

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025
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
October 9, 2025

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: Rich Beukema, Dan Miller, Dennis Buist, Deb McKenna

Visitors: 8

Motion by VanHouten 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 July 10, 2025 board meeting
- Disbursements August 2025
 - IPA Twp. Renov. #39- Sept. 1, 2025 AUTO PAY (5,689.47)
 - AP Checks of 9/12/25: 918677-918698 \$ (120,942.37)
 - AP Checks of 9/30/25: 918700-918718 \$ (15,651.95)
 - ADD back for chk. collected in Aug. from PCI Reissue 129.00
 - VOID Chk. #918669 40.92
 - Payroll # 8382-8399 Fire 9/12/25 (11,213.59)
 - Payroll #8400 - 8423 End of Month P/R General (21,202.68)
 - Mid Month payroll Fed. w/holding for FIRE 9/12/25 (2,547.59)
 - Federal Tax Payroll End of Month W/H General p/r (6,921.38)
 - State Monthly W/H end of month including Fire 565.63 (1,750.17)

Total Disbursements \$(185,749.28)

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to approve the consent agenda. Roll

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

**MOTON TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Fire Chief Dan Miller County Commissioners Marsha Bassett and Catherine Getty: Commissioners gave a brief overview of happenings at the county level, including an approval for airport expansion and an annual presentation from the County Medical Examiner. Bill Bryker, Gun Lake Improvement Board: Mr. Bryker presented an update from the September meeting: • A small area south of Bay Pointe is being treated for Eurasian milfoil. • The algae in the channels, particularly Cuddy Drain, will be allowed to die out this year and will be treated in the spring with a phosphorous binding product. • There have been complaints about too many native weeds on Elmwood Beach and he reviewed the options for dealing with that and being compliant with EGLE regulations. It was decided to have the residents do their own manual removal of the vegetation.	MINUTES Page 2 of 5 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting October 9, 2025 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Cunningham (Heritage Bay Dr.): At the September board meeting, the Yankee Springs Township Board voted 4–1 not to restore the second public comment period. Trustee VanHouten claimed the current setup is “working very well”. Two public comment periods did work very well for a long time, and were not abused by residents. Team Yankee Springs members used the two public comment periods to comment on board actions leading up to the 2020 election. We can email and call board members but this is more for getting answers to questions. The comments made in public become known to other members of the public, and become part of the official record. Clerk Hopkins called a second comment period “redundant,” even though one period before and one after board decisions serve distinct purposes. The board never formally discussed or voted on the original December 2024 elimination of the second comment period. Public comment is an essential part of transparency and recordkeeping, and we deserve to know who removed the second comment period and why. On a different topic, I sent the board a resolution regarding the gravel mining ordinance. I would like the board to put this resolution on a meeting agenda and adopt it. The resolution basically directs the planning commission to create an ordinance that protects township residents to the maximum amount possible.	PUBLIC COMMENT
TREASURER’S REPORT: Prepared by Deb Mousseau, Treasurer • September 2025 Financial Statement and Investment Report were reviewed. • The interest rate on the IPA loan is still lower than current investments but it is being watched closely. • The state notified the township that the disbursement for sales tax revenue sharing to the Township will be decreased by \$26,000. <u>Motion by Heethuis with support from Holkins to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Roll Call Vote:</u> Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED	TREASURER’S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT

CLERK'S REPORT <u><i>Motion by Hopkins with support from Heethuis to approve current payables for almost \$62,000 including the final payment on the park. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Hopkins: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.</i></u> Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED The public trial on the voting machine was conducted today and everything went smoothly.	MINUTES Page 3 of 5 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting October 9, 2025 CLERK'S REPORT MOTION TO APPROVE CURRENT PAYABLES
COMMITTEE REPORTS: Planning Commission: - Meeting September 18, 2025. - Continued working on mining ordinance. - Approved two additional STR's in Whispering Pines. - Approved an addition to the Sand Bar & Grill. - The date for public input on the Master Plan has been moved and will now be during the regular PC meeting on October 16 at 7 PM. - Next meeting October 16, 2025. Zoning Board of Appeals: - No meeting since the last Board meeting. - Next meeting will be November 11, 2025 if needed. Zoning Department: - The takeover of the car park on October 12 has been stayed by one week per the request of the defendant. Will be looked at again on October 21st and the township is ready to proceed with the cleanup. Fire/EMS Report: - September 2025 Fire/Emergency Medical responses. 15 fire dispatches and 36 medical responses during the month. 3 fire responses and 5 medicals came in during the duty shift and the remainder were covered by YSTFD personnel who were off duty. - Year to date numbers are very similar to 2024. - There are currently 20 personnel at YSTFD which includes 16 certified firefighter and 14 medical personnel. - Fire Prevention Open House was held on October 6 from 6 PM to 8 PM and was well attended. - Chief Miller also discussed a free program called "whatthreewords.com" which is a locating program that the fire fighters use to locate callers. Park Committee: - A small grant was received that covered the cost of supplies to repaint the picnic tables and this was completed by a group of volunteers. - The Gun Lake Fall Fest included disc golf at the park and there may be some discussion on adding this in the future. Recycling Committee:	PC REPORT ZBA REPORT ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT FIRE/EMS REPORT PARK COMMITTEE REPORT RECYCLING COMMITTEE REPORT

• New concrete pad and bin are in use. Veterans Committee: • A meeting was held October 8 to plan for the Veteran’s Day Ceremony which will be held on Saturday, November 8 at 11:00 AM. • Dr. Veneman of Yankee Springs Dental will be offering veterans free dental service on Friday, November 14. Clean Water Committee • They are currently working on increasing the capacity from 200 gallons per minute to 400 gallons per minute as the demand is increasing. • The pilot study that was approved by the Board last month will test with a different type of media to see if this can be accomplished. • Currently waiting for approval from EGLE to begin the pilot study. • There was a \$75,000 grant awarded to cover this and the first check is expected to come in next week.	MINUTES Page 4 of 5 YS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting October 9, 2025 VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT WATER COMMITTEE REPORT
Board Action Items: • Bassett Lake Discussion. ○ Supervisor Heethuis read a letter from Susan Siragusa, resident at 831 Bruce Drive on Bassett Lake. ○ Ms. Siragusa had appeared before the board in August 2024 requesting assistance with parking issues on Roberts Road and the Township did take action by installing signs with the relevant township ordinance. ○ She is now requesting further action from the township to resolve ongoing issues with Roberts Road which have caused her to seek legal intervention. ○ After discussion among the Board members, it was decided that they will not take any action while the matter is in the courts and will only act based on the court decision.	BASSETT LAKE DISCUSSION
BOARD COMMENT: Hopkins: Congratulations to Chief Miller on the open house and thanks to the office staff for all their work which made sure that the voting test went smoothly. Knowles: While not necessarily a fan of grants I’m thankful that our community got that grant and thanks to Supervisor Heethuis for getting that going and finishing it. Thank you to the PC and the public that has attended and provided input on the mining ordinance. VanHouten: Remember the Veteran’s Ceremony on November 8. The committee is also looking for new members. Be sure to spread the word on the ceremony to friends and neighbors. I’m surprised when I mention it to someone who says they were not aware of it. Mousseau: Audit will be taking place Thursday and Friday. Heethuis: Whether it’s the Veteran’s Day or Memorial Day, the ceremony has been tremendous. The crowd has been getting bigger all the time. It’s a good time.	BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Heethuis to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 11/20/2025

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
October 11, 2025

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ADJOURNMENT