

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

Thursday, June 12, 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
June 12, 2025

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INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

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: Frank Fiala, John Frigmanski, Dennis Buist, Dan Miller, Brad Williams, Sandy Marcukaitis

Visitors: 36

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to add to the agenda Madelynn Lula to speak to us in the visitor section tonight. 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 Knowles to approve the agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes.

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

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from Board Meetings May 8, 2025, May 22, 2025, May 29, 2025, and June 5, 2025
- IPA Township Renovation #35: May 1, 2025 Auto Pay \$ (5,689.47)
- AP Checks as of 05/12/2025: Check #918502-918526 \$ (43,380.67)
- AP Checks as of 05/29/2025: Check #918527-918544 \$ (24,241.11)
- Payroll Checks #8225-8243 (excluding #8240) 05/13/2025 Fire \$ (9,436.89)
- Payroll Checks #8244-8268 end of the month P/R General \$ (18,921.43)
- Mid-May Payroll Federal withholding tax (fire) 05/13/2025 \$ (2,353.58)
- Federal Payroll withholding tax end of May 2025 General Payroll \$ (5,994.50)
- Additional adjustment for April State withholding tax \$ (51.57)
- State monthly withholding tax April 2025 \$ (1,053.27)
- \$ (111,122.49)

**MOTION TO AMEND
AGENDA**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

County Commissioners Catherine Getty and Marsha Bassett

Assistant Fire Chief Dan Miller

GLIB Representative Bill Bryker

Thornapple Kellogg Varsity Cheer Coach Madelynn Lula, accompanied by three students and Assistant Coach Kayla Baumgartner

- Commissioner Getty and Commissioner Bassett shared the activities taking place at the county level.
- Mr. Bryker gave his report from the recent GLIB meeting.
 - The board approved treatment of 43 acres for two invasive plants curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil, with two herbicides and to treat for algae control in the channels with Peroxyhydrate sodium carbonate. This is a very safe algaecide.
 - The state campground lagoon is to be treated with the same two herbicides to treat the Eurasian milfoil.
 - Three acres in the southeast corner of the lake are being treated for Eurasian milfoil.
 - No copper-based algaecide is being used as they are banned for use in the months of May and June by EGLE.
- Coach Madelynn Lula made a presentation to the Board regarding a potential fundraiser she would like to hold at the Yankee Springs Township Park. The cheer program at Thornapple Kellogg has grown significantly and the needs of the program also grow with it. The proposed fundraiser would be a pickleball tournament with additional activities for community members. The volunteers would be on hand to ensure proper treatment of the courts, clean-up, etc. The proposed date is August 2. Supervisor Heethuis indicated that this will be put on the agenda to vote on at the July board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- Review of May 2025 Financial Statement and Investment Report.

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

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

- Budget Amendments:

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MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

GLIB REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT #1 TO THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOLUTION #6-12-2025

Motion by Mousseau with support from Hopkins to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the General Fund Budget Resolution # 6-12-2025 1 to amend Yankee Springs Township General Fund-101-Revenue to increase the REVENUE amount to \$1,893,916. Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

Motion by Mousseau with support from Hopkins to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the General Fund Budget Resolution # 6-12-2025 2 to amend Yankee Springs Township General Fund-101-Expenditures to increase the EXPENDITURE amount to \$1,893,916. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes.

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

Motion by Mousseau with support from Heethuis to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Fire Equipment Purchase Fund 211 – Resolution #6-12-2025 3 to amend Yankee Springs Township Fire Equipment Purchase Fund 211-Revenue to \$463,753 and Expenditures to \$414,688. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes.

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

Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Special Assessment Weeds Fund 213 Resolution #6-12-2025 4 to amend Yankee Springs Township Special Assessment Weeds Fund 213 Revenue to \$44,150 and Expenditures to \$44,150. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Veteran's Memorial Fund-293 Resolution #6-12-2025 5 to amend Yankee Springs Township Veteran's Memorial Fund 293 Revenue to \$2,830 and Expenditures to \$2,830. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

Motion by Mousseau with support from Hopkins to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Liquor Law Enforcement 212 Resolution #6-12-2025 6 to amend Yankee Springs Township Liquor Law Enforcement 212 Revenue to \$2,960 and Expenditures to \$2,960. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

- Letter of intent has been received from Siegfried Crandall for next year's audit services at a cost of \$150 more than last year.

Motion by Mousseau with support from Hopkins to sign the letter of intention with Siegfried Crandall for our yearly audit. Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

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**MOTION TO APPROVE
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
TO THE GENERAL FUND
BUDGET RESOLUTION
#6-12-2025 2**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
OF THE FIRE EQUIPMENT
PURCHASE FUND 211 –
RESOLUTION #6-12-2025 3**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
OF THE SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT WEEDS
FUND 213 RESOLUTION
#6-12-2025 4**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
OF THE VETERAN'S
MEMORIAL FUND 293
RESOLUTION #6-12-2025 5**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
OF THE LIQUOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT 212
RESOLUTION #6-12-2025 6**

**MOTION TO SIGN LETTER
OF INTENTION WITH
SIEGFRIED CRANDALL**

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Special Assessment for Deer Sight Drive: Public hearing was held last Thursday.

Motion by Hopkins with support from Heethuis to accept Resolution #05-08-2025 A for special assessment #50 for Deer Sight Drive Road improvement. Approximate cost to be \$52,000. 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 Heethuis to accept application for a special assessment #51 Payne Ridge Drive. Discussion: There are twelve out of fourteen residents making the request, with two other residents being out of state. **Roll Call Vote:** VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes.

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

Motion by Hopkins with support from Heethuis to approve the payables from June 1 through June 12 for the amount of \$69,785.14. Discussion: This is a higher than usual amount because it includes the first payment on the park renovation and the payroll for the fire department. **Roll Call Vote:** Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission:

- PCI May 2025 report in board member packet.
- May 15, 2025 meeting:
 - Approved another SEU for an STR in Whispering Pines.
 - Held a public hearing for the recommended pond ordinance which is in front of the board tonight for approval.
 - Continued discussion on master plan.
 - Discussed a gravel ordinance but this is not ready to bring to the board yet.
 - There is a planner on call with McKenna that will be available when needed.
- Next regular meeting June 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- No meeting since the last Board meeting.
- Next meeting will be July 8, 2025 if needed.

Zoning Department:

- On Tuesday, June 10, the Barry County Court judge ordered that the VanderKam property on M179 be brought into full compliance with township ordinance by October 12, 2025.

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CLERK'S REPORT

MOTION TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #05-08-2025 A – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR DEER SIGHT DRIVE

MOTION TO ACCEPT APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT #51 PAYNE RIDGE DRIVE

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYABLES FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH JUNE 12

PC REPORT

ZBA REPORT

ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Benchmarks have been established to be met with full completion by October at which time the license will be withdrawn.

Fire/EMS Report:

- May 2025 Fire/Emergency Medical responses.
 - Chief Miller reviewed the report.
 - Eleven fire calls and 21 medical calls in May. Year to date, calls are slightly lower than last year.
 - Eight of the emergency medical calls were responded to by the duty shift and the remainder were responded to by medical first responders during their off time.
 - Up to 20 personnel on the department: 16 certified fire fighters and one probationary fire fighter. Eight of the personnel are emergency medical responders, three paramedics and three EMTs.
 - Reviewed the training that was conducted over the last month.
 - Have had the fire truck since September and are ready to start mounting tools to it permanently.
 - Working with Thornapple Ambulance is going smoothly.
 - Mr. VanHouten requested that a cost recovery program for power lines be in the plans as soon as possible and Chief Miller said they will be looking at it.

Park Committee:

- Work is continuing on the pickleball and basketball court renovation.
- It is expected to be completed by June 23.

Recycling Committee:

- The committee has been gathering data on pad and bin and strongly recommends that the township add another pad and bin.
- The combination would \$9,323.00. An oversight mini grant program of \$4,000.00 has been approved to offset this cost.
- "Dry runs" cost \$100 each and there have been 25 in the last year. Another bin would eliminate the dry runs and would help recover the cost.
- This will be looked at as part of the budget.

Veterans Committee:

- Need a board member to report on this committee.
- Mick Lane did a great job on the Memorial Day ceremony, added some new things including the tribe. Good things coming up in the future.
- It was great involving the tribe, the scouts, and the community. Attendance was over 130 people.

Clean Water Committee:

- Meeting will be next Tuesday, June 17.
- Yankee Springs water system is looking at possibly trying to increase the amount of the water they can put out. EGLE says when 80% capacity is reached, something has to be done and they have come very close to that number a few times.
- Also talking about an Edwin Allen development on the west side of Patterson that would bring in 90 homes and they have shown interest in a water system. Our system can't service that right now without increasing the arsenic removal system and would probably need to replace the smallest well.

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FIRE/EMS REPORT

PARK COMMITTEE REPORT

RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting has been set to meet with the design builder for arsenic treatment next week to determine what the cost would be if it is decided to move forward. | <p>DRAFT MINUTES Page 6 of 8 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting June 12, 2025</p> |
| <p>Board Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance Policy Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The current carrier came in with a substantial increase. ○ Township has solicited bids from two other sources. One source is the current provider for the City of Hastings and their cost is lower than ours with better coverage. ○ Will try to have a quote next week for the budget meeting. • Budget workshop June 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM. • Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Budget for 2025/2026 to be held on June 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM. • Pond Ordinance: <p><u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to amend the Township of Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance to add ponds as a permitted use in Rural Agricultural Zoning District and with special exception uses in other zoning districts and to set forth standards for construction and maintenance of ponds in all zoning districts and to provide an effective date and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.</u> Discussion: This is to prevent creating a mining operation out of a pond. The township has never had a pond ordinance before now. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.</p> <p>Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Heethuis introduced Daniel Ramey, the newest fireman in our department. He just received his fire fighter diploma and was valedictorian of his class. • Swearing in of Fire Department Officers by Clerk Hopkins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skyler Henion as Lieutenant ○ Al Bouma as Captain ○ Doug Katsma as Deputy Fire Chief ○ Dan Miller as Fire Chief • A round of applause and thanks was given for all firefighters in attendance. | <p>RENEWAL OF INSURANCE POLICY</p> <p>BUDGET WORKSHOP</p> <p>PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET ADOPTION</p> <p>MOTION TO ADD POND ORDINANCE</p> <p>SWEARING IN OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS</p> |
| <p>PUBLIC COMMENT:</p> <p>Chris Marcukaitis (Orangeville Township resident): She is here as a representative of the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation. They are going to different townships to make presentations on the foundation. She would like to be on the agenda in August or September to share what the Foundation does and what can be offered to the residents. They are also considering a large pickleball tournament in the future as a fundraiser.</p> <p>Mike Cunningham (Yankee Springs resident): Has emailed all the board members</p> | <p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> |

providing his reasons for requesting that the township general fund balance be reduced by not imposing the admin fee or reducing the imposed millage because the township fund balance is about \$1 million higher than it needs to be. The township is taking more money from the residents than is needed and this should stop. He also requested that the township not put in the budget any funding for a trail or trail study. It is time to put that on a ballot to see if this is something the residents think should be done. It is also past time for the board to go back to having two public comment periods. The first public comment period should be prior to the treasurer's report and the second period after the board action items. This was a long-standing process for the township and there was no valid reason for it to go away. There was no board discussion and no vote and at the very least someone should explain why this was done.

Robin Laansma (Yankee Springs Township Precinct Delegate): Shared her appreciation and thanks for Deb and all the time she puts into the financial reports. What an exciting night for our firefighters, and she expressed that she is so thankful for all of them. She repeated some of her comments from the April board meeting and email sent to the board. By removing the first public comment, the board has removed the voice of the people. There isn't any opportunity for the public to comment on the agenda or anything else they might like to express before the meeting proceeds. Reinstating the first public comment and keeping the second is the right thing to do. This is very common in meetings such as this one. As mentioned before, she was unable to attend the May meeting and it would be great to be able to watch it online and also good to be able to go back and review meetings that were attended. All the other meetings they attend have a live stream and then the meeting is put up on a platform to be watched at a later date. She urges the board to take a look at this and appropriate the funds to do it.

Dave Laansma (Yankee Springs Township Precinct Delegate): Congratulated the newly sworn fire officers and provided a heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their willingness to serve and the high state of readiness they maintain.

BOARD COMMENT:

BOARD COMMENT

Hopkins: The firefighters do bleed red – and to remind everyone that June 30th is the day for the next blood drive. Everyone benefits from this. When I had a heart attack, they were the first ones to my house and five bypasses later, I'm still here. So I thank them for that. And you do get a donut if you donate blood so remind everyone that the date is the 30th.

Knowles: It was a nice meeting and nice to see.

Mousseau: Congratulations to the new officers and a thank you to Travis. We threw a lot at him at the last minute to put all the budget stuff together and that would be very difficult. He did a great job and we appreciate that. Taxes go out in early July.

VanHouten: I thought it was a really cool night. It took a long time and a lot of work for the firefighters to make the move and I'm really proud of all of them. It's working out really well and I appreciate what you do.

Heethuis: In all the board meetings that I've been part of for the last five years, having our own fire department and swearing you guys in, this is big. We're going forward and I'm proud of you all and glad to be part of it.

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ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
June 14, 2025

DRAFT