

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Special Meeting**

**Thursday, May 29, 2025  
6:00 pm  
Yankee Springs Township Hall  
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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YS Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting  
May 29, 2025

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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:** Frank Fiala

**Guest Present:** Don DeVries, Fleis & VandenBrink

**Visitors:** 5

**INVOCATION**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to accept the agenda with the addition of possibly approving a resolution to improve our water system after the Public Comment.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes, VanHouten: yes, Heethuis: yes, Knowles: yes, Hopkins: yes.  
Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO  
ACCEPT AGENDA**

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - Water System Improvements Project.**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the Township's aging water system and comply with drinking water standards. Recommended improvements include watermain looping and increased capacity of the water treatment system.

**Don DeVries, from Fleis & VandenBrink,** presented the basic elements of the water system upgrade. This public hearing is a requirement because they are making an application to the State of MI for potential funding for water system improvements.

Improvements being considered:

- 1) Construction of approximately 2,000 linear feet of 8" watermain (Looping).
- 2) Improvements to the arsenic treatment system (additional pressure filters, chemical feed media replacement and associated piping, valves, controls and electrical system improvements).

Projected Cost: Water Treatment Improvements: \$955,000; Watermain Looping \$700,000; General Conditions, Bonds, and Insurance \$165,000; Construction contingency \$180,000; Engineering & Administration \$360,000. Total Project Cost: \$2,400,000.

Project Financing: Grant money and principal forgiveness is being sought from the State of MI and the federal government to offset this cost. Other options will be pursued as needed.

**BOARD ACTION  
ITEMS**

<p>A proposed Project Schedule was presented with initial submission to EGLE June 1, 2025, and project ending Sept. 2027.</p> <p>There are no anticipated Environmental Impacts. The positive impact on the water system is improved reliability and safe water for consumption.</p>	<p><b>DRAFT MINUTES</b> Page 2 of 3 YS Board of Trustees Special Meeting May 29, 2025</p>
<hr/> <p><b><i>Supervisor Heethuis opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 PM.</i></b></p> <p>The following comments and questions were received from Mark &amp; Linda Barber (12967 Valley Dr) and Dave &amp; Carol Watson (12968 Valley Dr).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better notice about public hearings should be given to township owners who are affected.</li> <li>• A suggestion is made to publish this notice on the sign by the Fire Barn.</li> <li>• Concern was expressed regarding increased costs for affected people, especially those on a fixed income.</li> <li>• Several other unrelated recent costs were named: sewer cost rose significantly and previous improvements were made on their channel.</li> <li>• They are very opposed to any additional cost to property owners.</li> </ul> <p>Also discussed: additional hookups, governmental grants, current system water capacity, EGLE standards and observations, seasonal capacity levels, limited potential water outage during construction.</p> <p><b>Board Response:</b> Mr. Heethuis acknowledged the comments made. The water system is old and the Board has a responsibility to do something about it. They must address the arsenic level and the amount of water that can be treated per minute. The state lowered the amount of arsenic you can have in the system. The BOT needs to get a resolution to apply for the grant. If they apply but don't receive any grant money, they do not have to move forward with the project. This is step 1. The BOT will put together the best package that they can, and it may be a several step process. When they know more, they will have another meeting. The BOT has to plan for the future, so they need to proceed.</p> <p><b><i>Supervisor Heethuis closed the Public Hearing at 6:42 PM.</i></b></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC HEARING</b></p>
<hr/> <p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT:</b> No comment. <i>Public comment closed at 6:42 PM.</i></p>	
<hr/> <p><b>Resolution 05-29-2025</b> <b><u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Hopkins to adopt Resolution 05-29-2025 - Adopting a Final Project Planning Document for Water System Improvements and Designating An Authorized Project Representative.</u></b> <b><i>Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes, Hopkins: yes, Mousseau: yes, VanHouten: yes, Heethuis: yes.</i></b> Approved by all. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b></p> <p><b>RESOLUTION 05-29-2025 CARRIED</b></p>
<hr/> <p><b>BOARD COMMENT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mousseau: no comment.</li> <li>• VanHouten: notes surprise about the comments re the project and about communication methods from the Board to YS residents.</li> <li>• Hopkins: other townships put their news and announcements in the paper. We should look into the possibility of using the sign by the fire barn. We should be careful about communicating individual dollar amounts and add that we do not anticipate passing this cost along to the user.</li> <li>• Knowles: agree with what has previously been said. It is expensive to do mailings. As far as the fixed incomes, the reason we struggle with getting a grant is because Yankee Springs is known to have high incomes. Also of note, when we have a fire, the system is pumping water</li> </ul>	<p><b>BOARD COMMENT</b></p>

faster than we can filter the arsenic, so the responsibility for the water system is also the YS Township proper (it's the fire causing the problem).

- Heethuis: this is step 1, the final package will look different and we will communicate, but we have to do it. The first problem we have to solve is the arsenic.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Knowles with support from Heehuis to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM.**

Approved by all. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Hopkins, Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted by:  
Diane Dykgraaf, Recording Secretary

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**ADJOURNMENT**