

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026
6:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

DRAFT MINUTES

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YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
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Routing 5/21/26

Email

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Binder

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: Dennis Buist, Frank Fiala, John Trygier, Sandy Marcukaitis, Dan Miller

Visitors: 6

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to add an agenda item conditional on passing the road repair work to approve a check for the work.

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 accept 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 of April 9, 2026 Board meeting and April 2, 2026 Special Meeting
- DISBURSEMENTS April 2026

IPA Twp. Renov. #46- April 1, 2026 AUTO PAY	\$(5,689.47)
AP Checks of 4/9/26: 919006-919022	\$ (23,445.71)
AP Checks of 4/28/26: 919023-919042	\$(11,141.98)
April FIRE payroll Chks. #8674-8693	\$(15,760.39)
April Fire State W/H	\$(798.60)
April FIRE Fed. W/H	\$ (3,669.38)
April Gen. Payroll 4/1/26 Ck#s 8694-8715	\$(19,515.31)
Mar. Payroll FEDERAL withholding 3.31.26	\$(6,233.13)
Gen.	
March State W/H Gen. payroll	\$(1,112.34)
April General PR Fed withholding	\$(6,177.80)
April Gen PR State WH	<u>\$(1,084.61)</u>
Total Disbursements	\$(94,628.72)

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Heethuis with support from Hopkins 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 Commissioner Catherine Getty provided an update on the Barry County activities. Highlights include the following: approved an MDOT application for relocation of a drive, equalized values for the county, updates to audio & visual, and they did away with the COA (Commission on Aging). The Household hazardous waste collection was held on May 2nd. Annual reports were given by the Drain Commissioner, the new Zoning Administrator, and Eric Thompson with PCI. The Commissioners tabled a significant fee increase from PCI.

Nancy Whitley: Nancy is with the Wayland Community for Gun Safety group. Their goal is to get guns out of the hands of kids. They have reached out to local police and the local public schools. The group provides free gun locks and handed them out to attendees. They also have free bumper stickers and yard signs. She invited Yankee Springs Township Board members to attend their quarterly meetings. They were initially funded with a grant and are looking for new funding.

Mr. Heethuis thanked Nancy for her presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): Tonight's agenda contains a proposal for cost recovery for the fire department. Mike disagrees with these fees and has emailed the Board members. He feels the township residents pay for this service through the millage. The discussion and information from the board has been limited. He is unsure how these fees will be used. He is asking why this is needed? He doesn't feel that lift assists should be handled by the emergency services. He hopes for a good discussion tonight and that any resolution will properly describe all relevant information.

Robin Laansma (Payne Lake Rd): Robin feels we need to stay out of all of this 'gun stuff'. Robin does not feel that is a township role. She feels it is a personal agenda and the township needs to stay out of it.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- April 2026 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed.

Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to accept 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**

CLERK'S REPORT:

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
TREASURER'S REPORT**

CLERK'S REPORT

Motion by Hopkins with support from Knowles to approve the current accounts payable for \$48,429.37 and check #919067 from Veteran fund for \$27.00.

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

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

Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau to approve the fire payroll Check for \$13,231.78.

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

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

Special Assessment: The Payne Ridge Rd project should be complete by the end of the week. Mr. Hopkins suggested adding an agenda item at the upcoming Budget Meeting to discuss special assessments and possibly set limits as there will be opportunities for new projects coming up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission:

- Meeting April 16, 2026:
 - Approved a site plan review at Sharp Park Campground
 - Denied a zoning change on Edwin Drive
 - Approved Bylaws
 - Asking for six additional meetings
- Next regular meeting May 21, 2026.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- No April meeting.

Fire/EMS Report:

- 10 fire alarms. 32 lift assists. 3 structure fires. 1 property damage accident, 2 personal injury crashes.
- Current personnel are 21, including 15 certified firefighters, 3 probationary firefighters, 6 EMRs, 4 paramedics, and 5 EMTs.
- Total fire dispatches from Jan - April is 51.
- There were 18 medical calls in April (95 for the year).
- Training included helicopter landing training.
- It is dry outside, they attended a big woods fire in Orangeville today.

Park Committee:

- Mr. Heethuis reports that there are a lot of good things going on at the park. Summer's coming.

Recycling Committee:

- No meeting.

Veterans Committee:

- Mr. VanHouten reports that Phase III and the concrete work is complete. Someone stole about 100 bricks so they will be a little short for their needs.

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**MOTION TO APPROVE
CURRENT PAYABLES**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
FIRE PAYROLL**

PC REPORT

ZBA REPORT

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

**RECYCLING
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**VETERANS COMMITTEE
REPORT**

- The Memorial Day Ceremony will be Sunday, May 24, at 4:00 pm. Items for the Silent Auction are currently on display at the township hall. These will be on display at the Fire Station where bids can be made. The Gun Lake Tribe will be represented at the ceremony.

Clean Water Committee

- Mr. Knowles reports that the Water Advisory group will have their first meeting the first part of June. He met with Peerless and EGLE to get advice for the location of the new well. Progress is being made.

Gun Lake Improvement Board Committee

- No report.

Board Action Items:

- Approve Zoning Board denial.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve the Zoning Board Denial of ZOC 26-03-01 on Edwin Drive.

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

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

- Approve Insurance quote.

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve the Insurance quote for Yankee Springs Township from Geoffrey Lanski, Ted Hartleb Agency, EMC Insurance Companies.

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

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

- Approve Planning Commission request for additional six meetings.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve the Planning Commission request for six additional meetings.

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

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

- Approve vendor selection for parking lot repair at the township hall and the fire station. A-1 Asphalt best meets our needs and appears to be the best provider for our parking lot repair. That is Tom Hopkins' recommendation.

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve A-1 Asphalt as the vendor selection for parking lot repair.

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

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

- Proposal for cost recovery for the fire department. There is no charge to Yankee Springs residents.

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**WATER COMMITTEE
REPORT**

**APPROVED ZONING
BOARD DENIAL**

**APPROVED INSURANCE
QUOTE**

**APPROVED PLANNING
COMMISSION REQUEST
FOR ADDITIONAL
MEETINGS.**

**APPROVED VENDOR
SELECTION FOR
PARKING LOT REPAIR**

Motion by Heethuis with support from Hopkins to expand Ordinance #02-13-2025 of the Yankee Springs Township Code of Ordinance which is hereby amended to add a new section 20 as follows: When the Township is required to expand services above the normal services including but not limited to extended utility repair or collisions requiring rollover equipment or extractions or traffic diversions for long lengths of time the Township will bill the responsible agency or insurance company for cost recovery.

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

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

- Newsletter mailing.
- The upcoming meeting schedule for 26/27 Budget:
Workshop: Tuesday, June 16th, 3:00 pm.
Public Hearing and Budget Approval Meeting Tuesday, June 23, at 6:00 pm.
- Request for approval of a PSD Land Split (26-05-02) on parcel 16-004-008-00 as presented. Joe Shea approved this and recommended it to the Board.

Motion by Knowles with support from VanHouten to approve PSD 26-05-02 Land Division as presented.

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

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

- Approval of a check for A-1 Asphalt for required deadline of paving of parking lots.

Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve the check #919043 for \$13,600.00 to A-1 Asphalt for paving the parking lots.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): Mike is requesting the Township Board rescind the 1% admin fee. He is opposed to this admin fee and feels the general fund balance is higher than what it needs to be. Reducing tax bills in the township would be welcomed.

Sandy Marcukaitis (Payne Lake Rd): Sandy is a member of the VFW in Wayland. This is poppy month. Sandy is asking permission to collect donations at the Memorial Day Celebration and pass out poppies. This is a community event, not a personal agenda.

Motion by Hopkins with support from Heethuis to approve the collection of donations for the Wayland VFW for poppies at the Memorial Day Community Event.

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

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

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**APPROVED COST
RECOVERY FOR THE
FIRE DEPT.**

**APPROVED PSD
26-05-02**

**APPROVED CHECK FOR
PAVING**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**APPROVED
COLLECTION OF
DONATIONS FOR
POPPIES**

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Thank you to Dave VanHouten for all he's done for the Veterans' Memorial and auction. The items will be here at the township and can be bid on, but the main bidding is Sunday starting at 3:00 pm. Thank you to everyone who has donated.

VanHouten: Clean Up Day was a lot of fun. There was good participation. He is looking forward to the ceremony on the 24th.

Hopkins: Mr. Hopkins complimented Deb Mousseau for the interest earned on our accounts. He also complimented Chief Dan Miller and the fire staff for their first year of good work.

Knowles: Thank you to all who participated in the Clean Up Day.

Heethuis: Looking forward to the Memorial Day agenda and ceremony. It will be a great time.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Respectfully submitted by:

Diane Dykgraaf, Recording Secretary
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BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT