

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 2026
6:00 pm
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

MINUTES

MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
July 9, 2026

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

Visitors: 13

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to accept the agenda. Roll Call Vote:

VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes.

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

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR ELMWOOD BEACH

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to open the public hearing for the special assessment for Elmwood Beach, cost estimate \$47,470. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

Randy Campbell (3340 Elmwood Beach): Working with Tom for the special assessment for Elmwood Beach and it's gone very smoothly. He appreciates being able to do this through the township because other people say their townships don't do that and they have to raise the money themselves.

Mike Cunningham: States that road assessments can be a very good use of government authority, allowing the majority of people to decide that the paving needs to be done and then use the special assessment process to fairly distribute the cost. While only 51% of the people in the district need to approve the project and the cost, they have over 90% approval. The township needs to carefully review the project and then work with the residents as this protects the township and the residents. The first half of this was done in a special assessment a few years ago and this is the second half. The road committee did a really good job of managing this and hope it all goes well this time

Motion by Heethuis with support from Van Houten to close the public hearing for the special assessment for Elmwood Beach. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON
ELMWOOD BEACH
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve the special assessment for Elmwood Beach. Roll Call Vote: Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.</u> Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	MINUTES Page 2 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting July 9, 2026 MOTION TO APPROVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR ELMWOOD BEACH																						
<u>Consent Agenda:</u> - Minutes of June 11, 2026 BOT meeting, June 16, 2026 Special Meeting, and June 24, 2026 Special Meeting - DISBURSEMENTS June 2026 <table data-bbox="224 579 1247 1003"> <tr> <td>IPA Twp. Renov. #48 June 1, 2026 AUTO PAY</td><td>(5,689.47)</td></tr> <tr> <td>AP Checks of 6-9-26: #919090-919110</td><td>(31,866.67)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Void Chk# 919066 Replaced with #919111 (amount 1915.84)</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>AP Checks of 6/30/26: #919112-919132</td><td>(28,696.83)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June Fire payroll Chks. #8758-8777 (6/9/26)</td><td>(13,253.56)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June Fire State W/H*</td><td>(668.33)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June Fire Fed. W/H</td><td>(3,006.86)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June Gen. Payroll 6/30/26 Cks #8778-8801</td><td>(20,312.17)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June General PR Fed withholding</td><td>(6,343.67)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June Gen PR State W/H*</td><td>(1,120.04)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Disbursements</td><td><u>\$ (110,957.60)</u></td></tr> </table> <i>*will be processed in July</i> <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Hopkins: yes.</u> Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	IPA Twp. Renov. #48 June 1, 2026 AUTO PAY	(5,689.47)	AP Checks of 6-9-26: #919090-919110	(31,866.67)	Void Chk# 919066 Replaced with #919111 (amount 1915.84)	-	AP Checks of 6/30/26: #919112-919132	(28,696.83)	June Fire payroll Chks. #8758-8777 (6/9/26)	(13,253.56)	June Fire State W/H*	(668.33)	June Fire Fed. W/H	(3,006.86)	June Gen. Payroll 6/30/26 Cks #8778-8801	(20,312.17)	June General PR Fed withholding	(6,343.67)	June Gen PR State W/H*	(1,120.04)	Total Disbursements	<u>\$ (110,957.60)</u>	MOTON TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Fire Chief Dan Miller (called out on a fire call but may return later in the meeting) Grant Taylor, Michigan Class representative County Commissioner Catherine Getty: provided an update on the Barry County activities. Rebecca Condon, Health Office for the Barry-Eaton County Health Department: She is attending tonight to answer any questions on the advisory that was issued for a harmful algae bloom (HAB) in the Cuddy Channel today. A water sample has been sent to EGLE to identify the algae. The lake is not closed as it is contained in the channel but residents should not enter the water in that location. There is no danger if the water is clear. They tested for E-coli after the 4th of July and it was not found. Bill Bryker (Gun Lake Improvement Board): Shared a picture of one of the channels with the Board. The locations that have these algae were treated in May and June with chelated copper. Copper sulfate cannot be used in May and June due to fish spawning. There are a lot of interactive factors that can stimulate a bloom like this. He spoke about an experience with algae blooms occurring when he lived on Silver Lake. If you don't have enough weeds to sequester the phosphorous in the lake, you will have algae. More people in the lake can also initiate algae	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS GLIB REPORT																						

growth. There are technologies other than chemical herbicides which is the only treatment that has been used by GLIB. There is a meeting next week and he expects they will decide to treat with copper sulfate but that is a band aid. They need to get to the root cause of the algae and explore all the technologies out there to make Gun Lake healthy again.	MINUTES Page 3 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting July 9, 2026
PUBLIC COMMENT: Dr. Alan Swank: running for State House of Representatives for the 43rd District. He is campaigning on four basic principles of agriculture, healthcare, education and kitchen table topics. He is here to introduce himself to the township residents. Randy Campbell (3340 Elmwood Beach): He commented on the Yankee Springs Township Park and what an excellent job was done on the pickleball courts there. It speaks volumes for the Yankee Springs board. Grant Taylor (12806 Valley Dr.): He is a representative for Michigan Class, which is an investment tool that is used by Yankee Springs Township. He is here to introduce himself to the board and met with Deb Mousseau yesterday. He shared that they offer additional tools as well as the investment piece. He shared his background and stated that he joined Michigan Class due to their large growth. Brian McBride (Cobb Lake trustee): He is here on behalf of the Highlands property owners, Lots 1 through 14 on Cobb Lake. There has been an issue with the use of a park lot for about a year and the property owners feel there hasn't been any closure on this situation. He is asking what the Township Board is doing to help put this to rest. He will speak with the board members after the meeting. He thanked the Board for their time. Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): He was the only member of the public that attended the June budget workshop and public hearing meetings other than those who were represented by signatures on a petition. He thinks it is a shame that the Board did not even discuss the issues that he and other residents think are important. He attended a Barry County Republican meeting and heard that other government entities have lowered their tax rates because they don't need the money or they have a large fund balance. He has requested this for the past three years. The weed assessment fund assessments were reduced while he was the clerk because the fund balance was high enough. Since the Board will not remove the admin fee, the only remaining way for taxpayers to reduce their tax bills is to vote no on the Fire and EMS millage renewal on August 4. This is not intended to reflect on the fire and EMS services but the township has plenty of money to fund these services due to the large fund balance.	PUBLIC COMMENT
TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer • June 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. • Audit has been scheduled with Siegfried and Crandall on October 22. <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to accept the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call</u> <u>Vote:</u> VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Hopkins: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	TREASURER'S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

CLERK'S REPORT <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve the current accounts payables Check #919134 through 919151 for \$30,462.37. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.</u> Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED <u>Motion by Hopkins with support from VanHouten to approve the fire payroll Checks #8802 through #8823 for \$14,331.94. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.</u> Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED There will be a special assessment coming for the north end of Barlow Lake, probably in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000.	MINUTES Page 4 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting July 9, 2026 MOTION TO APPROVE CURRENT PAYABLES MOTION TO APPROVE FIRE PAYROLL
GLASWA REPORT - The Board will now be receiving a monthly report which is improving communication between the water system and the township. - Income statement was reviewed. They took in more than they spent and that is expected to continue for the next two years. - Holding just over \$1 million and the upcoming project will cost \$600,000. - This project has been started and they are in the process of replacing the media in two of the tanks.	GLASWA REPORT
COMMITTEE REPORTS: Planning Commission: - PCI Report - Public hearing was held on a request for a zoning change from C2 to C3 for the lot just east of Dollar General. Their recommendation to the Board is to deny the request. - Another special meeting will be held next Tuesday and they have invited local businesses to provide input for the master plan. - Next regular meeting July 16, 2026. Zoning Board of Appeals: - No June meeting. Fire/EMS Report: - Review of June 2026 Fire/Emergency Medical responses. 44 fire responses in June. Year to date numbers is 137, compared to 76 last year. Increase largely due to storms and power line - There were 30 EM calls in June. Year to date is 155, compared to 151 last year. - Five medical calls and 13 fire calls were responded by the duty shift personnel. - Current personnel are at 21: 15 certified fire fighters, 4 in the EMR class that will be done by August, 6 EMRs, 5 EMTs, and 4 paramedics. - Training took place at Sharp Park as well as on-site ventilation training. - The Annual Breakfast last Saturday was successful and the money raised will be used for tables. - The first cost recovery bill is going out next week and they are working with the Clerk on several more. Once the procedure is ironed out the Fire Department will	PC REPORT ZBA REPORT FIRE/EMS REPORT

handle this on their own. ○ Clerk Hopkins expressed his appreciation to Chief Miller about watching over a downed power line in his neighborhood. Park Committee: • The township has been receiving nice calls and comments on the park. • There are trees being evaluated for storm damage. Recycling Committee: • No meeting. Veterans Committee: • No meeting. Clean Water Committee • Water system expansion is underway. • The Water Advisory committee toured the well house on Tuesday.	MINUTES Page 5 of 6 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting July 9, 2026 PARK COMMITTEE REPORT RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT WATER COMMITTEE REPORT
Board Action Items: • Discussion took place regarding approving or denying the zoning request for the property east of Dollar General. Board members see the community's desire for additional storage units but understand that it may not fit in with the PC's overlay plan for the M-179 corridor. • Both the PC and the Zoning Administrator are recommending denying the request. <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to support the denial by the Planning Commission of the zoning request for ZOC 26-03-03. Roll Call Vote:</u> Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: no. Yes: 4, No: 1. MOTION CARRIED	MOTION TO SUPPORT DENIAL OF ZONING REQUEST FOR ZOC 26-03-03
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr): Adding the water system financial information to the agenda is a good change. He asks that the township remove the \$150,000 for the water system from the budget since the water system doesn't need it and haven't asked for it. He attended the PC meeting when the request that was just talked about was decided. He recommended to the PC in public comment that they consider modifying the overlay district to allow some different things. The overlay seems to be hindering the use of some of these properties. Lastly, he asks the Board to be careful about wading into lake issues and conflicts as the township doesn't have the authority to solve everything.	PUBLIC COMMENT
BOARD COMMENT: Hopkins: Thanked Rob and Larry for the work they have done on the water system. It is a really positive thing that it is already underway. And we've been hearing a lot in the office people commenting on the Veterans Memorial and the service they had – they are very pleased with it and proud to have it in our township. As always, I'm always amazed at the amount of interest Deb brings in for the township. Knowles: Thanks to everyone in the public for coming out.	BOARD COMMENT

Mousseau: Tax bills are out and they are due Monday, September 14. The office will be open until 5 PM but the drop box is open until midnight. Thanks to Tom for sticking with his job and working at it hard and trying to stay around. On a personal note, I thank Dan Miller, Brian Murphy, Brandon Harmon, Jeff Garrett and Mike Powell who came to my home for a major medical emergency and saved me having to drive to ER in Butterworth which probably wouldn't have turned out as well. And the Thornapple Emergency Service, they were great and followed up and things are looking a lot better than they could have been. Thank you very much.

VanHouten: It's great to hear that. While I hate to be negative, we had a little experience with Wayland Emergency Service and we've had some experience and I've attended meetings with the emergency services at Thornapple. Our millage is .75. We have the lowest that I'm aware of in the districts. Putting out there that you are not supporting the emergency services millage is an extremely bonehead move and I think it's very wrong. You should take a look at that and reconsider it.

Heethuis: I am thankful for everyone who surrounds me and the Planning Commission and the good work they are doing on this. Thanks for the updates that were given on Gun Lake tonight. There's no question that the water color has really changed and I know there's geese out there and a lot of people out there and Party Island is active. I know the water, the heat, and everything else has a piece in that and I appreciate you updating us on that. The other thing I was advised today that Chuck Biggs' ceremony will be tomorrow at the VFW from 11 to 2. I thought the article in the Sun and News was outstanding.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Hopkins with support from Mousseau to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 8-20-26

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
July 12, 2026

ADJOURNMENT