

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

August 10, 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 - July 13, 2026 Election Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by George Bodin to approve the July 13, 2026 Election Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 13, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion by George Bodin, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve the July 13, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes with the correction “At the request of his attorney, he was told to ask the question why his **assessed value** went up by \$200,000...”

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: Korey Kripli informed everyone that Kimberly Glasser has resigned as his Deputy Clerk. Kripli is searching for a new Deputy Clerk.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Robert Clayton wrote one building permit. Parcel on M-30 has an active purchase agreement and the court date has now been cancelled. Dan Zettel praised Bob Clayton for all of his hard work being the Zoning Administrator.

SEXTON REPORT:

Mike Laier stated a family wanted to prepay for cremations. The board decided to not initiate a policy for prepaid cremations.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: N/A**LIBRARY UPDATE:**

Korey Kripli stated the Library has found a new Director and he will start in early August. The former director has turned in his resignation letter.

PLANNING UPDATE:

Please visit the Edwards Township website and send George Bodin an email if you are interested in Natural Gas from DTE.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve bills with Payroll Checks 10,454 - 10,474, Road Fund Check 1006, and Payable Checks 7750 - 7774. Total is \$31,049.84.

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

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

There were three hall returns for John Zettel (\$100), Pamala Treat (\$150), and Mary Winter (\$100) for a total of \$350. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the hall returns for a total of \$350. Motion carried.

CONSUMERS ENERGY:

The new representative from Consumers Energy introduced herself and provided business cards to the Township Board members.

ELECTION:

Korey Kripli stated that the election went well. Edwards Township had 249 voters. ElectionSource provided us with the wrong paper so we encourage people to use the VAT to finish up the election.

FIRE BOARD UPDATE:

The Fire Board received the December 2025 Audit that Stephenson & Co. had completed. The audit cost was \$9,740.

BOARD OF REVIEW:

4 or 5 people came in and asked questions to Allison Thompson. There were 12 qualified errors that were fixed. BOR Members and Eileen were very impressed with the new Assessor.

Dan Zettel stated that he did not receive a letter about his clerical error or a notice of denial. Dan's nephew, Dillon Zettel, made a statement on Dan's behalf in person at BOR since he was not able to attend.

ASSESSOR UPDATE:

The Assessor Training session was held at the hall by Will Gast. All 4154 paperwork must be done by December. There is no MCL that states the percentage an assessor assesses property. The common amount is 18%-20% per year in order to fulfill 100% of properties after five years. Robert Kowalski stated that a lot of people are complaining to Allison and this is making her job harder. Rob has urged people to cooperate with the Assessors. Since Rob attended the training, Allison asked Rob if he could help her do some assessing on August 20th and 21st. Rob also stated that Will Gast told him at the training that Edwards Township is not the only township dealing with assessing issues. This issue would not have happened if the former Assessor did his job.

Dan Zettel stated that the assessors should make plans with the homeowner before walking onto property, especially for residents with cattle, livestock, chemical storage, etc.

Ray Miller asked what the state can do about the former Assessor. Robert Kowalski stated that we don't know how much revenue we lost. What will make the township whole? We won't know until Allison finishes her job. This won't be solved for years.

WATERLINE QUOTE:

Robert Kowalski presented a quote from Kopec for a waterline for the township hall. Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to approve \$1,500 for Kopec to install waterline at the Edwards Township Hall.

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

Motion carried.

DENNIS STEPHENS:

Dennis withdrew his comment.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

The board received a letter from the individual that made the mess in the cemetery by the Donaldson grave. The letter claims vandalism, yet there was none. The letter states that they have a lawyer and will not pay the \$150 cleanup fee. Robert Kowalski stated that he will reach out to the township attorney.

The township attorney was on vacation during the time that Robert Kowalski reached out to him about creating a Resolution for Data Centers in Edwards Township. Rob will reach out to him once he returns from vacation.

Robert Kowalski stated that at the January 2026 Planning Meeting he asked if Dan Zettel's property should be rezoned. Rob was asked about how Amish residents are qualified under Agriculture with different trades such as steel, cabinetry, and others. Rob stated that he is not an Assessor and it is his job to provide answers to residents of the township.

Dan Zettel stated that he now has to have a backflow preventer to keep his farm open. He received an assessed value increase of \$200k. Dan received a note from Rob that stated "Amish sales info jumped assessment by 200%. This proved Zach did this in 2025." Rob stated that this was not his handwriting. Rob stated that he gave him a copy of what Allison gave him that stated "Sales for 2025 were jumped from 24 to 35." Rob was told by Zach that the amount of cost or sales that the Amish spent when they bought their property jumped the Agriculture parcels.

Dan stated that he was concerned of the rezoning to Commercial since a commercial property can not have a state winery.

Robert Kowalski stated that Supervisors do not sign the tax roll.

Dan asked who the Assessor reports to.

Rob stated that the law states that an Assessor is subordinate to the Supervisor even if the Supervisor is not an Assessor. If a problem with assessing occurs, the Supervisor as well as the entire board of the township is responsible for those issues.

Robert Kowalski provided certificates of Assessor Training to members that stayed for the entire training.

Robert Kowalski stated that the Budget to Actual was good and needed no adjustments at this time.

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to appoint Ray Miller to BOR for another term. Motion carried. The board thanked him for his service.

Robert Clayton asked who is responsible to make sure the building permits get to Allison and then Randy at Equalization. Robert Kowalski stated it is his job to give them to Allison. Allison's job is to give those permits to Randy. With Allison being a paid employee of the township, she has to answer to the township and Rob stated that he will continue to ask questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- MTA: August 25, 2026 6:00pm - Edwards Township Hall
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2026 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by George Bodin to adjourn at 9:03pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk