

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2026

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
October 8, 2026

Routing ^{10/15/26}

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

Absent with notice: Dave VanHouten

Staff Present: Dennis Buist, Sandy Marcukaitis, Dan Miller, Brad Williams, Jeff Trygier, John Frigmanski, Joe Shea

Visitors: 7

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

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

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

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of September 10, 2026 (with correction)
- Disbursements September 2026

IPA Twp. Renov. #51 Sept. 1, 2026 AUTO PAY	(5,689.47)
AP Checks of 9/1/26 #919231 for VETS Mem.	(135.00)
AP Checks of 9/9/26 #919232-246	(28,087.25)
Sept. FIRE payroll Chks. #8933-8954	(14,210.50)
Sept. FIRE State W/H 9/9/26	(722.30)
Sept. FIRE Fed. W/H	(3,363.10)
Sept. Gen. Payroll 9/30/26 Ck#s 8955-8976	(20,926.44)
Sept. General PR Fed withholding	(6,600.96)
Sept. Gen PR State WH	(1,155.11)
Sept. AP Checks # 919247-269	<u>(18,278.08)</u>
 Total Disbursements	 \$ (99,168.21)

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

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

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Fire Chief Dan Miller County Commissioner Marcia Bassett: provided an update on the Barry County activities.	DRAFT MINUTES Page 2 of 7 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting October 8, 2026
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): The Township Supervisor attended the PC special meeting on September 8 to give a presentation on the trail. This is the second time since the board passed a resolution prohibiting board members from attending or speaking at PC or ZBA meetings that a board member has attended a PC meeting. He didn't see this on the PC agenda or recorded in the PC minutes. He expressed concern about the trail project's cost, reliance on grants, long-term maintenance expenses, and the use of \$100,000 in township funds before residents have an opportunity to vote on the proposal. Robin Laansma, Precinct Delegate (Payne Lake Rd.): She states that for two years she and others have been asking for the board to implement a video system to record meetings. Urged the board to follow through on researching this type of system, noting that residents who cannot attend would benefit. She also opposed moving funds toward the proposed trail before obtaining public support. Joe Shea (11005 Bowens Mill Rd): He has lived in the township 31 years and this is the best group of people that have ever been on the Board of Trustees. The professionalism, the talent and dedication are second to none and he thanks the board for all they do. He clarified that the supervisor's presentation to the Planning Commission occurred before the meeting was called to order and was not part of the official meeting. Liam Curtis (2762 Patterson Rd): He and his family frequently use the township park. He proposed adding an all-ages, all-skill-level dirt-jump track at the township park, offering to cover the costs and provide the labor.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT
TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer - September 2026 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed. - Funds have been moved into the Michigan Class investment product at an interest rate of 4.48%. <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Hopkins to accept the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call Vote:</u> <i>Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes.</i> Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	TREASURER'S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT
CLERK'S REPORT <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve the current accounts payable Checks #919270 through #919290 for \$21,801.71. Roll Call Vote:</u> <i>Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.</i> Yes: 4 No: 0. MOTION CARRIED <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve the current Fire payroll Checks #8977-</u>	CLERK'S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE CURRENT PAYABLES MOTION TO APPROVE FIRE PAYROLL

#8994 for \$10368.16. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes.

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

- Working on the signs for the cemetery. One vendor came in under budget and he would like to investigate further before making a recommendation.
- Also working with a vendor at the park for repairing cracks in the old basketball court. He is looking for another estimate and would like to have the work done next spring.

GLASA REPORT

- The GLASA Board has signed a contract with Tara Palandri to take over as director and she is taking over now. Larry Knowles will stay on until the end of December.
- A new secretary has also been hired.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission:

- PCI Report
- PC asking if the Board would like the PC to work on a moratorium on data centers.
- Reviewed a business plan for the miniature golf for a storage building. This was referred to the ZBA for a possible variance. The issue was tabled until the November meeting.
- Next regular meeting October 15, 2026.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Next meeting will be October 13, 2026.

Fire/EMS Report:

- Review of September Fire/Emergency Medical responses.
 - 21 fire responses last month, YTD is 211 compared to 109 last year. The large increase is due to calls for lift assists and to the storms in June and July.
 - 21 medical responses in September, YTD is 247 compared to 215 last year.
 - The duty shift responded to 7 medical calls and 4 fire responses. The remainder were responded to by off duty personnel.
 - There are currently 21 personnel: 15 certified firefighters, 2 probationary firefighters who will start at the academy in January 2027. Medical personnel include 6 EMRs, 5 EMTs, and 4 paramedics.
 - Training was mayday, search and rescue.
 - Held the annual fire prevention open house on October 5 and had a good turnout.
 - This Saturday they will be at the Annual Fall Fest at the state park campground.
 - They also were present at the Gun Lake Fall Fest at the car park. They do these events at no charge for good community relations.

Park Committee:

- Finishing up their annual budget.
- They are looking into the cracks at the pickle ball court and having the attorney look into different options regarding that.
- Levi does a great job taking care of the park.

Recycling Committee:

- No meeting.

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GLASA REPORT

PC REPORT

ZBA REPORT

FIRE/EMS REPORT

PARK COMMITTEE REPORT

RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT

Veterans Committee: - No report. Clean Water Committee: - Yankee Springs Water System paid GLASA \$5,454 for labor for the water system. - The Peerless project is going well. They are currently testing the aquifer so they should have the results within the next 3 weeks. That information will be sent to EGLE and then will wait for the approval. This could take 6 months. - Once approval is received, Peerless will come back out and disconnect current Well #2 and switch over to the new well, then revamp the old Well #1 to deliver 400 gallons versus the 200 gallons it is doing now. GLIB Report (given by Marcia Bassett): - PLM did a full aquatic vegetation assessment and it shows strong overall lake health and high native plant diversity. - Control of Eurasian milfoil and some of the invasive species is markedly improved this year. - Approved some treatments for certain areas of the lake. - They are discussing changing how GLIB accounts for their money. Right now it is through the county and they are considering if it should be established as a separate entity. No decision has been made yet. - Bill Bryker is going to make a report at the October meeting on some research he has been doing regarding PFAS.	DRAFT MINUTES Page 4 of 7 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting October 8, 2026 VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT CLEAN WATER COMMITTEE REPORT GLIB REPORT
Board Action Items: - Land Division on vacant parcel on M-179 Highway - Zoning Administrator received request from property owner Dennis Stiffler to divide the parcel west of Chief Noonday Car Park. The property currently has split zoning: The north portion is zoned C3 Commercial and the remaining southern part of the parcel is zoned Rural Agricultural. - The proposed split would be the same location as the line that currently divides the C3 part from the RA part of the property. - This request has been approved by the township assessor, Dan Scheurman, and he has assigned parcel ID numbers as follows: - Parcel ID 16-020-013-001 will be retired - Parcel ID 16-020-013-002 assigned to North property - Parcel ID 16-020-013-003 assigned to South property <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau that we approve the land split in accordance with what is written. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes.</u> Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED - Special Assessment Split (Cobb Lake weed and Evans Lane assessments) - Request made by Rob Heethuis, Supervisor, and Dan Scheuermann, Assessor, regarding the Special Assessment for Cobb Lake Weed Control located in Section 7-T3N-R10W and Section 18-T3N-T10 W that the remaining portion of the assessment originally assigned to parent Parcel 08-16-060-021-00 be equally divided between the children Parcels 08-16-060-062-00, 08-16-060-063-00 and 08-16-060-064-00.	MOTION TO APPROVE LAND DIVISION ON M179 VACANT PARCEL

<u>Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau that we approve the proposed amendment to Cobb Lake Weed Control Special Assessment district as described by the township supervisor.</u> Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes. Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED ○ Request made by Rob Heethuis, Supervisor, and Dan Scheuermann, Assessor, regarding the Special Assessment for the paving of Evans Lane located in the northeast ¼ section of Section 18-T3N-R10W that the remaining portion of the assessment originally assigned to parent Parcel 08-16-060-021-00 be equally divided between the children Parcels 08-16-060-062-00, 08-16-060-063-00 and 08-16-060-064-00. <u>Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles that we approve the proposed amendment to Evans Lane paving Special Assessment district as described by our supervisor and assessor.</u> Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes. Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED ● Discussion on data centers: Based on discussions involving Larry Knowles and Joe Shea the township is ready to make a motion on it. <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to place a non-zoning police power moratorium on data centers for one year.</u> Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes. Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED ● Presentation of certificates to members of the Master Planning Group. ○ New members invited up to receive their Certificates for becoming Master Citizen Planners. ○ Congratulations to all the members, particularly to Rob Heethuis for showing leadership. ○ Presented to: John Frigmanski, John Trygier, Brad Williams, and Rob Heethuis. Also Nikki Smith (not present). ○ Part of the certification required the members to make a presentation which they each did to the Planning Commission: ▪ John Trygier's presentation was to lower the speed limit on the M-179 business corridor. ▪ John Frigmanski's presentation was regarding needed emergency services needed in the township. ▪ Brad Williams talked about better lighting on the M-179 corridor. ▪ Nikki Smith said that the township needs a trail through the business corridor. This has been looked at by a previous board and had an engineer put together a proposal. ▪ The presentation regarding the M179 trail has brought this up to the Board for discussion. ● There was \$100,000 set aside by the previous board as "seed money" not to actually build the trail. ● This will require permits, studies, etc. to get the project started.	DRAFT MINUTES Page 5 of 7 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting October 8, 2026 MOTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO COBB LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT MOTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO EVANS LANE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT MOTION TO PLACE A MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTERS FOR ONE YEAR PRESENTATION OF MASTER PLANNER CERTIFICATES
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Motion by Heethuis with support from Hopkins to replace the \$100,000 originally assigned as investigative monies for the future trails back to the trail budget.

Discussion: Mrs. Mousseau stated that she heard it should be brought to a ballot vote and she agrees with that. If the motion was contingent on having it on the ballot at the next township election, then she would be for it. Supervisor Heethuis expressed concerned about the delay that this would cause, since in the time that it takes the Board changes, ideas change, and right now the DNR is excited about the project and giving the 10' easement and possibly more. The first phase is developing the trail from McDonalds to the state park. He has already met with a committee and the opinions are that if you don't do it now it's not going to be accomplished. There has to be something done to show the public in order to ask for a millage for maintenance. With the seed money an engineer can be brought in. Middleville just finished something similar with no money from the people except for the \$100,000 seed money and they had money left over from that which they set aside for maintenance. Mr. Hopkins states that there needs to be plan to show the people. We should move forward but let people know that a referendum is coming for a possible maintenance millage. Voting on this means we will be going forward with the trail. Mr. Knowles states that after talking with many people he is in favor of moving forward. **Roll Call Vote:** Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: no; Heethuis: yes.

Yes: 3, No: 1. **MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): Continued to question the trail project, arguing that residents should vote on whether they want the trail before money is spent developing it. He also raised concerns about the Planning Commission meeting records and possible Open Meetings Act compliance.

Robin Laansma (precinct delegate): Thanked Ms. Mousseau for voting no. She questioned whether the trail should be a township responsibility and stressed that any proposal should clearly explain how construction and ongoing maintenance would be funded. Businesses take their own risk when they come into the township. We are not here to support the businesses; we are here to support the citizens of Yankee Springs.

Joe Shea (Bowens Mill Rd.): Clarified that the board's resolution regarding attendance at Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings was intended to prevent undue influence when specific cases are under consideration, not to prohibit attendance at meetings where no such case is pending. Board members probably should attend meetings where there's no case pending in order to be better informed on what's going on amongst the boards and what's going on in the township. Attendance where there's no case pending is not a violation of this resolution or any other state law.

Sandy Marcukaitis (chair of the park committee): Inquired if Mr. Curtis was the one who sent the email about dirt jumps at the park and thanked him for sending it. The 5-year Plan that was developed by the park committee in 2017 mentioned the trails project with the township park serving as a trail head. Asked residents to consider donating land for a pocket park that could accommodate activities such as dirt jumps or a dog park. She also said she would work with Fire Chief Dan Miller to explore establishing designated warming and cooling centers for residents during extreme weather.

John Trygier (Barlow Lake): He has been a property owner and resident for 34 years. He praised the fire department for assisting a resident in need and encouraged neighbors to check on one another, especially as winter approaches. Regarding the trail proposal, he supported developing a detailed plan and cost estimate before asking voters to decide. The next available vote is May 4,

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**MOTION TO REPLACE
\$100,000 BACK TO
THE TRAIL BUDGET**

PUBLIC COMMENT

2027. The upfront planning needs to be done to get that to a vote.

Betsy Frigmanski (Park Drive): Expressed concern about spending \$100,000 on preliminary trail work without knowing whether the project would receive public support or sufficient grant funding.

BOARD COMMENT:

Hopkins: Hope Dave feels better. Thanks to the board for all the input. Difficult decisions made tonight and appreciate the input.

Knowles: I heard Dave is pretty sick so wish him well.

Mousseau: I have a message from Dave: The Veterans Day ceremony will be on Saturday, November 7, at 11 AM. Cookies, hot dogs, and fries have been confirmed. That's a little early for Veterans Day but it is on a Saturday. We have an audit coming up with Siegfried Crandall, annual audit on Thursday, October 22. Thanks to Tom, he's very busy getting things ready for the election. That's a lot of work, and the ladies in the office are very busy as well. Thank you very much.

Heethuis: One point I didn't talk about when we talked about the potential of the trails going forward, when I talked to Roger about the \$100,000 and asked how that came about, he said it wasn't just tax money, for the most part. The business group gave us \$20,000 and the tribe put in some too. He didn't remember the exact percentage but he said it wasn't just all for the board, it was for the idea. I appreciate everyone here tonight and looking forward to getting started on a new project. Thank you all very much.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
October 12, 2026

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BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT