

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026
6:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

MINUTES

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YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2026

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Acknowledgement of passing of Gordon Roush, cemetery sexton 1968-2020
Acknowledgement of passing of Nancy Near, receptionist, voter registration clerk, deputy clerk, election inspector and board of review 1994-2020

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

Staff Present: Dan Miller, Dennis Buist, Frank Fiala

Visitors: 6

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

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

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of December 11, 2025 board meeting
- Disbursements December 2025

IPA Twp. Renov. #42- Dec. 1, 2025 AUTO PAY	(5,689.47)
AP Checks of 12/9/25: 918824-918852	(44,152.66)
AP Checks of 12/30/25: 918853-918876	(14,182.97)
Nov. Gen. Payroll Withholding Fed.	(5,701.51)
Nov. State W/H General Office payroll	(1,121.25)
Nov. Gen. Payroll #8482-8512 printed chks on 12/1/25	(20,136.29)
Fire Payroll 12/8/25 Ck#s 8513-8529	(10,519.63)
Mid Month payroll Fed. w/holding for FIRE 12/8/25	(2,466.83)
General Payroll Cks#8530-8567 inc. EOY Fire payroll	(28,840.42)
Fed. Tax Payroll End of Month W/H General PYRL plus EOY Fire	(10,806.34)
State Monthly W/H end of month including Fire W/H (mid month)	(2,620.18)
Total Disbursements	\$ (146,237.55)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Fire Chief Dan Miller

Thornapple Fire Chief Bill Richardson: The Thornapple EMS has a partnership with the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department for ambulance services. Chief Richardson shared statistics on the department's response times for fire and medical calls and how these times can affect outcomes in medical situations. Supervisor Heethuis expressed thanks on behalf of the Board for Chief Richardson's help in the process of Yankee Springs becoming an independent fire department. Mr. Hopkins shared his personal experience and appreciation of the services provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): The board approved payment to Peerless to conduct a study to increase the arsenic removal without installing four new tanks. Good results of this study could result in reducing the cost from an estimated \$1.5 million to an estimated \$543,000. The township was awarded a \$75,000 grant to pay some of the costs. He strongly supports the expansion of the arsenic removal and applauds the Board for pursuing the less expensive option. He doesn't think depositing the grant money into the general fund and paying Peerless from the general fund is the best way to account for these transactions but that it should be handled on the water system's books. He requests that the money be transferred to the water system and they reimburse the township for the money spent. He also repeats his request that the township make a budget amendment, removing the \$150,000 that was added for water system improvements. He believes this may constitute a misappropriation of funds and would like the township to get legal and accounting advice and report results to the public.

Kristy Shepard (Bowens Mill Rd.): She recently retired from the Grand Rapids Fire Department and expressed thanks to Chief Miller and Chief Richardson and the Board for all the fire services they provide to the community. The partnerships are amazing for our residents. The numbers that Chief Richardson shared are amazing, much better than she would have expected so a big round of applause for the work that's being done. She appreciated Tom Hopkins sharing his experience with the EMS. Thanked everyone for the work that is being done.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- December 2025 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed.
- November payroll processed on December 1 due to the holiday, so that was included in December numbers.

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

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**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
VISITORS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

CLERK'S REPORT

Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau to approve current accounts payable Checks #918877-891 for \$24,905.98. Discussion: Payments included \$5,800 payment to PCI and \$5,675 to DK Landscape for snow removal. Mr. VanHouten inquired when the DK contract expires, as they are considering having the fire department take over some of the tasks. Mr. Hopkins will check on the date. **Roll Call Vote:** Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission:

- Meeting was held December 18, 2025.
- Continuing work on the Master Plan, the Capital Improvement Plan, and the mining ordinance. A public hearing on the mining ordinance is scheduled for February 19. It is expected that the ordinance will be ready for the Board approval in April.
- Next regular meeting January 15, 2026.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Next meeting will be January 13, 2026 if needed.

Fire/EMS Report:

- Chief Miller thanked Chief Richardson for being here tonight and for working well with Yankee Springs.
- Review of December 2025 Fire/Emergency Medical responses.
 - 8 fire calls.
 - 25 medical calls: Duty shift handled 6, the other 19 were handled by off duty personnel.
- Personnel are holding at 20 total. There are 16 certified fire fighters, 1 currently in EMT class, 7 EMRs, 4 Paramedics, and 4 EMTs.
- Training in December included pump operation and vehicle familiarization.
- Continuing to gather information for cost recovery program.

Park Committee:

- No report.

Recycling Committee:

- Very busy month with the holidays.

Veterans Committee:

- One new member has joined the committee, Dave Watson.
- First meeting of the year will be in February.

Clean Water Committee

- Pilot study to increase the arsenic removal capacity has been completed with fantastic results.
- Proposed project has been submitted to EGLE and the Township is currently

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CLERK'S REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CURRENT PAYABLES**

PC REPORT

ZBA REPORT

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE
REPORT**

**VETERANS COMMITTEE
REPORT**

**WATER COMMITTEE
REPORT**

waiting for their response which could take a while.

- There is a good chance of receiving the \$37,500 balance of the grant money this month.

Gun Lake Improvement Board Committee

- No meeting (seasonal).

Board Action Items:

- Joint Meeting of the Board, PC, and ZBA will be on January 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
- Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test Resolution 1-8-2026 1. This is something that must be completed each year prior to the Board of Review meeting in March.

Motion by Mousseau with support from Hopkins to adopt Resolution 1-8-2026 1.
Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kristy Shepard (Bowens Mill Rd.): Thanked the board for the recycling program. It’s frustrating that the rules aren’t followed and there are tons of plastic bags and Styrofoam in the bins. Maybe people don’t read the newsletters. Perhaps the township could find another approach to communicate the rules to the users.

Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): The water system is 100% funded by the users through the rates they pay. The system is in good shape to handle the size project that is being talked about without any assistance from the township. The Board has never provided a reason for the addition of \$150,000 for water improvements to the budget and keeping this in the budget distorts the financial position of the township so he asks that it be removed from the budget.

BOARD COMMENT:

Hopkins: Thanked Larry for work on the water system. This is a landmark for the township to take us into the new decade and this is the first big step. Thanks very much.

Knowles: Thanked Rob for working on the grant. He did not think they could get it but Rob did it.

Mousseau: Taxes are due Monday, March 2, and we will be open until 5 PM on that Monday. On a nicer note, there was a situation today in the office that was handled. It was a delicate and awkward situation, but it was handled with kindness and compassion and she thanked Rob for that.

VanHouten: Ditto on the water system. It is going to be a huge benefit to the township. Jumping back to the park, if we could consider making a Yankee Springs Veterans Memorial Park, there’s a few things in the future that might qualify it as a park and maybe could get some grants by being part of the park system.

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GLIB REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
 POVERTY EXEMPTION
 INCOME GUIDELINES AND
 ASSET TEST RESOLUTION**

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

Heethuis: One of our Planning Commission members, Lee Kooistra, stepped away today due to some health issues. He will no longer be there starting this month and will be missed. He was a very positive voice on the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Hopkins to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 2-19-26

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
January 9, 2026

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ADJOURNMENT