

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
September 10th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Lynn Gierke

PRESENT: Lynn Gierke, Bethany Baetsen, Andrea Aho, and Dan Palosaari.

MINUTES: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the previous month's minutes, supported by Andrea Aho. M/C.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the June Treasurer's Report by Dan Palosaari, supported by Bethany Baetsen. M/C.

AGENDA: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the agenda supported by Lynn Gierke. M/C

PAYMENT OF BILLS: The payment of bills was approved per motion by Dan Palosaari supported by Andrea Aho. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bill Tomlinson of N. Entry Rd. brought to the attention of the Board his concern over the garbage rate changes and the correlation of the increase in illegal dumping in other municipalities. Lynn Artman of Lakeshore Dr. inquired with the board if there is a solution to minimize residents using the rail-trail grade for their yard waste compost. The board discussed and encouraged spreading the word about the old dump. Residents can get the key for the gate from Craig Austin. Darlene Gronevelt told the board that some sand has washed into the ditch North of Lindala Rd. and therefore no water is moving North.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was a thank-you note from the Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly pavilion rental. Also the Houghton County Treasurer's office sent a notice seeking a township board member to fill a vacancy on the Board of the County Land Bank.

SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke is continuing to work on drainage issues with HCRC. The DNR had their internal meeting this past Monday the 8th. Their fiscal year starts in October.

CLERK: Bethany Baetsen reported that she has been catching up on General Ledger Reconciliations, working on the Employee Handbook and helping the W/S Clerk with water meter issues.

TREASURER: Andrea Aho reported that the new dropbox is working well for taxes. She and the WS clerk are determining which company to use for printing postcards that is also compatible with our BS&A software. She will look into adding garbage purchases to our online payments system.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: There were no members of the Fire Department of First Responders at the meeting but Lynn Gierke reported that there have been no Fire calls since the last meeting and 8 First Responder calls since that last meeting.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Brandon Schwandt reported that the new garbage changes are starting to work towards break-even cost savings. The cameras at the park are currently all operational. MDOT has been and will continue to be ditching on the South and North side of town on US-41. MDOT signed the permit for the 18 in. culvert replacement on Marinette St. The DPW has had great reviews from local residents and businesses about the speed sign around town. The township trucks are in for repairs and maintenance. The Lake Shore Drive. Lift station breaker keeps tripping. He also reported that they are still waiting on a proposal from Keweenaw Overhead Door for pavilion curtain replacements.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): An EGLE permit has been submitted to address the old ice rink drainage issues for removing the built-up material. Keith Meyers reported that they may need to submit 2 more culvert permits. The Planning Commission is continuing to work with DNR to put out a Request for Proposals for the work on the Pike River Bridge. The Planning Commission is working with Jordan Bailik with the DNR Waterways grant program. They have learned that the program is unlikely to fund new marina projects. Keith also reported that the preliminary scores for the Recreation Passport and Natural Waterways Grant were reported. The PC is hoping to present bids from JCS and Marquette Fence for the ball park and dog park repairs at the next board meeting. Keith introduced Evan and Max Massoway who are Eagle Scouts that have taken on the dog park and ball park work as part of their service

projects. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve a \$5000 from the Rec fund for the purposes of Evan Massoway's ball park repairs supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.

ASSESSOR: Dan Palosaari made a motion to approve the 2025 Tax Levy request form, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

WEBSITE: The new township website is now live at www.chasselltownship.org

OFFICE BUILDING: The new dropbox is working well for residents. The old dropbox will be removed shortly.

ZONING: The Planning Commission is working on the language for new and updated zoning ordinances including the blight ordinance discussed at the last meeting.

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes presented plans to the Board for the 4th st. paving. The Board advised him that they would like to keep the 18 ft. width and back-off the additional 10 ft from the trail approach. Motion to approve the plans and having UPEA request bids to do the work before the Oct. deadline by Dan Palosaari, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.

Chris also reported that bids for the Force Main project are due on Oct. 14th. All the permits are submitted except for the Corps of Engineers which will be completed shortly. One discussed project change was that the line going to the lagoons should come into the lagoons on the East side where the new control house will be.

As for the Lakeshore Dr. project, MJO is waiting on UPPCO to place conduit before beginning work. Chris Holmes asked the Board to review the projected numbers for the Water Projects and asked the Board to advise UPEA on the extent of the water projects goals. The board chose a comprehensive replacement approach bringing the township's water infrastructure up-to-date. This will include a project rate increase for WS customers of \$27 before the project start date.

Chris posed a question to the board: should the Adjustable boat ramp run under the Spark Grant or not. The board discussed.

REVIEW BUDGET: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Dan Palosaari made a motion to purchase garbage bags before the Seed Grant with NextCycle is decided, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.
- B. Bethany Baetsen presented some changes to the Employee Handbook including new hire policies, FMLA. She questioned whether the board wanted to offer Double Time for the full-time employees when called out at night? Dan Palosaari suggested asking other townships with a DPW what their policy is before deciding.
- C. For the Zoning, Water, and Sewer Ordinance changes, Lynn will have a meeting with the Zoning Administrator and Andrea Aho will meet with the Planning commission to bring these changes to the next board meeting for approval to set a date for a joint public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lynn Artman told the board that she along with Ed Glowaki got approval from the HCRC to put two culverts in to help drain water under Lakeshore Dr. She will present two bids to the township at the next meeting.
2. The Michigan State Police Cyber security presentation will be held Monday September 22nd at 6 PM. It is open to the public.
3. Lynn Gierke made a motion to submit an application for a \$5000 Par Plan Safety Grant to purchase safety equipment for the township including signage, cones etc, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.
4. The radar sign has proven to be a handy tool to manage township speeding issues. It was discussed that the township may eventually like to purchase one for ourselves so the Board will seek to obtain a quote for the cost to purchase one for the township. However in the meantime, we would like to continue to coordinate with Portage and Adams township to borrow the radar

sign whenever it is available.

5. The DPW trucks are beginning to age (specifically the white truck) and the bucket truck is in need of a \$2000 repair. The board discussed the need to work on our asset management schedule (when to sell and when to purchase vehicles). The board will discuss further at the next meeting.
6. The board discussed whether or not to post a fee for residents and non-residents at our local recreation assets (boat launch, park, trail, etc) or to simply post a suggested donation. It was decided to purchase and display donation boxes at these sites with a suggested donation amount instead of requiring a fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM by Dan Palosaari, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk _____