

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Drews, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: William Drews, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; Misty VanGessel, Treasurer; Darcy Krause, Trustee;
Rodney Palmer, Trustee

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Drews, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk; Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES AND OCTOBER 7, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes of both meetings as written. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

- **Treasurer/Financial Reports/Bank Update (on file)**

Treasurer report was provided. The charge on the VISA card was for 1,000 stamped envelopes and for the Adobe Acrobat monthly fee.

CD's are up for renewal. VanGessel recommended the 12-month CD at 3.75%

Palmer moved, supported by Krause, to lock in the CD rate at 3.75% for 12 months.

MOTION CARRIED

VanGessel asked for approval of the KCI proposal for printing and postage/mailing of the winter tax bills at a cost that is less than the Township could do on its own.

Sprague moved, supported by Palmer, to accept the KCI proposal.

Roll call vote: Yes – Krause, Sprague, VanGessel, Drews, Palmer No – None

MOTION CARRIED

Palmer moved, supported by Sprague, to approve the treasurer report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Zoning Administrator Report – Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator**

4 zoning permits were issued and no land division applications were received in September. \$80.00 in receipts was turned in.

Buchholz sent a letter with names and phone numbers of local excavators to assist Melissa Lichman in proceeding with the demolition of the condemned building on her property.

Gordon Cross came to Buchholz's office last week to resolve a non-compliance issue. He is now in compliance with the number of dogs on his property. He intends to reduce the number of small animals to bring his property into compliance for that issue.

Dan Wiggins, property owner, and Rodney Casey, renter of Langston property having blight complaints, came into Buchholz's office, believing that they have complied with Township requirements. Buchholz and Drews inspected the property. Items are taken apart for scrap metal at the back of the property. The numerous occupied travel trailers have been reduced to one older motor home and one travel trailer, both unoccupied. A type of fence has been erected.

A Hunter Lake resident has complained of a neighbor hauling in sand. Buchholz contacted the DNR and was referred to DEQ, who has not responded to Buchholz.

Drews requested that Buchholz check the status of an older single-wide mobile home in Langston.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Road Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

Most projects have been completed, but a few bills may still come in.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Fire District Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

13 runs in September, none being in Pine Township.

Training was hose testing.

VanGessel moved, supported Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Cemetery Report – Marla Sprague, Township Clerk**

3 burials in Riverside Cemetery in September; 2 in West Pine Cemetery.

Sprague read Vicki Shindorf's report. Sprague is attempting to contact the Montcalm Township clerk to see their cemetery software.

Dirt remaining from digging of new graves is being used to fill in a low spot in the cemetery.

Jordan Selesky has been too busy to work on the West Pine cemetery pump. Another vendor may be needed.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Library Board Report (Jamie Gorby/Jeremy Korpai)**

No representative present

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

Montcalm County Advancement Committee awarded a \$10,000 grant to Pine Township for the purchase of a tornado siren.

The attorney that has been handling the Township blight cases in court has moved to Detroit. Drews will explore options.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

The local MTA meeting will be held in Edmore on October 21, 2025.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

PC met tonight. Public hearing for CREO adoption and work on the noise ordinance will be held on November 10, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Krause requested board approval for the Planning Commission to consult a certified planner to conduct a survey of Township residents regarding the Master Plan.

VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague, to authorize the Planning Commission to contact McKenna planners for information and pricing of a survey and master plan update. MOTION CARRIED

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- **Spring Lake Lot #1 Update**

Tim Orlebeke recommends referring the deed of the property to his associate in Lansing.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to go forward with grant of easements and to have Cinnaire Title Searches proceed with title searches and conveyance of deeds.

Roll call vote – Yes: Palmer, Krause, Drews, Sprague, VanGessel No: None MOTION CARRIED

- **Riverside Cemetery Tree Project Report/Update**

The first tree has been removed. A skidsteer caused grave damage, which has been repaired. The project will continue soon.

- **Tacoma Lake Special Assessment District Second Public Hearing Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

Letters and ballots to the property owners were put into the mailbox today.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Township Website ADA Compliance**

The Township website is required by law to be ADA compliant by 2027. Options are being sought for the most cost effective way to become compliant.

- **Hunter Lake Contract Renewal**

Bill and Linda Polzin, Hunter Lake representatives, requested renewal of the current contract for another 5 years.

Sprague moved, supported by VanGessel, to begin the process of extending the special assessment district for another five years. MOTION CARRIED

- **West Pine Cemetery Stump Grinding**

Two stumps very close to grave stones need removal. Drews presented a \$100.00 bid from Fuller Stump Grinding for removal of both stumps.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the bid from Fuller Stump Grinding for removal of both stumps at a cost of \$100.00. MOTION CARRIED

- **Propane Contract**

Sprague presented two propane bids, one was an introductory offer from Excel Propane for \$1.69/gal through February and the other from AltoGas for \$1.74/gal for the year. Sprague recommended remaining with AltoGas, as the Excel Propane rate is for a limited time and would likely increase, while AltoGas has provided the Township with the cheapest rate for several years.

Sprague moved, supported by VanGessel, to remain with AltoGas at the rate of \$1.74/gallon. MOTION CARRIED

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to pay checks 4268 – 4318 for monthly bills in the amount of \$94,339.19.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Cross, wife of Gordon Cross, came to the meeting to report to the Board that property cleanup began today.

Steve Westhoff, 10503 W. Briggs, made the 4/8/24 complaint to the Board about the Cross property. He thanked the Board for taking action and appreciates that Gordon and Linda Cross are taking steps to rectify the issue. He urged the Board to follow through to ensure that compliance continues in the future.

BOARD FINAL COMMENTS

Palmer proposed having persons who wish to comment during Public Comment approach and face the Board to avoid interaction with other members of the public who are at the meeting. He also proposed that each person who comments be allowed only one comment period during Public Comment to avoid argumentation with other members of the public who are present.

ADJOURNMENT

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala