APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING – HUNTER LAKE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RENEWAL

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

OPEN DISCUSSION OF PROS AND CONS OF HUNTER LAKE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:
Bill Paulsine, Hunter Lake Advisory Committee representative; Brad Stauffer; David Walsworth made individual statements desiring continuance of the Special Assessment District. It saves individual residents from door-to-door collection and responsibility of collected funds and the lake is kept in excellent condition.

DISCUSS CHANGES IN PRESENT AGREEMENT:
Sprague presented reasons for lowering the collected annual dollar amount per property owner and the procedure for collection.
The Advisory Committee desires to leave the amount collected per parcel at $180.00 due to anticipated future needs.

MEETING TO FINALIZE RESOLUTION:
The second public hearing will be held March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Sprague will publish notice in the Daily News at least 10 days in advance and will mail a letter and ballot to each property owner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

ADJOURNMENT:
Sprague moved, supported by Palmer to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 P.M. MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:26 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
Palmer requested the removal of Hunter Lake Special Assessment District Update from the agenda.
VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the amended agenda. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
Joe Petersheim asked whether the blood drive request would be acted upon at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
Palmer moved, supported by Krause, to approve the minutes as written. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

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

Treasurer report was provided. Tax bill printing options will be presented at the March meeting.
Palmer moved, supported by Sprague, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Versiti Use of Township Hall for Blood Drives**

Versiti has requested the use of the Hall for periodic blood drives.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to authorize Drews to set up a potential blood drive schedule with Versiti and to learn whether Versiti handles cleanup of the Hall after each blood drive, or whether there would be a financial cost to the Township. MOTION CARRIED

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

No zoning permits or land division applications were processed in January.
Tom & Nicole Phillips have requested a visit to show them where they are in violation of township ordinances. Drews and Buchholz will be meeting with them.
Buchholz has a list from the Building Department to give to Melissa Lichtman that details what would be required to bring the Moore Lake cabin back from condemned status.
Buchholz has sent a letter to Mr. Hollinshead asking him to take down the sign framework at the corner of Stanton Road and Johnson Road.
Buchholz has been approached the IWorks company promoting their cloud-based zoning software. He asked the Board to consider the software based on the services provided. Drews, Sprague, and Buchholz will meet with a representative to view their presentation on March 2, 2026 and will bring a report to the Board.
VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

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

Drews and Palmer met with Road Commission representatives and developed the potential road projects for 2026.
VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

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

18 runs in January, 3 being in Pine Township. 35 firefighters attended MIOSHA training in vehicle accident safety.
Palmer moved, supported Krause, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

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

No activity/no report

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

Krause read Gorby's report. The library website has been updated and improved. Registrations for programs and activities can be completed online. The bookmobile project continues to progress. Vandalism to the pavilion resulted in arrests/court. Plans are in progress for library maintenance and improvements. The next meeting will be March 19, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the library and is open to the public.
VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

PAR Plan (insurance) risk reduction – explored options, nothing that will help the Township
Presented a Prosecutor's office printout of violations in Pine Twp. In 2025
Emergency siren location will be located on Kendaville Rd just east of the cheese house
Optic Edge out of business – Township road sign needs parts, seeking options
Spring Lake Lot 1 – Tim Orlebeek sent sample deeds, Drews will learn costs to have Orlebeek proceed vs Twp. finalizing
Short Term Rental ordinance needs to include language to prevent overuse of septic system.
VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

No report

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

Krause presented the PC request for funding/authorization to contract with McKenna for updating the Master Plan.
VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the $15,000.00 contract with McKenna for updating the Township Master Plan, and to budget an extra $2,000.00 in case of unforeseen costs.
Roll call: Yes – Krause, Palmer, VanGessel, Sprague, Drews No – None MOTION CARRIED
Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- **Trash Service Provider** changeover effective February 4, 2026

- **Fire Authority Agreement – Final Draft Approval**

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to table action to March. Sprague will learn the legal requirements for disbursements of collected tax funds to fire departments and report to the Board. MOTION CARRIED

- **Natural Gas Conversion Considerations – Township Hall**

Drews reported that conversion will cost $3,013.00, converting furnace and water heater would cost approximately $2,400.00. Based on annual propane costs, Drews estimates converting to natural gas would pay for itself in less than 7 years.
Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to proceed with conversion from propane to natural gas at the Township Hall at a cost not to exceed $6,000.00.
Roll call: Yes- Krause, VanGessel, Palmer, Drews, Sprague MOTION CARRIED

- **Blight Enforcement Workshop** Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 10:30 AM

Drews will invite other townships at a cost of $250.00 per township.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Hall/Pavilion Rental**

Hall rental will be opened to non-Township residents at increased cost and $50.00 damage deposit. Sprague and VanGessel will update the contract to include detailed contact information and to exclude pets and alcohol, and will bring to the March meeting.

- **Fire Millage Levy Renewal**

Sprague will have the Resolution for adoption at the March meeting.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to pay checks 4419 – 4453 for monthly bills in the amount of $14,282.30. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Hohler recommended increasing the hall rental deposit, predicts that Lake Road north of McBride will flood this Spring, April of 2027 is when the Township website is required to be ADA compliant.

BOARD FINAL COMMENTS

Palmer praised the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer for the amount of work they handle.

ADJOURNMENT

Van moved, supported by Krause, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala