

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2026 7:30pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Rob Kowalski, Clerk Korey Kripli, Treasurer Eileen Fournier, Trustee George Bodin (absent), 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 - February 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes and February 18, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Daniel Zettel to approve the February 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to approve the February 18, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Daniel Zettel, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the agenda with the addition of 12A Horse Traffic Sign on Green Road. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: N/A

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Bob had two permits this month. He had a lengthy conversation with the person from the UK with the cabin on Greenwood Road. They will be abiding by the zoning rules and permits going further.

SEXTON REPORT: N/A

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

Mark Surbrook stated the County pays Rae's Family Animal Shelter \$12,500 per month to home stray dogs. This accounts to \$37 per day per dog. The County hopes to negotiate a better price with the shelter. The County Building has been undergoing construction improvements.

Eventually, the front entrance on Houghton Avenue will be the main entrance accessible to the public. There have been a couple issues with the sub-contractors and there have been a couple setbacks with new construction. Currently, the county is interviewing three candidates for the County Controller position. The county received their audit report back and currently has a fund balance of \$1.8 Million. On the second level of the county building, there is a mural contest for the 250 year anniversary of our great nation. To enter, please follow the directions for the contest that are posted at the county building.

Mark Surbrook asked the board if Edwards Township had ratified the current contract with the Ogemaw County Fire Board.

Robert Kowalski responded that the board has approved the contract with the Ogemaw County Fire Board.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve bills with payroll checks #10,360-10,376 and payable checks #7644-7661 for a total of \$19,266.99.

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

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

There were two hall returns for Cameron Bragg (\$150) and Nikee Craine-Kanitz (\$325) for a total of \$475. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the hall returns. Motion carried.

CHAD WANGLER - WAGON WHEEL:

Chad Wangler and his wife Lisa presented to the board about the opening of Wangler's Wagon Wheel on the corner of Lehman Road and M-30. Chad and Lisa hope to bring back the local restaurant with farm to table options for the community. They look to open in June of 2026.

If anyone has any old artifacts from Edwards Township, the Wangler's would like to display pictures and artifacts in their restaurant to showcase the community.

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Liquor Control Commission for Wangler's Wagon Wheel. Motion carried.

HORSE TRAFFIC SIGN - GREEN ROAD:

Daniel Zettel approached the board about possibly installing Horse Traffic signs on Green Road. Many neighbors around Dan have horses and are concerned with the horse traffic mixed with the motor vehicle traffic. Korey Kripli suggested that there should be a sign South of the hill on Green Road and another on the corner of Brewer Road and Green Road. Rob asked Kim Glasser if she could reach out to Pat Reinke with the Ogemaw County Road Commission to receive a quote for the signs.

BUDGET TO ACTUAL:

Robert Kowalski presented the Budget to Actual that will be presented to the Auditor for the F-65.

BUDGET UPDATE:

The board approved the Budget for 2026-2027 at the 7pm Meeting on March 9, 2026. This new budget will start April 1, 2026.

LAWN CARE QUOTE/FENCE QUOTE:

Clean Cut Lawn Care presented a bid for Spring Cleanup for the Cemetery, Township Hall Lawn Care, and the Cemetery Lawn Care.

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Daniel Zettel to approve the quote from Clean Cut Lawn Care for the following:

Spring Cleanup at Edwards Twp. Cemetery - \$1,500

Hall, per Cut - \$100

Cemetery, per Cut - \$500

Motion carried.

Clean Cut Lawn Care presented a bid in order to fix the cemetery fence.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Daniel Zettel to approve the quote from Clean Cut Lawn Care to fix the cemetery fence for a total of \$454.24.

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

Motion carried.

ROAD COMMISSION PARTICIPATION PLAN:

Robert Kowalski presented the Road Commission Participation Plan for new construction. Rob stated that the board has no interest in starting any new road construction plans at this time.

Primary Reconstruction = 40% RC and 60% Twp

Primary Paving = 45% RC and 55% Twp

Local Reconstruction = 30% RC and 70% Twp

Local Paving = 25% RC and 75% Twp

Subdivision = 45% RC and 55% Twp

Gravel & Ditching: Local Heavy Maintenance = 50% RC and 50% Twp

Gravel & Ditching: Primary Heavy Maintenance = 55% RC and 45% Twp

Culverts: 36" and over: 50% RC and 50% Twp

Frost Laws and Weight Restrictions were presented by Robert Kowalski.

ELECTION PRINTER UPDATE:

Kim Glasser updated the board about the new election printer. The new printer the board purchased arrived broken and ink everywhere. Election Source agreed to take the printer back and will be sending a brand new printer in the next ten days for the August election.

AF GROUP:

AF Group completed their audit for Edwards Township. Our salaries and 1099 employees were included in this audit for AF Group. The cost was \$652.

CONSTABLE FEE:

The township charges \$200 for a constable fee so that two of our Liquor Ordinance Enforcement Officers can patrol the area and make sure things don't get out of hand when alcohol is present at an event. Robert Kowalski stated that there were a few events last year that wanted to start drinking before 5pm. This increased the hours that the officers were at the venue, but this did not increase their pay.

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to increase the constable fee to \$125 per person. Motion carried.

MICHIGAN NEW ZONING BILL:

Bob Clayton stated that the state of Michigan wants to make more housing available. House Bills 5529 through 5532 look to strip locally elected officials of their decision-making authority, dismiss years of community planning work, and amount to a clear override from Lansing on local voices and voter-backed decisions. This legislation would restrict local authority by preempting local decision-making on key zoning issues, including duplexes, accessory dwelling units, minimum setbacks, lot sizes, and dwelling unit sizes. Currently, each lot is able to be split four times. With these new bills, a lot may be split ten times. If these bills pass, Edwards Township will not have their own zoning.

SUPERVISOR SALARY:

Robert Kowalski took a pay cut once he took the Supervisor job when Ron Taylor stepped down since Supervisors are no longer assessors. Rob would like the Supervisor Salary restored to the normal amount of \$13,000.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Daniel Zettel to restore the Supervisor Salary to \$13,000.

F-65:

Robert Kowalski stated the reason we do an F-65 on the off year is to be prepared for the next audit. Cindy from Stephenson and Co asked the board if they would like to do a full audit or an F-65. Rob decided on approving an F-65 and asked Stephenson and Company for an estimate. Stephenson and Company stated that the F-65 would cost \$2,000 if everything was perfect.

Stephenson and Company has not provided a letter of engagement for the F-65 at this time.

FIRE BOARD APPROPRIATION BILL:

The Fire Board had made a mistake in their appropriation for Edwards Township's contribution to the Fire Board. The additional amount is a total of \$1,543 and the board voted to pay that bill.

ATTORNEY BILL:

The attorney bill from Poznak Dyer Kanar Schefsky Thompson PLC was regarding possible requirements of food safety licenses for the hall and potential ordinance violations resulting from installation of pre-built small houses.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Robert Kowalski stated that the fire extinguishers in the hall are now recertified. The township will receive a bill next month.

VAN WORMER ASSOCIATES:

Robert Kowalski stated that he attended the first day of BOR on Monday, March 2nd. Township Assessor, Zach Van Wormer, handed Rob a letter stating that MVW and Associates has been assessing Edwards Township since 2008. I (Zach Van Wormer) feel I am no longer able to maintain a letter of professionalism in my role. Please accept my resignation for April 1, 2026.

Rob called three other assessors at this time. One of the assessors was interested in the position. Rob received a phone call the next day from the interested assessor that stated Rob needed to call Randy from Equalization at the County. Rob called Randy and continued to receive information that the Township Assessor for Edwards Township had not reported any new construction for the last two years. Randy stated that the permits that are received are sent to the assessors. These changes in construction were not reported to the tax role. Four other townships had the same problem for this same assessor.

Allison Thompson comes highly recommended from Randy Booth as an assessor. Allison told Rob that she sees 15% to 18% of residents each year.

After about five years, she should be able to complete field work for 100% of the properties in a township.

ASSESSING INFORMATION:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the hiring of Allison Thompson as the Township Assessor which includes assessing and filed work with a contract for the total of \$26,125 per year.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Kowalski stated that the West Branch Library is looking for a new Library Director. Please contact the West Branch Library for more details.

Mark Surbrook applauded the board for making a fast decision on the township assessor. Mark also stated that Randy has been talking about providing new construction information to Supervisors as well as Assessors.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- BOR: March 10, 2026 3:00pm-9:00pm
- BOR: March 11, 2026 11:00am
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Daniel Zettel to adjourn at 9:30pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk