the property is in a living trust. Dale Sheltroun stated he received the deed from the Register of Deeds in Ogemaw County and that Megan Moss owns the property.

## **INSURANCE QUOTE:**

EMC Insurance gave the township a quote of \$9,344 for insurance for the township. The slight increase from last year was due to the replacement costs of the building being higher. There is no roof replacement for a metal roof unless it is damaged or missing. Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to accept the quote from EMC Insurance for the total of \$9,344.

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

Motion carried.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION:**

The appropriation for the Ogemaw County Fire Department is \$36,514. This increase should last the next two years and then should go back down after those two years. Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to pay \$36,514 to the Ogemaw County Fire Department.

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

Motion carried.

## **AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTRACT:**

There was a meeting in the Summer about the aquatic nuisance plants on Channel Lake. It was estimated that it would cost \$8,414 to spray the lake with three treatments. Two spray treatments for aquatic nuisance and a third spray treatment for lilly pads. This is a special assessment for residents of Channel Lake. Rob Kowalski stated that the \$250 will be charged in the tax assessment for Channel Lake and not to the township.

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve \$250 for Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control Northern Division in order to purchase the EGLE permit.

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

Motion carried.

### **UP NORTH SECURITY BILL:**

The security system that the township has is still having problems due to the generator not working effectively when the power goes out. This bill from Up North Security is due to the power going out and shutting down the security cameras. Up North Security spent three hours fixing the system. Rob Kowalski asked Up North Security why we have to pay for this issue since we have a contract and pay annual fees for the security system. The cameras went out due to the generator and not Up North Security's equipment which is why the township needs to foot the bill.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to pay Up North Security \$332 to fix the security cameras.

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

Motion carried.

### **WEST BRANCH RECYCLING BILL:**

The township currently has 230 people registered with the recycling company in West Branch.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to pay the recycling bill for \$316.97.

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

Motion carried.

### **ASSESSING SOFTWARE BS&A:**

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to pay BS&A for Assessing Software for a total of \$770.

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

Motion carried.

## **RENTAL, PRICE, AND CLEANING CONTRACTS UPDATE:**

Rob Kowalski made changes to the hall contract and the cleanup checklist. 1st change was to input the following statement on the hall contract in order to not have to apply for a food license.

“I acknowledge and agree to be responsible to obtain any licensing required by the State of Michigan to serve food at an event and must provide a copy to Edwards Township”

The following changes were made to the contract:

“If in violation in any way, I understand money will be withheld from the deposit for damages.”

“Proof of liability insurance required at the same time if alcohol is to be served at the event.”

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the changes to the hall contract. Motion carried.

The following changes have been made to the Cleanup Checklist:

“Turn off all lights before leaving.”

“Put all tables and chairs back to the way you found them.”

“Failure to complete items listed WILL result in loss of some or all of the deposit.”

Currently the cleaning fee for this year has totaled \$1,426 which pays for the entire salary for the Hall Manager.

Currently, the township does not charge residents for funerals. We do charge a cleanup fee because residents do need to be responsible. The new update to this would be that there is a \$100 deposit for all funerals including in and out of township residents.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the updates to the Cleanup Checklist. Motion carried.

## **STATE COMPLIANCE POSTERS:**

Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by George Bodin to purchase state compliance posters for the hall in the total of \$88.04. These are state mandated posters.

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

Motion carried.

## **J RAYMOND ELECTRIC:**

J Raymond Electric gave the township an estimate for the hand dryers in the bathrooms for a total of \$3,000. No motions were made.

## **PROPANE BILL:**

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve of the propane bill from Webster Garner for a total of \$870.19.

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

Motion carried.

## **SNOW REMOVAL BILL:**

Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by George Bodin to approve the snow removal bill for Scott Simmons for a total of \$500.

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

Motion carried.

## **GLEANER ADMIN FEE:**

The administration fee for Municipal Retirement Systems for the pension funds is \$375. Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Rob Kowalski to approve the administration fee for Municipal Retirement Systems for a total of \$375.

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

## **BOARD SALARY:**

Rob Kowalski provided a document from MTA showing the salaries for board members and meeting rates for different municipalities in the state of Michigan. Rob stated that he thought our meeting rates were low. Currently if you attend a meeting other than the Fire Board Meetings, you make \$25 per meeting. This does not include normal township board meetings each month.

Motion by Rob Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to increase the meeting rate from \$25 to \$50 per meeting.

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

Motion carried.

## **TAX BILL PROCESSING:**

Rob Kowalski stated that the county sends out our tax bills instead of the township doing it in house. In 2024, the county charged \$5,275.25. In 2025, the county charged \$6,134.00. We are not sure what they will be charging the township this year to send out tax bills. Based on our 1350 properties, the cost to send out our own tax bills would be \$3,352 including postage, envelopes, paper, and return labels. Eileen sent a letter to Equalization asking how much it would cost the township to send out our own tax bills.

## **BUDGET TO ACTUAL:**

The Budget to Actual was tabled for the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dale Sheltroun asked about an ending time for the BOR Meeting on March 11th. Rob Kowalski stated that an ending time is not mandatory for that meeting. He suggested that people should get to the meeting on time at 11:00am. He stated that you can't expect members of BOR to stay later for meetings just like Planning Meeting members wouldn't stay until 10pm for a 6pm Planning Meeting.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- BOR: March 3, 2026 11:00am
- BOR: March 9, 2026 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2026 7:30pm

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to adjourn at 9:08pm. Motion carried.

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Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

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Korey Kripli, Clerk