

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2026
6:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

DRAFT MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES

Page 1 of 7
YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2026

Routing 6/18/26

Email

Web

Binder

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Moment of Silence in recognition of the passing of Mr. Chuck Biggs

Roll Call: Deb Mousseau, Dave VanHouten, Rob Heethuis, Larry Knowles (All Present)
Absent with Notice: Tom Hopkins

Staff Present: Dan Miller, Dennis Buist, Frank Fiala

Visitors: 7

ROLL CALL

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to add a discussion and possible vote to add a new person to the Water Advisory Board to fill a vacancy. Roll Call Vote:
VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

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

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of May 14, 2026 BOT meeting
- DISBURSEMENTS May 2026

IPA Twp. Renov. #47 May 1, 2026 AUTO PAY	\$	(5,689.47)
AP Checks of 5/14/26: 919043-919067	\$	(62,056.37)
AP Checks of 5/28/26: 919068-919089	\$	(127,392.11)
May FIRE payroll Chks. #8716-8734	\$	(13,231.78)
May Fire State W/H	\$	(665.00)
May FIRE Fed. W/H	\$	(2,946.86)
May Gen. Payroll 5/31/26 Ck#s 8735-8757	\$	(17,982.47)
May General PR Fed withholding	\$	(5,812.68) *
May Gen PR State WH	\$	(1,010.77) *
Total Disbursements	\$	(236,787.51)

**will be processed in June*

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Fire Chief Dan Miller

County Commissioner Marcia Bassett provided an update on the Barry County activities.

GLIB Report: Their newsletter was approved in May along with algae treatment in specified areas of the lake. Water willow treatment was also approved. The board also discussed the management of the money that is held by GLIB and decided to continue with the current investment policies for the time being.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): Expressed his opinion that the Board should vote to rescind the 1% administration fee that is collected on property taxes. He feels that the township has a large enough fund balance and should control spending rather than taking more money from citizens. He has gathered petition signatures to remove the fee.

Robin Laansma (Payne Lake Rd., Precinct Delegate): She commented on the Board allowing a presentation at the last meeting during the acknowledgement of visitors' time rather than public comment. The primary role of the township board is to set policies, approve the annual budget, manage public funds and oversee public services. It is not a partisan board but a partisan group was invited to share their views on a political hot topic. This is not in keeping with the role of the board. It is her opinion that the presentation was biased and not in keeping with the constitutional rights of gun owners. In the past John Lake spoke at a meeting regarding 2nd amendment rights and he (and others) only spoke during public comment. The Board was unwilling to take a stand on that matter and she feels it was not within the township board's duties to allow this presentation.

Pat Jamison (Bowens Mills Rd.): He thinks Mike Cunningham's comments about the township saving money are reasonable. The response time for police call out here can take a while and the Board should watch what they are doing with the gun issues. They didn't support the 2nd amendment. He thinks the fire department does a great job.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- May 2026 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed.
- When current interest rates on investments drop below the rate being charged on the IPA (renovation) loan, that loan will be paid off.

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Page 2 of 7
YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2026

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
VISITORS**

GLIB REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
TREASURER'S REPORT**

<p>Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$150,000 budgeted for the water department was not spent so that dropped expenditures significantly. <p><u>Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to adopt Budget Amendment #2 of the General Fund Budget Resolution # 6-11-2026 "1" to amend Yankee Springs Township General Fund-101 Revenue to decrease the REVENUE amount to \$1,684,254. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes.</u></p>	<p>DRAFT MINUTES Page 3 of 7 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting June 11, 2026</p> <p>BUDGET AMENDMENTS GENERAL FUND</p>
<p>Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <p><u>Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Budget Amendment #2 of the General Fund Budget Resolution # 6-11-2026 "2" to amend Yankee Springs Township General Fund-101 Expenditures to decrease the EXPENDITURE amount to \$1,684,254. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.</u></p>	<p>GENERAL FUND</p>
<p>Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rest of the motions are for the fire equipment purchase fund, the liquor law enforcement fund, the weeds fund, and the veterans' memorial fund. On the liquor enforcement resolution, the revenue amount is less than the expenditures but it was confirmed with the auditor that this is allowable. <p><u>Motion by Mousseau with support from Heethuis to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Fire Equipment Purchase Fund 211 – Resolution #6-11-2026 "3" to amend Yankee Springs Township Fire Equipment Purchase Fund 211-Revenue to \$82,930 and Expenditures to \$7,380. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.</u></p>	<p>FIRE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FUND</p>
<p>Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <p><u>Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Liquor Law Enforcement 212 Resolution #6-11-2026 "4" to amend Yankee Springs Township Liquor License Fund- 212- Revenue to \$2,220 and Expenditures to \$3,010. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.</u></p>	<p>LIQUOR LICENSE FUND</p>
<p>Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <p><u>Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Special Assessment Weeds Fund 213 Resolution #6-11-2026 "5" to amend Yankee Springs Township Special Assessment Weeds Fund 213 Revenue to \$41,300 and Expenditures to \$30,450. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes.</u></p>	<p>SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WEEDS FUND</p>
<p>Yes: 4, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED</p> <p><u>Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Budget Amendment #1 of the Veteran's Memorial Fund-293 Resolution #6-11-2026 "6" to amend Yankee Springs Township Veteran's Memorial Fund 293 Revenue to \$3,827 and Expenditures to \$3,180. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.</u></p>	<p>VETERAN'S MEMORIAL FUND</p>

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

CLERK'S REPORT

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to approve the current accounts payables Check #9090 to 9110 for \$31,866.67. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to approve the fire payroll Checks #8758 through #8777 for \$13,253.56. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission:

- PCI Report
- First special meeting was held on Tuesday to work on the Master Plan. There are six meetings scheduled.
- Next regular meeting June 18, 2026.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- No May meeting

Fire/EMS Report:

- Review of May 2026 Fire/Emergency Medical responses.
 - 21 Fire responses plus 8 lift assists for a total of 29. There has been a total of 93 dispatches from January 1st through May 31st compared to 95 last year.
 - There were 30 medical dispatches in May. Totals through May 31 this year is 125, last year's were 120.
 - Personnel same at 21, including 15 certified firefighters, 3 probationary fire fighters that will be going to the academy in January and one graduating next month, 6 EMRs, 4 paramedics and 5 EMTs.
 - Training this month was vehicle extrication. The second training was cancelled due to storm calls that night.
 - Assisted with the Veterans' Memorial celebration.
 - Last night was a busy night. The department will submit cost recovery invoices for time over one hour to Consumers Energy.
 - ISO was completed today and report will be back in two weeks. There weren't any big changes so the rating should stay the same.
 - Annual Fire Department breakfast will be July 4 from 7 AM to 10 AM.
 - There were two accidents in May that will be billed to insurance companies for cost recovery.

Park Committee:

- Things seem to be going well and people are very happy with how it looks.

DRAFT MINUTES

Page 4 of 7
YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2026

CLERK'S REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CURRENT PAYABLES**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
FIRE PAYROLL**

PC REPORT

ZBA REPORT

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Recycling Committee:

- No meeting.

Veterans Committee:

- Memorial Day celebration went very well.
- Silent auction was held and raised \$830.
- To finish the Phase III, 130 bricks were purchased yesterday and they were installed today.
- Pads for two benches are installed so let the committee know if anyone wants to donate a bench.
- DK Landscaping did a really great job before the ceremony to really make it look nice and that was much appreciated.
- Looking into purchasing a sound system that could be used for the Veterans Memorial ceremonies and for other township events.

Clean Water Committee

- The Water Advisory board met last night and are making the following recommendations to this board:
 - One: That this board approves the 4-year contract with GLASA. The contract is planned to come due in the midterm of the existing board.
 - Two: Also recommending approval of the proposed budget.
 - Appointment of Rhonda White to fill the vacancy on the board.

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to appoint Rhonda White to the Water Advisory Board to fill the current vacancy. Discussion: She is a local resident on the water system, replacing Rich Beukema. **Roll Call Vote:** Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

Board Action Items:

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to approve public meeting for 2026 Elmwood Beach assessment for July 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM. **Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve zoning changes from Rural Residential (RR) to Rural Lake Front (RLF) for the following property IDs: 16-008-006-00, 16-008-006-01, 16-008-006-02, 16-008-006-03, 16-008-029-00 and 16-008-029-10.

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

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

- Budget Workshop: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to approve Public Hearing for Final Adoption of Budget for 2026/2027 to be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2025 (date change). **Roll Call Vote:** Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Page 5 of 7
YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2026

RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

MOTION TO APPOINT RHONDA WHITE TO THE WATER ADVISORY BOARD

MOTION TO APPROVE PUBLIC MEETING FOR ELMWOOD BEACH ASSESSMENT

MOTION TO APPROVE ZONING CHANGES FROM RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO RURAL LAKE FRONT

MOTION TO APPROVE PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION FOR 2026/2027

- Discussion and possible adoption of new zoning fees:
 - The zoning fees charged by our township are substantially lower than neighboring areas.
 - Zoning Administrator Joe Shea has recommended a schedule of increased fees based on the costs incurred by the township.
 - It seems reasonable for the person requesting the variance to be charged enough to cover costs rather than relying on taxpayer dollars.

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

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

- Approve the Resolution of rules for waste water collection. The GLASWA board has approved them but the attorney recommends each township approve as well.

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis that we approve Resolution #6-11-2026 "7" and approve the new rules and regulations. Roll Call Vote: *Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.*

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

- Renew Water Services contract with GLASWA for four years. The contract is based on time and material. The only changes that are made are the dollar amounts to reflect what is paid to employees.

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to approve the proposed four-year contract with Gun Lake Area Sewer Authority – Resolution #6-11-2026 "8". Discussion: Supervisor Heethuis brought up the amount that is paid for taking care of the hydrants and the GLASA management of the water system. Going forward GLASWA will provide a monthly readout to the township of what was taken in, what was spent, and how much is going into the fund. **Roll Call Vote:** *Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.*

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): Spoke again about the Board not rescinding the administration fee; he feels that this is the government "taking money" from the citizens that is not necessary. He believes along with most conservatives and Republicans that the best government is small government. The Board should budget only for what the township is required to do: assess property, collect taxes, and conduct elections. If the Board thinks that something else is needed by all residents the issue should be put on the ballot to let the voters choose.

Robin Lansma (Payne Lake Rd., Precinct Delegate): Thanked Deb for her thorough and careful handling of the money and her attention to detail. When working on the budget, she would like the Board to look into equipment to video the meetings so that people can watch at another time if they are unable to be at the meeting. Also asked for a time for the budget meeting. The Planning Commission did a great job on the mining ordinance so she expects they will also do a great job on the master plan.

DRAFT MINUTES

Page 6 of 7
 YS Board of Trustees
 Regular Meeting
 June 11, 2026

APPROVE INCREASE IN ZONING FEES

ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING RULES FOR WASTE WATER COLLECTION

APPROVE PROPOSED FOUR-YEAR CONTACT WITH GUN LAKE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcia Bassett (North Crooked Lake Rd., Delton): Gave an update about the “Revitalizing Delton” project and the funds they are raising for a pocket park. It is a crowd funding effort with a matching grant. There are also free concerts in Delton on every other Thursday at 7:00 PM during the summer.

Pat Jamison (Bowens Mill Rd): He mentioned that the podium needs replacing and he has wood that could be used to build a new one. He supports taxes paying for three things: Fire and EMS, taking care of the roads, and clean water. He asked to speak with Trustee Knowles about the water situation at the Yankee Springs Meadows. He loves Yankee Springs.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: The meeting on June 24 is at 6:00 PM. The workshop is this Tuesday at 3:00 PM. Also, Joe Shea’s mom passed away this morning.

VanHouten: He spoke about remembering Chuck Biggs at the Bait Shop when he was a kid, and also Chuck showing his grandkids where to find worms and stuff for fishing. He likes what Delton is doing to support the community. That’s a good thing.

Knowles: Because of Chuck Biggs, he learned to balance a check book after writing him a bad check and being straightened out about that. He really appreciates all the feedback and public comment.

Heethuis: We will all miss Chuck – he gave so much to Yankee Springs and was a great guy. Hope everyone stays safe tonight with another round of storms. The budget meeting will be next week Tuesday at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.
Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
June 15, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES
Page 7 of 7
YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2026

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT