

APPROVED MINUTES  
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 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**

Drews requested the addition of Farnsworth Trash Receptacle to the agenda.

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

MOTION

CARRIED

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Judy Graham sought update on Rainbow Lake Phillips property blight and Stanton Rd/Johnson Rd billboard status.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Drews requested correction under Spring Lake Lot #1 – “deeds” should read “letters”; Tacoma Lake Special Assessment – add “and improvements” after “snowplowing”; Mike Nelson property blight – delete words “torn down”; M-91/Stanton Rd property sale – correct name of new owner from “Shingleton” to “Singleton”>

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the minutes as corrected.

MOTION CARRIED

**REPORTS**

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

Treasurer report was provided.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

4 zoning permits were issued, 1 land combination application, and 1 special land use permit request in July. \$710.00 in receipts was turned in.

An abatement order was granted at the 8/11/25 District Court hearing regarding the Rainbow Lake Phillips property. Petitioning the court for a warrant would be the next step should the blight issue recur.

Response was received from Aaron Lehman after the noncompliant mobile home letter was sent. Lehman is repairing for sale. The mobile home will then be removed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lake cabin – no response to first letter, second letter was sent informing owner that cabin needs to be repaired or removed.

Installation has been halted on the billboard at the corner of Stanton and Johnson roads. Drews will make a courtesy phone call asking the individual to remove the framework.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

Projects are progressing well. Brining has been applied. Youngman Road north of Kendaville \_\_\_\_\_

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

33 runs in June and July, 4 July runs being in Pine Township.

June training was wells.

Sprague moved, supported VanGessel, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

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

1 burial in Riverside Cemetery in July; 1 in West Pine Cemetery.

Sprague reported on the cemetery software (including droning) that she has investigated.

Drews spoke with Joe and Sue Ann Unger, owners of property adjoining West Pine Cemetery. They may be willing to sell 1 acre for future cemetery use. Pine Township owns 8 acres next to Riverside Cemetery that may be suitable for “green burials,” Sprague will \_\_\_\_\_

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

No representative present.

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

Inspection for invasive phragmites was conducted.

The Thank You note from the Ed Hansen family was read.

Westshore Services quotes for a safety siren were presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

State Rep. Pat Outman will be the speaker at the local chapter MTA meeting 8/19/25 in Vestaburg.

Sprague has registered for a free 8/21/25 webinar on fundamentals of fiscally ready communities.

Sprague is completing online election recertification.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

Master Plan copies were given to Gary Christensen to distribute to PC members. Master Plan will be discussed at the October 13, 2025 quarterly meeting.

A public hearing will be held at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 to consider the special land use request of Josh Singleton for the property at the intersection of M-91 and Stanton Road. Kaaikala will not be available to take the Planning Commission minutes.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer to approve the report.

MOTION

CARRIED

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Spring Lake Lot #1 Update**

The attorney mailed letters to each adjoining property owner. 1 homeowner has accepted, others have questions.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **Tacoma Lake Drive Special Assessment Request Public Hearing Date**

Mark Mitchell of Tacoma Lake Drive explained why the special assessment request was made.

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to table action until the September, 2025 board meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Rainbow Lake DNR Fishing Site – No Parking**

Pat Denton has informed Drews that, before No Parking signs can be posted, an inspection declaring a hazard would have to be conducted by the Michigan State Police.

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

MOTION CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Riverside Cemetery Tree Removal Bids**

Drews presented several bids, but abstained from voting due to a family member having submitted a bid.

Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to accept the \$4,200.00 bid from Bunker Tree Service for the Riverside Cemetery tree removal.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **West Pine Cemetery Pump**

Drews presented Jordan Selesky's solution to the pump issue.

Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to hire Jordan Selesky to make the changes to the West Pine Cemetery pump at a cost not to exceed \$750.00

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **Farnsworth Park Trash Receptacle**

The trash receptacle was removed from Farnsworth Park by Republic Services when removing dumpsters after clean-up day. There has not been an issue with trash at the park since that time. No receptacle will be placed again until next year.

## **PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

VanGessel moved, supported by Drews, to pay checks 4196 – 4238 for monthly bills in the amount of \$33,699.01.

MOTION

CARRIED

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dawn Sweet offered volunteers if needed to help with removing the Stanton Rd/Johnson Rd. billboard frame, asked whether West Pine Cemetery addition would need to be annexed before cemetery mapping, and noted that some areas experience issues with flooding green burial sites.

## **BOARD FINAL COMMENTS**

Palmer suggested contacting Scott Millard to test whether roll up carpeting would help with sound issues during board meetings.

Drews may ask for volunteers for Riverside Cemetery trail work in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague  
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala