

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6:00 pm

Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

DRAFT MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES

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YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2025

Routing 11/20/25

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF MR. RICH BEUKEMA

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

Staff Present: Dan Miller, Dennis Buist, Frank Fiala

Visitors: 19

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote:

VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes.

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of October 9, 2025 board meeting: Correct "minutes from July 10, 2025" to "minutes from September 11, 2025" and disbursements from "August 2025" to "September 2025".
- Minutes from Election Commission meeting October 14, 2025.
- Disbursements October 2025

IPA Twp. Renov. #40- Oct.1, 2025 AUTO PAY	(\$5,689.47)
AP Checks of 10/9/25: 918719-918744	(\$61,995.26)
AP Checks of 10/28/25: 918745-918766	(\$25,550.00)
VOID Chk. #8205 Lost payroll check	\$80.74
Payroll #8424-8439 Fire 10/7/25	(\$11,066.89)
Replacement check #8440 for payroll lost check	(\$80.74)
Payroll #8441-8463 End of Month P/R General	(\$20,271.00)
Mid Month payroll Fed. w/holding for FIRE 10/7/25	(\$2,572.44)
Federal Tax Payroll End of Month W/H General PYRL	(\$6,685.48)
State Monthly W/H end of month including Fire 560.61	(\$1,697.16)

Total Disbursements (\$135,527.70)

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

<u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote:</u> Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	DRAFT MINUTES Page 2 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting November 13, 2025
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Fire Chief Dan Miller Nikki Mendez, EMT Maxine and Darl Beukema: The Board presented a plaque in appreciation of Rich Beukema. Rich served the township by sitting on the ZBA and the Water Advisory Committee, as well as serving for 27 years on the Planning Commission. Maxine stated that Rich looked upon the committee members as friends and thanked them for the plaque. County Commissioner Catherine Getty: Activity at the county since last month included appointing Ann Richards and Mike Cunningham to the Board of Canvassers for the county. The county also approved a new and improved benefits plan for staff and approved annual grants for the Substance Abuse Task Force.	MOTON TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr.): He urges the Board to remove the \$150,000 for the water system from the budget. The system is designed to be fully funded by its users through water rates.	PUBLIC COMMENT
TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer - October 2025 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed. - The average interest rate on the township's investments is about 3.75 to 4 percent, which is still higher than the IPA loan rate. <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll Call Vote:</u> Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Hopkins: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED - The revenue sales tax sharing from the State is going down for the remainder of this fiscal year and next so the revenue needs to be decreased. - The park project was expected to be completed before June 30, 2025. Because the completion was delayed into the fiscal year for 2025/2026 the budget has to be amended to move those expenses from last year's budget to the current year budget. This included the park insurance which increased and the professional planner's fee so the park budget figure had to be increased by \$77,920. - The revenue has to be increased by taking \$98,511 from the fund balance. - The state has changed the money from the gasoline tax that used to go to townships to now go to roads. <u>Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of</u>	TREASURER'S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>the General Fund: Budget Resolution #11-13-2025 1 to amend Yankee Springs Township General Fund – 101 REVENUE to increase the REVENUE amount to \$1,876,411. Roll Call Vote:</u> Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED <u>Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the General Fund: Budget Resolution #11-13-2025 2 to amend Yankee Springs Township General Fund – 101 EXPENDITURES to increase the EXPENDITURE amount to \$1,876,411. Roll Call Vote:</u> Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Hopkins: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	DRAFT MINUTES Page 3 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting November 13, 2025 MOTIONS TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
CLERK’S REPORT <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve current payables of \$54,105.90 and fire department payroll of \$12,940.18.</u> Discussion: Larger amounts included are the life and casualty insurance for the fire department, the bill from Siegfried for the audit, and increased recycling cost due to increased use. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED • First election took place last week. There was great participation from the election officials and everything went very well. • Out of 3,118 eligible voters, 612 voted (20 %). Although the margin in our precinct was very close, the millage proposal did pass by a large majority.	CLERK’S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE CURRENT PAYABLES
COMMITTEE REPORTS: Planning Commission: • Meeting October 16, 2025. ○ Continued working on mining ordinance. ▪ Attorney has the committee’s recommendations and should be returning documents next week for review. ▪ There will be a public hearing on this at the December meeting. ○ A public forum for the Master Plan will be included in the November meeting. • Next meeting November 20, 2025. Zoning Board of Appeals: • No meeting since the last Board meeting. • Next meeting will be December 8, 2025 if needed. Zoning Department: • VanderKam property has been brought into compliance. All vehicles have been removed by Mr. VanderKam. There is still some cleanup being done and there is a deadline for this to be completed. Fire/EMS Report: • Fire Chief Dan Miller introduced Nikki Mendez. Nikki is a Cadette Firefighter who has been with the department since August 2024. She enrolled in the EMT class	PC REPORT ZBA REPORT ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT

in June 2025 and passed her practical and written tests and is now a certified and licensed EMT. She will also start the Fire Academy in January and after successful completion of that will be a certified firefighter as well.

- A round of applause and appreciation was given by the Board and all present.
- October 2025 Fire/Emergency Medical responses.
 - October was a busy month with a total of 21 fire responses, including a rescue of a wheelchair user in the Yankee Springs recreational area.
 - Five mutual aid responses were given to Orangeville, Thornapple, and Hastings Fire Department. Yankee Springs did not require any mutual aid.
 - Emergency medical dispatches for the month were 49, which is higher than usual.
 - Year to date numbers for both Fire and Medical remain similar to last year.
 - Duty shift personnel responded to 13 medicals and 4 fire calls. The remaining calls were handled by personnel not on the duty shift.
 - There are currently 20 personnel at the YS Fire Department
 - Chief Miller reviewed the training that took place in October.

Park Committee:

- The nets on the pickleball and tennis courts have been taken down as the park is closing down for the season.

Recycling Committee:

- Completion of new pad and bin which is getting a lot of use.

Veterans Committee:

- Veterans Memorial Ceremony was held on Saturday, November 8 at 11:00 AM.
- There was a very good turnout and one person has volunteered to join the committee.
- The quilt ceremony was highlighted as well as the contributions of Julie Fox from the Curly Cone, and the Fire department for their work on the set up and teardown.
- Mr. VanHouten will be reassuming leadership of this event.

Clean Water Committee

- The first half of the grant money has been received.
- Pilot study is continuing and Peerless says they think the results will be very positive. It is not completed yet.

Gun Lake Improvement Board Committee

- They are done for the season and will start up again in the spring.

Board Action Items:

- Planning Commission nominations:

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to nominate John Trygier to serve on the Planning Commission. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

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FIRE/EMS REPORT

PARK COMMITTEE REPORT

RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

GLIB REPORT

**MOTIONS TO APPROVE
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to nominate Nicole Smith to serve on the Planning Commission. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

- Possible Judicial Appeal for Park Drive resident: The resident appeared in front of the judge to appeal his violations of township ordinances regarding permanent structures and stations for boat.
 - The judge found in favor of the resident in two out of three violations.
 - The township attorney feels strongly that this was a poor decision and the township should appeal. Allowing it to stand would set a bad precedent for the future as well as being unfair to residents who have experienced past enforcement.
 - Cost to the township is expected to be less than \$1500.00.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles that the township pursue a judicial appeal to this decision. Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

- Decision on two public comments

Motion by Knowles with support from VanHouten to have two public comment periods, one before committee reports and one at the end of the meeting. Discussion: Mr. VanHouten stated that he has changed his mind on this matter because of not getting feedback at the end of the meetings. **Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: no.

Yes: 4, No: 1. **MOTION CARRIED**

BOARD COMMENT:

Hopkins: When we bought the new fire truck, we decided to sell the old truck. We have gotten a good offer (\$20,000) for the truck and I want to be sure that the Board approves of selling it. This offer is very good because it would require about \$7000 repairs to sell it ourselves. This is a verbal offer from the company where we purchased the new one.

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve the sale of the old fire truck for \$20,000. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes.

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

Also, thanks to Deb for all her work on the audit which came through very clean. Thanks to Rob and Dave for all the work on the Veterans Day ceremony. I think Dave's speech was one of the best I've heard. It was upbeat and it was fun. I tried to count people and got to about 130 to 140 people in attendance but they kept moving around. I think there was close to 150 and it was very nice.

Knowles: Congratulations to Nikki on your EMT. Thanks, Tom, for completion of your first election. Welcome John Trygier and Nicole Smith to the Planning Commission.

**NOMINATIONS
DRAFT MINUTES**

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**MOTION TO APPROVE
JUDICIAL APPEAL OF
DECISION FOR PARK
DRIVE RESIDENT**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
TWO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

BOARD COMMENT

Mousseau: Thank you, Dave, it was a great speech. Thank you for the definite maybe of taking over the Vets committee. Tax bills are going out on December 1st. VanHouten: Congratulations to Nikki. That's a lot of work, something to be proud of and something we really need in the township, so good job there. Audits are always stressful and we came through with flying colors so that's pretty cool. Good job, Deb. Heethuis: Thank you Nikki and thank you fire department. We love what you guys are doing. Thanksgiving is coming and I hope you all have a great holiday. Be careful out there.	DRAFT MINUTES Page 6 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting November 13, 2025
ADJOURNMENT: <i>Motion by Mousseau to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.</i> Approved by: _____ Date: _____ Respectfully submitted by: Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary November 14, 2025	ADJOURNMENT