

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting – 2026/2027 Budget Workshop Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
3:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333
DRAFT MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Special Meeting
June 16, 2026

Routing 7/2/26

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Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

Staff Present: 0

Visitors: 1

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (township resident): He states that he has provided a lot of good reasons why the admin fee should be rescinded for the next year. He disagrees with the reasons that have been given for not doing so. The balance does not need to be more than \$1 million compared to its current \$3 million. Water system budget will also be discussed today. No township funds should be used to support the water system other than for water usage. He thinks the formula for the hydrant rental should be changed to fire hydrant usage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Action Items:

- Review of water system budget
 - Board discussion took place regarding the revenue and expenses included in the budget. The Peerless water project including the new well is included in this budget.
 - The water budget is ready to be approved at the public meeting.
- Review and Discussion on proposed draft Rainbow Budget of 2026/2027
- Revenue:
 - A reimbursement for election workers would increase the revenue but the amount has not been determined.
 - Zoning fees reflect the newly increased amounts.

WATER BUDGET
REVIEW

REVIEW RAINBOW
BUDGET FOR
2026/2027

- Another special assessment that may be upcoming in September could add approximately \$50,000.
- State revenue sharing is decreasing.
- Expenditures:
 - New proposed wages are based on COLA 2.8%.
 - Cemetery: Discussion took place on the possibility of improving entrances to the cemeteries. That would fall under capital improvement rather than the cemetery budget.
 - Clerk Hopkins suggested he look at three different options for the entrances and bring them to the board for a decision.
 - At this time the board would like to include an amount of \$15,000 in the budget to start this project next year.
 - Fire Operations Millage amount/budget
 - The total amount budgeted is \$335,950 which is more than the millage revenue of \$315,000.
 - The Board discussed the charge for hydrant rental (for fire protection of the entire township) and decided to keep it the same as in the past.
 - The special assessments amount has been increased to reflect the road commission decision on road maintenance.
 - The Board may decide to put a cap on the amount of special assessments.
 - The budget includes \$150,000 for the water system. This was included in last year's budget but was not spent. It is set aside for the possibility of supplementing the water system if needed.
 - Park budget is much lower since the court project has been completed.
 - Discussion on how much should be budgeted for future equipment purchases for the Fire Department and it was decided to include \$75,000 in the budget.
 - Veterans Memorial budget: the major expense is purchasing a sound system. This expense could be split with the general budget for other uses in the township.
 - Liquor license fund: it is unsure what the revenue is in advance.
- Treasurer Mousseau will revise the budget to reflect changes discussed today to ready it for the public meeting next week.

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to accept the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget as presented, and as amended by the Board at this meeting for adoption at the 06/24/2026 budget public hearing. The treasurer will incorporate the approved amendments into the budget for posting, and for the 06/24/2026 public hearing. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (township resident): A public meeting is more than having the doors opened. The board is not using the microphones and should be making sure that anyone in the audience can hear. He found it hard to hear a lot of the discussion. There is still \$150,000 of tax payer money available for the use of the water system and that is wrong. It should not be paid for by people who don't use the system. A revolving credit is something that should be looked into for special assessments as that would mean the township wouldn't need a large fund balance. Regarding the sound system: The township should buy one and it can be used by the Veterans Memorial, the clean up day, or any other general township use.

MOTION TO
ACCEPT BUDGET
FOR ADOPTION AT
THE 06/24/2026
PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT:

Knowles: As happy as I can be.

Hopkins: Thanks, Deb, for a ton of work.

VanHouten: It gets clearer every year and I appreciate all Deb's work.

Mousseau: Thanks to everyone for being here. It is a lot of work and I'm not sure how it will be handled down the road.

Heethuis: Deb did a great job. And now we need a motion to adjourn.

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Hopkins with to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 PM Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by: _____ Date _____
Tom Hopkins, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
June 18, 2026

