

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2026
6:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

MINUTES

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YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
August 13, 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, Frank Fiala, Sandy Marcukaitis, Dan Miller, Brian Murphy

Visitors: 9

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to accept the agenda. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of July 9, 2026 BOT meeting and July 14, 2026 Election Committee Meeting
- DISBURSEMENTS July 2026
 - IPA Twp. Renov. #49 July 1, 2026 AUTO PAY (5,689.47)
 - AP Checks of 7-9-26: 919134-919151 (30,462.37)
 - *919112 Vets Mem. Chk 6/29/26 (Software did not increment +1) (226.90)
 - VOID Chk#917976 Re-issued w/ chk# 919153 (7/28/26) 50.00
 - AP Checks of 7/28/26: 919152-919177 (42,808.06)
 - July FIRE Payroll Chks. #8802-8823 (7/9/26) (14,331.94)
 - July FIRE State W/H (720.58)
 - July FIRE Fed. W/H (3,199.25)
 - July Gen. Payroll 7/30/26 Ck#s 8824-8863 (23,695.13)
 - July General Payroll Fed W/H (7,079.18)
 - June Gen Payroll State W/H (1,292.99)
 - Total Disbursements \$ (129,455.87)

*6/29/26 Chks 919112-919132 actually: 919113-919133

**will be processed in August

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

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

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	MINUTES Page 2 of 6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Fire Chief Dan Miller Mark Paradowski (founder of Orangeville Community Outreach): Spoke about an upcoming fundraiser for their Forever Young program. They will be holding the “Run on the Gun: Reloaded” 8.2-mile race and 3-mile fun walk around Gun Lake on October 10. There will be aid stations and games at the Orangeville township hall as well as a spaghetti supper at local restaurants the night before the race. They want to make this an annual event and eventually grow it to be a triathlon. County Commissioner Catherine Getty: provided an update on the Barry County activities.	YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting August 13, 2026 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): He spoke about his efforts to encourage “no” votes on the EMS millage, although he doesn’t think it was very effective. He supports the EMS services and his only objection is because the Board has refused to lower taxes for the past three years. He discussed some of the comments that were received on his social media posts.	PUBLIC COMMENT
TREASURER’S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer - July 2026 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed. - The treasurer read a letter that was received with a donation to the Veterans Memorial from OnaTour, Chief Noonday Car Park, the Gun Lake Boys, Show Stoppers Detail and other participants in this year’s Memorial Day Cruise, Ride and Rally. The township received a donation of \$1,373 from this group. - There is a need for the township to look into having a credit card for online purchasing.	TREASURER’S REPORT
<u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to go ahead with getting a credit card.</u> Discussion: It is getting more and more difficult to purchase online with a check. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.	MOTION TO APPROVE OBTAINING A TOWNSHIP CREDIT CARD
Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to accept the Treasurer’s Report.</u> Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT
CLERK’S REPORT <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau to approve the current accounts payables in the amount of \$37,946,62.</u> Discussion: Included in this amount are \$14,500 for annual cemetery care including replacing damaged headstones and cement for all three cemeteries, \$8,000 from PCI which will come back to us, and a large bill from DK Landscape for storm damage. Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve the current payroll for Fire and for</u>	CLERK’S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE CURRENT PAYABLES MOTION TO APPROVE PAYROLL

<u>election officials for \$17,765.70.</u> <i>Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes.</i> Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED - Election update: - Early voting total was 127 voters. - There were 1037 requests for absentee ballots and 711 were returned. - The election crew did an outstanding job led by Clerk Hopkins.	MINUTES Page 3 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting August 13, 2026 ELECTION UPDATE
GLASA REPORT - The Board is receiving a monthly report to improve communication between the water system and the township. - Last year's revenue was \$263,000 with expenses of \$136,000 which increases the fund balance. - The media at the well house has been replaced and the bill was just over \$200,000 for that part of the project. Currently waiting for the permit from EGLE to drop the new well which will cost over \$500,000. - In July had the biggest water usage month so the increase in capacity is a good thing. - Assets now are at \$1,100,000.	GLASA REPORT
COMMITTEE REPORTS: Planning Commission: - PCI Report - Working on master plan. Good progress made at the last special meeting. Invited all the lake groups to the meeting for their input. - Next regular meeting August 20, 2026. Zoning Board of Appeals: - No July meeting. Fire/EMS Report: - Review of July 2026 Fire/Emergency Medical responses. 29 fire responses in July. - Total year to date for 2026 is 169, compared to 93 for same period in 2025. 34 medical responses in July. - Total year to date for 2026 is 189, compared to 183 for last year. 6 fire responses and 10 medical responses were answered during the duty shift. The rest took place after duty shift has gone home. - There are currently 21 personnel: 15 certified firefighters, 3 probationary firefighters who will start at the academy in January 2027. Medical personnel include 6 EMRs, 5 EMTs, and 4 paramedics. - Four firefighters passed their state written and practical exams for the EMR class at Thornapple Township Emergency Services and are waiting to take the National Registry written exam to become nationally certified. They are Andy Robins, Brennan Hartman, Ron Miklusicak and Ryan Knappen. - July training took place on pump operations. - The fire department is looking into starting a cadet program to get some young firefighters involved. A proposal on this will come before the board in the future.	PC REPORT ZBA REPORT FIRE/EMS REPORT

○ Clerk Hopkins said it was reassuring to see that the Yankee Springs Rescue Team was the first on the lake during the emergency last night and then the coordination between the teams and the County and State police was handled very well. The teams were out until 1:30 AM and back out this morning with no recovery yet. ○ There will be a cake after the meeting for Chief Miller's birthday and appreciation for all he does. Park Committee: ● Working on a 5-year plan. ● Currently working on seats and benches around the baseball fields. ● The soccer field is currently in use as well. Recycling Committee: ● No meeting. Veterans Committee: ● One brick was added to the memorial with four more ordered. ● No meeting. GLIB Report: ● Bill Bryker was unavailable for meeting tonight. ● He has met with Chad Krai from the GLPA for discussion on ways to help Gun Lake and how to deal with the algae properly. It is expected that more of that information will be coming.	MINUTES Page 4 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting August 13, 2026 PARK COMMITTEE REPORT RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT GLIB REPORT
Board Action Items: ● Purchase of an additional sound system <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve purchase of a sound system for a cost not to exceed \$3,500.</u> Discussion: The price received from Sweetwater was a much better price than other options so that is what they are considering. This would mainly be used at the Veterans Memorial Park, at the park, or for other outdoor events and would avoid having to rent a system. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED ● Approval of PA-116 application: ○ It is in regard to a property owner having land set aside for agriculture or natural state for a period of time (10 years in this case). The state gives the property owner a tax break. It does not affect the township but it does require approval by township. ○ Clerk Hopkins provided the information to the Board for review but he is recommending that it be tabled while this review takes place and voted on at a future meeting. ● Discussion of lighting for Township Hall parking lot. ○ John Trygier brought a suggestion to improve the lighting in the parking lot by raising all the poles. The cost would be about \$11,000. ○ This would not eliminate the light that is in the middle of the parking lot.	MOTION TO APPROVE SOUND SYSTEM PURCHASE PA-116 APPLICATION DISCUSSION PARKING LOT LIGHTING

and there was nothing about connecting the parks. So it's not in their plan and trying to get them to do it is getting ridiculous. She also commented on the 9 days of early voting. The amount of money that is spent on it for only 127 people to vote – it's too bad there's nothing that can be done about it.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Happy birthday to Dan Miller. Thankful for you and your department especially on days like today at Gun Lake. Thanks to Rob for getting the coolest cake ever for Dan. The election staff did a great job for early voting and Tuesday and all the prep and afterwards. Thanks, Tom, for sticking with us for another two years. It is appreciated.

VanHouten: Happy birthday, Dan. Tom – great job with the mail in votes and all kinds of things that came up. You knew how to handle it and it all balanced out and that's due to your leadership. Appreciate your efforts. I went by Robbins cemetery and took a look at the headstones and things the sextons are putting in. I think that's really good. It looks nice and a well-kept cemetery is a good thing to have.

Hopkins: We are looking at signs for our cemeteries. We set aside \$15,000 for this year. We actually came in with one price that is significantly less than that but only one was received so I'm looking to see if we can get a package deal on buying all of them at one time, so that's still on the horizon. Happy birthday to Dan and I thank him personally for the way he and all the guys helped out with the election. The room was spotless and all cleaned out for us and by the time we got done we had wrappers and stuff laying around and you took care of all of it for us. Really well done and thank you.

Knowles: Happy birthday, Dan. Ditto Dave on the cemetery – the work they have done is awesome. Deb, awesome report and appreciate everything you do. Tom, handling the election was really nice and all the people were so pleasant to deal with. I appreciate you sticking around for another two years as well.

Heethuis: Congratulations Tom, on your election which was unanimous. (Mr. Hopkins replies that it was not unanimous, there was one other vote.) Your election team was tremendous; well done. Dan you were up all night last night and up all day today chasing fires and Gun Lake and you're still here doing this. I want to get you back to get some sleep but first we have a great cake for you. Thank you for what you do.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mousseau with support from Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 9-15-2026

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
August 14, 2026

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BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT