

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting**

Thursday, August 14, 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
August 14, 2025

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Dave VanHouten, Deb Mousseau, Rob Heethuis, Larry Knowles

Tom Hopkins – Absent with notice

Staff Present: Rich Beukema, John Frigmanski, Frank Fiala, Dan Miller

Visitors: 15

ROLL CALL

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to add discussion of arsenic removal system. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO AMEND
AGENDA**

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

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of July 10, 2025 board meeting
- Disbursements:

IPA Twp Renov Payment #37 July 1, 2025 Auto Pay	\$ (5,689.47)
AP Checks of 7/10/25: Check #: 918578-606	\$ (33,284.48)
AP Checks of 7/29/25: Check #: 918607-632	\$ (39,479.70)
VOID Check #918602	\$ 205.01
Payroll # 8307-8321 Fire 7/14/25	\$ (8,710.59)
Payroll #8322-8339: End of Month P/R General	\$ (20,474.04)
Mid-Month payroll Fed. w/holding for FIRE 7/14/25	\$ (2,005.76)
Federal Tax Payroll End of Month W/H General PYRL	\$ (6,670.95)
Last month's state W/H for June – adjustment	\$ (0.30)
State W/H end of month inc. Fire 440.51	\$ (1,588.97)
Total Disbursements:	\$(117,699.25)

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

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Fire Chief Dan Miller

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- July 2025 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed.
- The renovation IPA Loan balance is included in restricted funds on the budget. This loan will be paid off if the interest rate on the township investments falls lower than 2.64%.
- The township received \$18,226 disbursement from the casino.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Van Houten to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

CLERK'S REPORT

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to approve current lot of payables Check #918633-918662 for \$45,072.28 and Payroll for 07/12/2025 Check #8340-8357 for \$14,751.65. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission:

- PCI June 2025 report in board member packet.
- No July meeting.
- Next regular meeting August 21, 2025.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- No meeting since the last Board meeting.
- Next meeting will be September 9, 2025 if needed.

Veterans Committee:

- No report.

Zoning Department:

- Supervisor Heethuis read a judgment from the Barry County District Court in the case of the Township versus Steve VanderKam. The judgment states that if the

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MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

CLERK'S REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE CURRENT PAYABLES

PC REPORT

ZBA REPORT

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT

<p>defendant does not remove all vehicles from the property within 60 days, the township may enter the property and bring the property into compliance with the Yankee Springs Township ordinance section 111.00 and section 111.06. Any costs incurred will be charged to the defendant and the court will enter a judgment against the defendant in the amount of the cost of removal and disposal upon presentation of documentation. The judgment shall be collectible by the township in any legal manner, including as a tax upon the real property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The township received a request to talk with Planning and Zoning on the gravel mining issue. The moratorium is in place until April 2026. • Jim McManus, former zoning administrator for the county, has been contracted as planner available to the planning commission as needed. 	<p>DRAFT MINUTES Page 3 of 5 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting August 14, 2025</p>
<p>Fire/EMS Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2025 Fire/Emergency Medical responses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chief Miller reviewed the fire department activity for the month of July. ○ 15 calls were handled by the daytime duty shift. ○ 17 certified fire fighters on staff and 14 medical personnel. ○ The Fire Department will hold an open house on October 6 as part of Fire Prevention Week. ○ The department is doing well at sticking to their budget and the report looks good. ○ They are working on the cost recovery and talking to Spencer about the sale of the old fire truck. 	<p>FIRE/EMS REPORT</p>
<p>Recycling Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new pad will be going in next week. 	<p>RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT</p>
<p>Clean Water Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was held on August 5. • Discussions are taking place regarding using Peerless to update the arsenic removal. Fleis and Vandenbrink had estimated over \$1 million to do this but Peerless said less than \$500,000 because they are recommending that instead of increasing the number of tanks they would change the media in the tanks to double the output of each tank. This would require a new well which they would design and handle for a cost of \$40,000. • Peerless has done work for Hastings and they gave them a good reference. • The committee will meet next month and then should have a recommendation for the Board. The Board feels this is a good direction to take. • DWSRF has awarded \$75,000 grant that the township can use for this process. 	<p>WATER COMMITTEE REPORT</p>
<p>Gun Lake Improvement Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report. 	<p>GLIB REPORT</p>
<p>Park Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion of the pickleball court will be finished next week. The benches and gates still need to be added. • Final topping will be done on the walking path as well. • The shed will be delivered on the 24th. 	<p>PARK COMMITTEE REPORT</p>
<p>Board Action Items:</p>	

- Public Hearing for Special Assessment #51 for Payne Ridge paving.

Motion by Knowles with support from Mousseau to open the public hearing. Roll Call

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

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- The assessment has been prepared and the amount is \$57,100 which includes:
 - The road work at \$54,900.
 - The interest of \$1,647.
 - Newspaper and postage \$553.
 - Each person on the assessment roll will pay \$1,057.40 per year for three years, or \$3,172.73.

Roger Rottschaefer (township resident): Questioned the numbers that were stated. The residents had decided to have the assessment figured per person, not per lot and he believes the township used the total of 19 and should be 17. The petition was based on 17. The treasurer stated that the township used 18 parcels for their figures.

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr.): The township has in the past gone along with how the residents wanted the assessment done as long as it's reasonable. He doesn't believe they will need to redo the petition to change the totals.

Dave Medaris (532 Payne Ridge Dr.): He would like to know what the amount will be if he wants to pay it off now. Supervisor Heethuis said they believe it will be \$3,249.41.

- After a brief discussion it was decided that the township will confirm the numbers and this will be voted on at the next Board meeting.
- The work will not be done until October so this should not be a problem.

Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to close the public hearing. Roll Call

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

Yes: 4, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Next blood drive will be September 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rich Beukema (Valley Dr.): He has lived on the channel for 30 years and is concerned about how dirty the water is. The water in the Cuddy Drain comes from Allegan County and he feels they need to take responsibility for keeping it clean.

Roseann Steffes (11990 Bass Rd.): She expressed concern about the traffic and the dust and noise that will occur because of the mining

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr.): The Planning Commission will be discussing the gravel mining ordinance at the August meeting and he requested the Board members to provide direction to the PC so that gravel mining is not allowed on land in residential areas. A petition to not allow this has been signed by 83 residents and copies have been given to the township.

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR SA DISTRICT #51 PAYNE RIDGE PAVING

BLOOD DRIVE

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Frigmanski (12891 Park Dr.): Shared that there was a situation in his former neighborhood and Brad and Joe handled it very professionally and he was happy with the outcome.

Dave Laansma, Precinct Delegate (Payne Lake Road): Thanked the Board members and shared that there are two state-wide petitions that are circulating. One is regarding ranked choice voting and he feels this needs to be defeated. The other petition which he supports is to require proof of citizenship to vote in Michigan. He has the petition if anyone would choose to sign it.

Robin Laansma, Precinct Delegate (Payne Lake Road): Thanked Chief Dan Miller for all his efforts. She requested that the Board reinstate the first public comment period at the meetings and that the meetings be recorded and livestreamed.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Happy Birthday to Dan Miller (tomorrow). Taxes will be due September 15th and the office will be open until 5:00 PM.

VanHouten: Shout out to the Zoning Department for all their hard work. He has been to another township meetings and he feels our zoning department does a really great job.

Knowles: Glad to hear that Tom Hopkins is doing well. Thanked everyone for all the work at the park, it is turning out very nice. He believes that no one will be happy about it but he thinks Hall Lake will be lowered. He would like to put on next month's agenda a discussion about moving the public comment time from the end of the meeting to prior to the board's business.

Heethuis: He talked about the administration fee. This fee is allowed from the state and that is 1% for all the work that the township does to collect the taxes. It is 1% of summer tax and 1% on winter tax, so if you pay \$1,000 on your taxes it would be \$10 for summer and \$10 again in the winter, and so on. This pays for the work that is done in the office and the assessor and the Board of Review. It is just a fee that is given to all the townships. He contacted the townships around us and they all receive the admin fee and use it to pay for those offices. If anyone says we are misusing it that is not correct. As to the question of why he didn't comment on it earlier, he wanted to hear what everyone else had to say. Wishing Tom Hopkins well and happy birthday to Dan Miller.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Knowles with support from Mousseau that we adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
August 18, 2025

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BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT