

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 2026
11:00 AM
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333
MINUTES**

MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Special Meeting
April 2, 2026

Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

Absent with Notice: Deb Mousseau

Staff Present: John Trygier

Visitors: 1

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call
Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (township resident): The Board discussed a policy at the last meeting regarding a FOIA appeal. He said they did not adopt this policy formally so he's not sure if it is in place. He feels this policy is very restrictive and that the appeal should be handled just like an appeal before the ZBA. He also expressed that it could be an improper abstention by the board member not being present. The appeal should be added to the agenda and fully discussed at a regular meeting that is transparent and more likely to be attended by the public.

FOIA APPEAL #1:

- Supervisor Heethuis reviewed the details of the appeal that was made by township resident, Mike Cunningham.
- Mr. Cunningham presented his appeal and his reasoning for requesting the information in the CSV format rather than the PDF format that was provided.
 - He believes that the township policy is to provide the information in the format

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

FOIA APPEAL #1

requested if they have the ability to do so. During his time as clerk, he was responsible for doing this and states that the Township does have the technology to provide the format requested. He waited several days for a response to his request before filing an appeal. He sees no reason for the Township not complying with the request.

- Township Clerk, Tom Hopkins, states that he did receive the request and provided the documents. Mr. Cunningham is correct that there were two different formats.
 - The data is the same regardless of the format and he provided the same format to Mr. Cunningham that is given to the Board members.
 - Mr. Hopkins states that he consulted the township attorney and the attorney states that it is not necessary for the clerk to change the format from what is provided to the Board. Mr. Hopkins feels that it is important for the FOIA requestor to receive the same information as the Board is given.

- Board discussion took place.
 - Trustee VanHouten stated that he researched and discovered that there are programs which allow a PDF file to be converted to CSV so he didn't believe it was a problem for the appellant to do what he wished with the data provided.
 - Supervisor Heethuis reviewed the conversation held with the township attorney on this matter. He states that the attorney considers the appeal to be a nuisance and that the township should not approve it.

**MOTION TO DENY
THE APPEAL**

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to deny the appeal. Roll Call Vote:
vanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Cunningham (township resident): He stated that the 3-minute time limit is a denial of due process. He could have answered questions if asked and expressed that the Board does not understand the difference between PDF files and CSV formatted files. He didn't ask the Township to convert a PDF file to a CSV file. He talked about how the BS&A program works and that the township does have the technology to provide what he has requested.

ADJOURNMENT:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 AM. Approved
by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date 5-20-26
Tom Hopkins, Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
April 2, 2026