

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

June 8, 2026 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, Deputy Treasurer Sydney Lademan (absent), and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser (absent). Several residents of Edwards Township.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 2, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes and May 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the May 2, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the May 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes with the correction that there was no policy for who received the permits to give to the Assessor. The Assessor is responsible to come to the hall and pick up any permits prior to BOR. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the agenda with the addition of 13A Julie - MSU Extension, 16A Bills, and 22A Moratorium. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: N/A

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Robert Clayton wrote four permits and already has four permits for this upcoming month. There is a court date on June 23rd for the house on M-30 since the judge was not seen on the last court date.

SEXTON REPORT:

Mike Laier stated that he had one burial and one cremation. He had also sold a cemetery lot.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: N/A

LIBRARY UPDATE:

Korey Kripli stated that interviews were had between the seven candidates for the West Branch District Library Director position. A decision was made to bring back four candidates for a second round of interviews in person. The board hopes to make a decision on a new director after the completion of these interviews.

PLANNING UPDATE:

Larry Kartes talked about the Special Planning Meeting where they talked about natural gas through DTE. There are three potential locations that would make sense to tap into the current natural gas line in portions of Edwards Township. Larry stated that they are obtaining information how much it would cost to print information about natural gas on the back of the property tax statements that are sent out to give residents more information on natural gas. The Planning Committee is also researching about possible grant opportunities for natural gas. They hope to know more on July 6th at their next meeting.

TREASURER REPORT:

Eileen Fournier presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Daniel Zettel to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve bills with Payroll Checks 10,415 - 10,436 and Payable Checks 7701 - 7728. Total is \$24,234.82.

Road Fund Check 1005 for a total of \$5,482.16 was also approved to pay for the Memorial Day Brine (\$4,590) and the purchase and installation of the Horse Signs (\$892.16) on Green and Brewer roads for a total of \$5,482.16.

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

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

There were six hall returns for Tina Senkler (\$150), Courtney Larkin (\$100), Ogemaw County Conservation District (\$100), Deborah Dale (\$100), Amanda Trent (\$150), and Stacia Rogers (\$100) for a total of \$700. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the hall returns for a total of \$700. Motion carried.

MSU EXTENSION - JULIE:

Julie from MSU Extension talked about the MSU Extension Millage that is on the ballot in August. This millage is a renewal and will not cost taxpayers any more money. The average cost currently for this millage is \$11.35 for the average tax payer. This millage will have a continuation for eight years just like the previous millage that passed in 2018. This millage helps for many programs in Edwards Township such as Agriculture, 4H, International Exchange Student Program, Community Development, Health and Nutrition, and the Edwards Township community has been very supportive.

JILL BERRYMAN - DATA CENTERS:

Jill Berryman stated that she was concerned about data centers coming to Edwards Township as it is a hot topic in the national news lately. She was concerned with the new transformers that were installed by Consumers Energy on her property on Wickes Road. Jill stated that Edwards Township has no zoning policy for data centers. Larry Kartes from the Planning Committee stated that they would do some research about data centers and bring it up at the next Planning Meeting on July 6th. Rob Kowalski stated that data centers were not anticipated when the Planning Board was updating the Master Plan for Edwards Township in 2025. Rob contacted Chris Grobbel who helped put together the Master Plan and Andrew Poznak, the township attorney, in order to gain insight on how to proceed with the concern over data centers. After talking with the attorney, Rob stated that the board has the option to adopt a non-zoning temporary moratorium. This will give the township board six months to put together a plan to act upon data centers and data centers would NOT be legally able to be built during that time.

ATTORNEY BILLS:

Attorney bills from Poznak Dyer Kanar Schefsky Thompson PLC for a total of \$975 were discussed. Several phone calls were made regarding the land

swap with Brad Kartes, special assessments for private road maintenance, and the cell tower on Green Road.

CLEAN CUT BILL:

Clean Cut Lawn Care cut the cemetery three times and the township hall three times for a total of \$1,800.

BILLS:

The bills were discussed as presented.

COLVIN'S BILL/ESTIMATE:

Colvin's came out and took a look at our Generac generator. The generator had a broken antennae which is why the red light has been on the generator. Colvin's completed a firmware update and the light on the generator is now green. The bill was \$250 and was approved earlier in the board minutes. They presented an estimate in order to maintain the generator as needed for a total of \$758. This will also include the replacing of the two grates in the township hall.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve Colvin's estimate for the generator maintenance and replacing the two grates in the township hall for a total of \$758.

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

Motion carried.

POLICY FOR BUILDING PERMITS:

Rob Kowalski stated that the policy for building permits is as follows:

Robert Clayton takes the building permit and puts them into the basket in the township office. Eileen will take the checks in order to deposit them and then she will put the building permits on Rob's desk. Rob will then scan them over to Allison. These permits will also be scanned to the Township OneDrive just like they have been since 2024.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL - CEMETERY:

In 2025, Yvonne Mahl sent a FOIA request and part of that information was that anyone working for the township must have their own liability insurance when performing work for the township.

Mike Lair did not have liability insurance and was unable to dig as a gravedigger during that time. Robert Kowalski talked with the attorney and found out that if the township leases equipment, Mike as an employee is covered as an employee to dig in the cemetery.

An equipment rental agreement was presented as follows:

M&K Lair Farms agree to rent their Equipment to Edwards Township for use in the Cemetery only. M&K Lair farms also limit the Use of any Equipment to Alvis M Lair II while employed at Edwards Township as a Sexton/Gravedigger. The Rental fee will be (\$1.00) One Dollar for each Burial. Dated this 8th of June 2026.

This rental agreement was signed by Alvis M Lair II and Robert Kowalski.

DINGS EXCAVATING ESTIMATE:

Dings Excavating presented an estimate for the newly acquired area to the West of the Township Hall. Ideas of a basketball court and baseball field have been brought up by township residents.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the estimate from Dings Excavating for a total of \$1,200.

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

Motion carried.

VETS CLINIC:

The Vets Clinic will be using the hall parking lot and the use of the hall bathrooms on June 26th from 8am to 4pm to service local Veterans in the area. This is a great service that the board is happy to provide for our local Veterans.

TRASH BILL REFUND:

Republic had charged the township for an over the limit fee due to the lid of the dumpster being raised by a half an inch. Robert Kowalski stated that the lid was not raised because it was full, but it is because the lids are bent. The driver took a picture of the dumpster and sent it to Republic who then charged the township an over the limit fee. If the lid is not flat, they charge this fee to their customers. Rob drove to Pinconning to talk with the account manager in order to dispute the fee.

The account manager agreed and the township was presented with a refund of \$165. As long as the lids are closed, the township will not receive a fee over \$50 for the future.

Rob also stated that while he was at the cemetery he had witnessed a couple people weeding the weeds and moving the rocks around the Donaldson grave. They had thrown these weeds and rocks into the walkway and on top of another grave site next to it. Rob reached out to Eileen Fournier's son who owns Nature's Edge and he was able to bring a bobcat out to clear the debris for \$150. The people that did this act will be paying for the \$150 bill or the police will be notified.

NEW ASSESSORS:

Dan Zettel stated that the new Assessors came out to his property on May 28th. They measured everything in an hour and were polite. Dan stated that Allison had told him that the increases in his tax assessment were all related to his house. Dan was wondering how the assessor can increase his tax assessment by \$105,000 on his house that has not been changed since the day he built his house.

Dale Sheltroun stated that every Agricultural parcel went down \$175.

Robert Kowalski stated that the only one who has the answer to these questions is MVW & Associates. Nobody in the township, except the Assessor, has the ability, the information, and the computer programs to do what happened. The ones who are responsible to ensure the Assessors are doing their job is the Township Board. Randy Booth from Equalization never stated that he was in charge of or oversees the Assessors in any way.

Dan Zettel stated that Randy Booth said he audited the new buildings yearly. Robert Kowalski stated that Randy did not say that. Robert said Randy stated that the reason he looked at Edwards Township this year was because he was aware of the Amish and no new construction was reported.

George Bodin asked if any of these errors could be corrected in the July BOR.

Robert Kowalski stated that the July BOR is not a hearing date and is only for clerical error. The only clerical error that can be corrected is from the Assessor's stand point.

The public can come in and speak in public comment, but it is not a hearing date.

Dale Sheltroun requested information from the State of Michigan that defines large and small construction.

Robert Kowalski stated that when Allison finds that information out, she needs to come to the township meeting and present those findings.

Dan Zettel stated that if we paid MVW & Associates and they didn't do their job, a complaint should be made and their license should be revoked.

Robert Kowalski stated that the board will file a complaint and Allison will back that complaint once she uncovers all of the problems.

Dan Zettel stated some colorful language and wanted a signature on a document from Lansing because he puts his name and his DDS number on every prescription he writes as a dentist. Dan walked out of the meeting declaring he had high blood sugar.

MORATORIUM:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to adopt the Resolution to Adopt a Non-Zoning Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers and to direct the Planning Commission to prepare zoning ordinance text amendments for a temporary moratorium ordinance on Data Centers.

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

Resolution adopted on June 8, 2026. Signed by the Clerk, Korey Kripli.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pat Miller complained about the Dust Control application. There was agreement and disagreement from other residents that live on dirt roads.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Township Board Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2026 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to adjourn at 9:31pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk