

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

July 13, 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, 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 - June 8, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the June 8, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Dan Zettel formally apologized and admitted that he did use inappropriate language based on the inappropriate nature of the professionalism that was rendered here. At the request of his attorney, he was told to ask the question why his taxes went up by \$200,000 and has been totally ignored by everyone here that has the authority to deal with this situation like it is some kind of joke. Edwards Township is under review from the state tax commission for neglecting to do their job and for selective enforcement. He stated that it's not fair to charge him whatever they want because he's a dentist, or he's white, or whatever. Dan claimed that he contacted the Supervisor when he received the assessment.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to approve the agenda with the addition of 19A F-65 Update, 21A Deeds for Property, and 21B Estimate for Tree Trimming. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: N/A

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Robert Clayton wrote seven building permits. There is a court date on August 11th for the house on M-30.

SEXTON REPORT:

Mike Laier stated the pile of dirt is still on the Donaldson plot. The lady reached out to Robert Kowalski and she asked if they could split the \$150 fee 50/50 with the township. The board did not agree to split the cost.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

Mark Surbrook stated the new County Administrator is doing a great job.

The county has started a Capital Improvement Project. The County RV Park received an electrical upgrade. The deer were tested at the game refuge. The tests came back clear. DNR updated the license for the game refuge and the refuge can now sell their deer. If the millage for the Transit does not pass, there will be no Transit service in 2027.

Dan Zettel asked Mark Surbrook if there has been any ongoing investigations with water and sewer at his property where The Cellars is located. Mark Surbrook stated that he has not. Dan asked Mark if he had been aware of the letters he sent and that everything that has been reported is in compliance, satisfactory, and above code to this point. Mark said yes.

LIBRARY UPDATE:

Korey Kripli stated the Library Board had three days of interviews in order to find a new Library Director. A candidate has been chosen and he will start in early August.

PLANNING UPDATE:

Rick Stillwagon stated that the Planning Committee is going to reach out to the township attorney in order to bring an ordinance to the township board. This ordinance will be against having data centers in Edwards Township.

Dan Zettel asked Rick Stillwagon if there was any discussion about changing Dan's property from Agriculture to Commercial. Rick stated that there was no discussion about that topic. Dan wanted to make it clear that the zoning has not changed. Dan stated that Robert Kowalski was the one who brought Dan's property up in the January 2026 Planning Meeting and that Rob is the Chief Tax Assessor for Edwards Township according to state law.

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. Eileen wanted to thank Dennis Stephens for working on her new computer to get it up and running.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve bills with Payroll Checks 10,437 - 10,453 and Payable Checks 7729 - 7748. Total is \$16,889.70.

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

Motion approved.

Pat Miller asked about Kimberly Glasser's check. Korey Kripli explained that there was a four hour election training that he and Kim attended. He also explained that Kim sent out over 250 absentee ballots which took her four hours to put together. Dennis Stephens asked why Kim was receiving \$15 per hour for work that should already be covered with her \$150 salary. Korey Kripli stated that he has always paid Kim over the last three years since he has been Clerk for election work. Dennis stated that the \$150 salary should include election work. Kripli stated that he will not pay his Deputy Clerk for election work from now on, excluding election day when she is working as the Election Chair.

Dennis Stephens also asked the board if the cemetery really needs to be cut four times a month. The board agreed that the cemetery looks good and it is budgeted.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

There were three hall returns for Nancy McCauley (\$150), Karen Laier (\$150), and Kristine DeTroyer (\$150) for a total of \$450. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the hall returns for a total of \$700. Motion carried.

CHAD WANGLER:

Chad Wangler is running for Road Commissioner for Ogemaw County. He stated that he worked for the Road Commission for 29 years and just recently retired. He believes that there needs to be more consistent service

day in and day out from the Road Commission. He believes that he would be the ideal candidate for that change.

BILLS:

The bills were discussed as presented.

LIQUOR ORDINANCE CERTIFICATE:

Eileen Fournier presented the Certificate of Compliance for the Liquor Enforcement Officers.

COLVIN'S HEATING & COOLING:

The governor on the generator is malfunctioning. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the estimate from Colvin's Heating & Cooling to fix the governor on the generator for a total of \$721.50.

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

Motion carried.

VET BUS:

The VET Bus will be at the township hall on July 16th from 8am to 2pm.

SCRAP TIRE GRANT:

The Scrap Tire Grant was approved and will be held on September 18th and September 19th. Prices and times will be updated at the next meeting.

F-65 UPDATE:

The F-65 was submitted to the state by Stephenson & Co.

CELL TOWER:

Brandon Zimmerman asked Robert Kowalski about the cell tower. Bob Clayton stated that he has not heard back from the cell tower company. Bob stated that he would follow up with the company about the issue.

MORATORIUM:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin in order to reach out to the township attorney to put together an ordinance to keep data

centers out of Edwards Township. The moratorium can be extended, but the attorney stated that the longer you keep the moratorium on the easier it can be overturned in court. The board agreed the ordinance is the best way to stop the data centers from coming to Edwards Township.

DEEDS FOR PROPERTY:

The township now officially owns the property to the West of the Township Hall and the Kartes family owns the twelve feet of property to the East.

The Planning Committee has been mulling over ideas on what to put on the property to the West. More updates to come.

ESTIMATE FOR TREE TRIMMING:

There are 21 branches, 11 bushes, and 6 saplings including a dead tree that needs to be trimmed or taken down in the cemetery. Robert Kowalski stated that he would reach out to Oakridge Tree Company for an estimate.

UPDATE CHAPMAN LAKE:

Robert Kowalski stated that Korey Kripli will work on a letter to put out to residents of Chapman Lake to talk about their road renewal plan.

RANDY/ALLISON:

Randy Booth is hosting a training at the Edwards Township Hall on July 27th from 10am to 4pm. The training is from the State of Michigan Tax Division in Lansing.

Robert Kowalski stated that there are 87 154's to do in Edwards Township. Rob asked if Edwards Township decided to do another full assessment, would that eliminate the 154's? Allison Thompson can't answer that question. Rob asked Allison if she would be interested in doing a full reassessment and she stated no. They don't have enough man power to get it done in a year. The company that did Horton Township's reassessment stated that there are too many political problems in Edwards Township and they will not work in Edwards Township.

Rob stated that Churchill Township rehired Zach VanWormer and the rumor is that he plans on doing clerical errors in July to fix everything he didn't do. Rob and Allison are not sure that is legal.

Allison has stated to Rob that she has contemplated on quitting being the Assessor for the township. She has gotten numerous mean phone calls and bad texts from residents. Dale Sheltroun presented his Tax Assessment and his Summer Tax Bill for 2026.

His property was assessed in 2025 at \$66,000 and in 2026 his property was assessed at \$59,400. It went down \$6,600 for the current year. On his Summer Tax Bill, it still showed that his assessed value was at \$66,000 instead of \$59,400. He stated that this is a major problem.

Rob stated that he has the 2025 and 2026 totals. He asked Allison where the 2026 numbers came from and she stated that they came from Zach VanWormer. They were uploaded on April 10th before Allison became the Assessor for Edwards Township.

Dale also presented an article from the Gladwin County Record that stated the following:

“The July Board of Review will meet to hear and consider appeals and corrections as authorized under Michigan law, including but not limited to Qualified Agricultural Exemptions, Principal Residence Exemptions (PRE), clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact, poverty exemptions, and other qualified corrections permitted under the Michigan General Property Tax Act.”

Rob stated that the BOR Book states that the July Board of Review meeting is for clerical error only.

Dan Zettel presented the 2025 Michigan Compiled Laws Chapter 41 Section 61 Supervisor as chief assessor. “The Supervisor of each township is the chief assessor of the township. The township board may provide for the appointment of additional assessors. If the supervisor is not certified at the proper level, the township board shall provide for the appointment of properly certified assessors. The assessors so appointed shall receive compensation allowed by the township board. If assessors are appointed pursuant to this section, the supervisor shall be the chief assessing officer and the assessors shall be subordinate to the supervisor. Upon completion of the assessment and the making of the rolls, the rolls shall be deposited with the supervisor. The supervisor shall be secretary of the board of review.”

Rob stated that he has a read only program on his computer. He can't change or make any alterations. If you were not able to make the March BOR meeting, you may reach out to the Tax Tribunal in order to talk about your case.

Dennis Stephens asked Dan Zettel what his responsibility is with this issue and if he showed up for the March BOR. Dan stated no and that the letters of notice were sent out late from the assessor. Dennis stated that Dan is pointing a lot of fingers at the Supervisor and not pointing any fingers back at himself. Dan stated when he received the notice that he brought it to the attention of Rob based on what his attorney and accountant said.

Rob presented a list of agriculture parcels that had gone up this past year. He stated that in talking with Allison, the book that the assessors use is updated by the state which is their cost manual. The cost manual went up from Lansing and then they had a local cost manual increase. This would mean a double raise on houses in Ogemaw County.

Dan stated that Will Mast is investigating Zach VanWormer and Edwards Township for malpractice and failure to do their job.

Dennis stated that since the problems are stemming from 2008, MVW & Associates should be included in the investigation.

A policy was made by the township board to make sure the assessor is communicating on a monthly basis and there should be an assessor's report to make sure the assessor is doing their job.

WISE HEATING & COOLING:

Robert Kowalski stated that there were never any water lines installed at the hall when the hall was built. There is no availability to power wash the hall or clean the sidewalks/parking lot. WISE Heating and Cooling presented an estimate for \$2,500. The board tabled this issue in order to receive an additional estimate.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Kowalski stated a correction for the May 2026 Meeting Minutes. "Dan asked Randy if he looks at construction every year. Randy stated that he looks at them every year." Rob stated that Randy did not say that. He stated that he looked at it due to the new construction that Edwards Township had. "Randy stated that he does not conduct an audit every year.

He looked at Edwards Township more in depth because he thought it was weird that the assessor did not report any new construction on how many buildings that have been put up.” These minutes can’t be updated since it is more than a month past, but we are clarifying these minutes in case there are questions in the future.

Rick Stillwagon asked about the times for the Scrap Tire Grant. Rob stated that he would let him know when he finds out.

Chad Wangler stated that the liquor commission is dragging their feet and hopefully they will be in business once this issue has been resolved.

Mark Surbrook stated that Ogemaw County is looking at a Moratorium for data centers. They were advised by their legal counsel for a six month moratorium as well.

Dennis Stephens asked if the township board will be prepared to adopt an ordinance on data centers. Robert Kowalski stated yes and that he has been working with the attorney to adopt this ordinance soon.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- BOR: July 21, 2026 11:00am
- Assessor Training: July 27, 2026 10am to 4pm
 - Elected officials only.
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2026 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to adjourn at 9:38pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk