

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sprague requested the addition of Board of Review meeting dates and Poverty Exemption Resolution to the agenda.

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

MOTION

CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Gordon Cross responded to the letter from Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator, regarding blight complaint. Believes ordinance rules he is accused of violating are not being applied to other residents in the township who are also in violation.

Bill Folzine, Ken Alksnis, and Mike Rotter are present for the Hunter Lake renewal.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Drews requested correction of the name Tom Christian (was typed Christensen).

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes with correction.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

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

Treasurer report was provided. VanGessel noted that \$3400.00+ was earned via CD interest.

Has received resident complaints of tax bills not received. Does not believe it to be a postal issue and is looking for other printing/mailing options.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

Buchholz ill and not present. Drews reported 2 zoning permits and 1 land division application received in December. Moore Lake cabin landowner has not responded to Buchholz's letters, Drews is attempting to contact. Phillips property is still an issue. A mobile home complaint is being solved through voluntary dismantling.

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

MOTION CARRIED

• **Road Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor/Rodney Palmer**

Palmer reported that the County road commission reports to the Township the roads that need work. There are not enough Township funds to repair all that needs to be done. Palmer and Drews then view the roads and decide which roads to work on. A road millage will likely be placed on either the August or November 2026 ballot.

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

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

17 runs in December, 2 being in Pine Township (vehicle accidents). Training was ice rescue.

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

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

No burials in December due to weather.

Sprague has spoken to the Montcalm Township Clerk, who uses an Excel spreadsheet for cemetery software.

She will look at this option for keeping cemetery records with Vicki Shindorf.

Drews reported that a Riverside Cemetery property marker was removed, which could cause issues in the future.

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

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

Gorby reported that she is now Library Board President. The next meeting will be Thursday. She provided an update on the Bookmobile progress. She will provide Sprague with email updates in the future if not able to attend Board meetings.

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

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

Bill brought up the Michigan Geological Survey well location at Farnsworth Park (see page 4 of these minutes); and DTE gas coming through Langston (see page 4 of these minutes)

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

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

Keaton Myers tech support contract is due for renewal at the end of February.

Montcalm Conservation District has a \$1,000.00 2026 scholarship program. Sprague has the application form.

Quarterly taxes must now be e-filed monthly. Blaine Gebhardt assisted Sprague in learning the process.

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

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

Krause reported on the McKenna Planning presentation regarding Master Plan updating and the cost of contracting with the company. A contract will be available for Board viewing at the next Board meeting.

Drews requested the PC to hold a special meeting before April to initiate the process. Blight and noise ordinances were tabled pending Township attorney review of County ordinance.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- **Trash Service Provider**

Drews provided the quote from new provider Let's Talk Trash (Pine Township resident). There would be a cost savings over the current provider.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to contract with Let's Talk Trash, paying the annual quote.

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

- **Lot 1 Birch Landing Deed Status**

Attorney Tim Orlebeek discovered an unrecorded property change that needed updating. Deed process is near completion.

- **Fire Authority Agreement**

Resolution is being coordinated by Brandy Hubbard/Foster Swift. Tabled until February.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Stabilization Funds – Auditor Opinion**

Sprague reported that, per the Township auditor, it is permissible to use the stabilization funds toward the proposed Township emergency siren.

- **Ordinance Enforcement Attorney Led Workshop**

Sprague moved, supported by Palmer, to hire Tom Christian to hold an ordinance enforcement workshop open to the public at the Township Hall at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.00.

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

- **Hunter Lake Special Assessment District Renewal**

The first special meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026 to begin the renewal process of the Hunter Lake Special Assessment District.

- **Fire Millage Levy Renewal**

Sprague will have resolution for Board adoption at February meeting.

- **Resolution to Adopt Alternate Board of Review Dates**

Van Gessel moved, supported by Krause to adopt the resolution for alternate Board of Review dates for March 2026, July 2026, and December 2026.

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

- **Resolution to Adopt Taxpayer Protest/Board of Review_**

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer to adopt the governing body of Pine Township to permit resident taxpayers & non-resident taxpayers to file a protest to the Board of Review in writing by letter or email without personal appearance.

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

- **Poverty Exemption Guidelines Resolution**

VanGessel_moved, supported by Palmer to adopt the Township household income & asset standards to be eligible for a poverty exemption.

Roll call: Yes – Krause, Drews, Palmer, Sprague, VanGessel MOTION CARRIED

- **Partial Poverty Exemption Guidelines**

Van Gessel moved, supported by Sprague to adopt the partial poverty exemption guidelines resolution.

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

- **Michigan Geological Survey Surficial Geological Map – Montcalm County**

Drews presented the request by Michigan Geological Survey to dig a well in Farnsworth Park for the purpose of geological information-gathering.

Sprague moved, supported by Palmer to allow Michigan Geological Survey to dig a well in Farnsworth Park for geological survey purposes, with the agreement that the land be returned to its original state upon completion.
MOTION CARRIED

- **DTE Natural Gas Hookup**

Drews reported that natural gas will be available for the Township Hall in either April or May. Cost of hookup and meter would be \$3,013.00, but would not include changeover of the furnace.

Action tabled to February meeting. Sprague will bring propane usage/cost per gallon to the meeting.

Drews moved, supported by VanGessel to table action until February. MOTION CARRIED

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

Drews pointed out a Foster, Swift line item that was paid, but had not been agreed upon. Sprague noted that the check had been mailed, but she will contact Foster, Swift and dispute the item.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to pay checks 4382-4481 for monthly bills in the amount of \$10,260.80
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gordon Cross asked how to file a complaint regarding concerns he has in the Township.

BOARD FINAL COMMENTS

Drews noted that Township Focus magazine answers many questions.

Palmer thanked the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer for the work they do, and the public for comments.

ADJOURNMENT

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala