

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm

In Office at 2024 Cleveland St East, Coopersville, MI 49404

www.wrighttownshipottawami.gov

Approved February 11, 2026

Supervisor VanTimmeren called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Board members present include Trustee Brad Anderson, Supervisor Steve VanTimmeren, Treasurer Sharyl Dietrich, Clerk Theresa Frank, and Trustee Richard Schoenborn. The meeting was held at the Township Office, 2024 Cleveland Street East, Coopersville MI 49404.

APPROVE AGENDA and ADDITIONS

- Motion made by Schoenborn and supported by Dietrich to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE

- Motion made by Schoenborn and supported by Anderson to approve the bills and payroll in the amount of \$38,473.30 for December 2025 expenditures. Schoenborn had questions regard a few of the bills and received satisfactory answers. All ayes, motion carried.
- Motion made by Dietrich and supported by Anderson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 10th, 2025. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mary Alt from the Historical Commission addressed the Board with a request to approve Robert Rander as a new member of the Historical commission. Dietrich motioned and Frank supported the approval of Robert Rander as a new member of the Historical Commission. Mary also shared that there will be an Open House at the Old Township Hall for the public to see the renovations. They will also be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This will be held at the Old Township Hall at 2040 Cleveland St. E. Coopersville, MI. 49404, on Saturday April 25th, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

REPORTS

- No Report from County Commissioner Allison Miedima.
- No Fire Report.
- Senior Services report was given by Dietrich.
 - She reported that Christmas Luncheon was a huge success.
 - On Tuesday the 13th of January, 2026 there was a presentation on Social Security in the Community Room, which turned out well.
- Planning Commission report given by Anderson.
 - No Planning Commission Meeting for January, 2026.
- 2026 Election Report
 - Election report given by Frank.
 - Frank shared that at this time there are only two elections for Wright Township in 2026. She also reported that there are two agreements that need to be signed: one for the County to send out postcards with the Early Voting information to the registered votes in

the Township. This will save the Township money. The other is an agreement with the County saying they will do the publishing of election dates in the Grand Rapids Press. The Clerk has tried to get this sent to the Observer to save money, but Michigan Township Association has said that it has to be in the Grand Rapids Press. The Clerk is quite aware that the majority of Wright Township residents read the Observer and not so much the Grand Rapids Press.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Wright Township Farm Lease agreement has been revised and is ready to be signed. Two changes were made. There are only 65 tillable acres not 68, and the lease can be paid in one installment on December 31st of each year. The price per acre stayed the same. Motion made by Schoenborn, and support was given by Frank to approve the new lease agreement, all ayes, motion carried.
- Supervisor Steve VanTimmeren has agreed to represent Wright Township in the exploratory committee exploring ways to keep utilities controlled at the local level.

NEW BUSINESS

- Schoenborn motioned and Anderson supported the approval of the 2026 township office hours and meeting schedules.
- Dates were set for the pre-budget meeting and the 2026 – 2027 Budget Meeting. Pre-budget meeting will be Thursday February 12th, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., and the 2026 – 2027 Budget Report will be on Wednesday March 11th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. just before the March 11th Regular Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- Quarterly Budget was reviewed.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

- VanTimmeren reported about the old land fill off of 24th Ave. There are still residents that want more information. Supervisor tried to acquire more information from E.G.L.E. and Ottawa County Health Department but did not get much help. Without any red flags E.G.L.E. or the County do not take much responsibility. The only thing that is offered from E.G.L.E. is to make a Targeted Monitoring Test request. This would do surface water testing for residents at no charge. They just need to fill out a form. Supervisor VanTimmeren filled out a request for this test to get a sample from above and below the old land fill but has not heard back yet. Supervisor also thought maybe the Township could get Brownfield Grant funds to use for clean up, but he found out those funds are only for properties under new development.
- Next the Supervisor brought up the Community Room rentals. It was brought up wondering if the Board would approve no charge, only a deposit, for charities or nonprofits that want to rent the room for a benefit. Schoenborn reminded the board that it is not allowed to use the residents tax money for charities. Dietrich brought up another subject regarding the room. Residents are wanting to rent the room on the same dates year after year at the time they are making their rental arrangements. Thoughts are that the Township will only take reservations for the same date in the next year starting on June first of the present year. So, after June first you can rent for any time in the next year. It was also mentioned that because of the high cost of snow removal in the winter months the Township could charge \$150.00 for deposit, but if the renter will take care of the snow removal for their event, they would only have to pay \$100.00

deposit. If the renter does not want to take care of the snow for their event, they would have to make a \$150.00 deposit and only get back \$100.00. This will take place starting next winter.

- Supervisor VanTimmeren began a discussion on PA 233. (Michigan Public Act 233 of 2023) This is a part of the 2023 clean energy laws. This law makes the State the siting authority. This takes more control away from the townships in Michigan. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) can review and approve siting (location and construction) for large wind, solar, and energy storage projects that meet certain size thresholds (e.g., large utility-scale projects), without local approval. Due the fact that Wright Township is a desirable area for these kinds of operations because of the 16th Ave. and Arthur St. Sub Station, and because of the high voltage powerlines that go through the township. This is what is needed for their operations.
- The Board and the residents at the meeting would like to have a public meeting with the farm owners in the township to see what their opinion on this subject is. Would the farmers be tempted by the large amounts of money offered to them for their property, or do they want to keep their farms?
- Another subject that needs discussion is “do the residents want data centers in the township?”

BOARD COMMENTS

- Schoenborn brought pictures of 20th Ave. off of Roosevelt. The road is down to less than one lane in some spots. The ditches have been dug so deep that the road is eroding. Schoenborn had talked to the County Road Commission with no results. he is asking the Board to find a way to get some results.

ADJOURN MEETING

- The Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully prepared by Theresa Frank, Wright Township Clerk

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(Any documents referenced in these minutes are on file in the Clerk's office)