

APPROVED MINUTES  
PINE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

**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 Adele Drive/Point Drive to the agenda.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

David Noah – concerned about the length of time of current M-91 road construction (Langston to Turk Lake).

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

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

MOTION CARRIED

**REPORTS**

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

Treasurer report was provided. September 14, 2026 was the final day for payment of summer taxes at the Township Hall.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

5 zoning permits were issued and no land division applications were received in August. Receipts will be turned in with September receipts.

Has answered several inquiries regarding a specific lot for sale on Rainbow Lake.

Composed on the new software and mailed a letter regarding the billboard framework that remains at the corner of Johnson Road and Stanton Road.

Drews brought up the again deteriorating conditions at the Phillips property on Rainbow Lake. It costs the Township \$3,500.00 in attorney fees each time the case is taken to court.

Drews moved, supported by Palmer, to initiate fees/fines for allowing the Phillips property to degrade even after the county judge has ruled that the property must be cleaned up.

MOTION CARRIED

Buchholz will start a new case/expressed frustration that the township attorney never asks for more during court hearings

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

MOTION CARRIED

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

The final two 2026 road work invoices have been received.

Spoke with State Representative Outman regarding the outlook for 2027 road funding. Outman was optimistic that funds will increase.

Will meet with County Road Commission in December to plan 2027 Township road projects.  
Palmer moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

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

16 runs in August, 2 being in Pine Township.  
Training was pump inspection to expedite their use when needed.  
New grass rigs anticipated in 5 weeks.  
VanGessel moved, supported Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

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

No formal report from Vicki Shindorf. West Pine well pump repair anticipated soon. Pitcher Perfect has done tree cleanup. Drews will obtain quotes for maintenance of stump removal around cemetery markers in Riverside Cemetery. There has been 2 full and 1 cremain burial spots dug in August.  
VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

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

No representative present

- **Supervisor Report – Bill Drews**

Drews acknowledged the donation of office chairs to the Township by Rodney Palmer for Board use during meetings.  
Reported a bid by B & E Coating to resurface the Hall parking lot for \$3,280.00.  
Will attend September ~~25-24~~ (rev 10/12/26) renewable energy fundamentals workshop at Ball Avenue, Grand Rapids.  
Working on obtaining Hall furnace/hot water rebate from DTE.  
Farnsworth Park sign view blocked by tree branch/leaves. Palmer volunteered to assist in removal.  
Shallow test well will be placed at Farnsworth Park for environmental purposes by USGS. (rev. 10/12/26)  
Stump locations Riverside Cemetery will be researched for removal.  
Plans to redo Supervisor office door to eliminate double door.  
Rainbow Lake wells to raise lake levels – strictly up to lake residents and at their expense  
Betty Sleight on Jordan Drive looking into options for snow plowing private drive into Middle Lake.

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

- **Clerk Report – Marla Sprague**

Website ADA compliance required in 2028. Proposal from Keaton Meyer to develop a .gov ADA compliant website for Pine Township at a cost of \$3,500.00 to develop and \$125.00 per month to maintain/add to. douglasstownship.gov is an example of his work  
FOIA requests from Sun Access in Virginia has been received in 2026 for Vendor payments from the Township.  
Election Commission to perform Preliminary Accuracy Test on Tuesday, September 22, 2026.  
Next local MTA meeting October 15, 2026 at Maple Valley Township.  
VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update – Darcy Krause**

Next meeting October 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Master Plan and noise ordinance will be discussed.  
Got a pamphlet in mail about the Copperton Project community listening session at Whitefish Lake Golf Club on October 7, 2026 from noon – 7:00 PM. This is an open house style format explaining enhancing of the Michigan power grid by building three double-circuit transmission lines.

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

MOTION CARRIED

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Basketball Hoop/Backboards** were installed by Palmer and Dan Martin at a cost less than was budgeted.
- **Master Plan Survey Update** proceeding on schedule
- **West Pine Well Update** anticipated to be repaired soon

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Benjamin Tyler, 1272 N. Greenville Rd. – Encroachment on North Side of Twp. Hall Grounds**

Tyler agrees there has been encroachment, seeks to purchase 0.35 acre to resolve the issue if a price can be agreed upon. Zoning Administrator Buchholz will speak with Tyler regarding setback requirements. Drews spoke with Assessor and reported property value. A survey would also be required.

Palmer moved, supported by Sprague, to sell 0.35 acre to Benjamin Tyler at a cost of \$8,000.00 plus \$300.00 to split cost of property survey with Township for a total cost of \$8,300.00, payable over a period of 10 years with no interest.

Roll call vote: Yes – Krause, VanGessel, Sprague, Palmer

No – Drews

MOTION CARRIED

- **Adele Drive/Point Drive**

Don Cichon requested that the name Point Drive be eliminated and the drive be incorporated into Adele Drive. Drews has spoken to the County Road Commission and was told that permission must first be obtained from the County Road Commission, and then the process advances to the Township. Action tabled until Township receives approved authorization from Road Commission of Montcalm County.

- **2025-2026 Audit**

Bid has been submitted for bi-annual audit 2025-2026 from Lake Michigan CPA bid not to exceed \$4,500.00

VanGessel moved, supported by Palmer, to accept the bid.

Roll call vote: Yes- Krause, Drews, Palmer, Sprague, VanGessel

No - None

MOTION CARRIED

- **Parks Update - Palmer**

Palmer has looked at several townships' facilities and considered what Pine Township residents can use that is already nearby and what could be built in Pine Township that would serve residents and complement neighboring facilities. He will bring proposals to the October Board meeting.

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to approve the report

MOTION CARRIED

## PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

Palmer moved, supported by VanGessel, to pay checks 4693 – 4738 for monthly bills in the amount of \$36,470.47 plus \$2,122.06 July and August ACH payments to US Treasury.

MOTION CARRIED

## PUBLIC COMMENT

James Hohler – Suggested a map of legal entry points to the Flat River within the township

Dawn Sweet – Offered help if owner of sign framework at Stanton & Johnson roads need help in taking it down  
Suggested Pierson Township as an example of an excellent playground to be viewed while making a playground decision

**BOARD FINAL COMMENTS**

Dres anticipates being contacted soon regarding a SAD for snow removal on Jorgan Dr.

Cowden Lake Christen Church will host MCSD speaker on church safety 9/15/26 7:00 PM, open forum, all welcome

Sprague has found a source to donate the old Township Board office chairs

**ADJOURNMENT**

VanGessel moved, supported by Krause, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague  
Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala