

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
6:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333
MINUTES

MINUTES
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 YS Board of Trustees –
 Special Meeting
 March 25, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Deb Mousseau, Dave VanHouten, Rob Heethuis, Larry Knowles, Tom Hopkins (All Present)

Staff Present: Dennis Buist

Visitors: 2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by VanHouten with support from Heethuis to add discussion regarding the Veterans Memorial committee meeting today. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve the agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (township resident): He expressed his support of the expansion of the water system and his opinion that the water system should be responsible for fully funding this expansion. The water system has a fund balance to allow it to handle this without using taxpayer money.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Veterans Memorial meeting was held today
 - Trustee VanHouten will be bringing a plan for the Veterans Memorial Park at the next board meeting. The advantage of being designated a park allows for applying for grants and having the land set aside.

VETERANS MEMORIAL DISCUSSION

- Memorial Day Ceremony will be Sunday, May 24 at 4 PM. The committee is going to start a silent auction and ask the community to contribute items for this auction. They are asking for permission to put these items in the conference room at the Township Hall for people to look at for about a week before the ceremony. Winners of the silent auction will be announced at the ceremony.
- Phase III is going forward adding bricks going around the flagpole and coming back to the front of the memorial. Monies have not yet been approved by the Board. Costs are being covered by John Frigmanski, Ron Heilman, and Dave VanHouten. They will be asking the board to approve the funds and reimburse them but do not want to wait to go ahead as the contractor has time to do the project now.
- The Board agreed to allow the conference room usage for the silent auction.
- Proposed water system project: Presentation by Bob Masters of Peerless Water Midwest Inc.
 - Review of the plan that Peerless is proposing which is basically two steps:
 - Replace filter media in the four filters (will keep two filters in service at all times to avoid service interruption).
 - Construct and equip a new 12” water well.
 - There are two methods of managing this type of project: a traditional design, spec, bid, build utilizing an engineering firm; or a design, build professional services contract.
 - Mr. Masters reviewed the advantages of using the design build model.
 - Costs for the project were presented.
 - Board members asked questions which were answered.
 - Trustee Knowles said that the replacement of the filter media would need to be done now even if the new well was not put in yet.
 - Filter media part of the project should go relatively quickly – hopefully two to three months.
 - The process of obtaining approvals, completing drilling, securing permits, and equipping the well can take approximately 6–9 months for final approval, with the entire timeline potentially extending up to one year.
 - Mr. Masters will provide a contract with fees and estimated payment schedule to Trustee Knowles in the next few days. Once that is signed Peerless will meet with the State and make a plan to move forward.
 - Peerless has worked with many nearby municipalities and can provide references as requested.

**PROPOSED WATER
SYSTEM PROJECT**

Board Action Items:

- Board will vote at the April 9 meeting on accepting the contract and the next steps.
- Discuss financial structure of water project: Trustee Knowles reviewed the water system’s budget and answered Board members’ questions.
 - Water tower bond payment is no longer being made so that has helped increase the water system’s fund balance.
 - There are two years left on the arsenic removal grant.
 - The township has applied for grants that there has not been a decision made on yet.
 - If the grant money goes to the water system, then they can pay Peerless directly.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT:

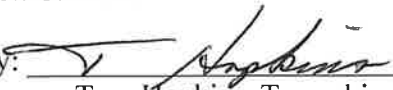
Heethuis: Congratulations to Dave VanHouten on the birth of a new granddaughter today,

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Approved by: 
Tom Hopkins, Township Clerk

Date 4/16/26

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
March 26, 2026