

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
January 14th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by Lynn Gierke

PRESENT: Andrea Aho, Lynn Gierke and Curt Judson

ABSENT: Bethany Baetsen and Dan Palosaari (attended via phone)

MINUTES: Motion by Curt Judson to approve previous month's minutes supported by Andrea Aho. M/C.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the December Treasurer's Report by Andrea Aho supported by Curt Judson. M/C.

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Gierke to approve the agenda supported by Andrea Aho. M/C

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: no comments

CORRESPONDENCE: Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, January 25 at 4:00 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for Evan and Max Massoway.

SUPERVISOR: Worked the past month on the Resolution for New Business 2.

CLERK: no report

TREASURER: Andrea Aho asked the board to update the Public Access Records Fee Schedule to include that the database can be received by CD or email after fees have been received. Motion by Andrea Aho supported by Lynn Gierke to update the fee schedule and post on website. M/C. Winter taxes sent out and W/S bills are now being sent by postcard which is a big savings in paper, postage and work hours.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that there were 5 calls ending in 39 calls for 2025. 0 calls for 2026. Mat Moore reported 19 calls ending in 128 for 2025. 9 calls for 2026. FR recommended Heather Chosa-EMT license in June, she works at MTU in EHS Program. Motion by Lynn Gierke supported by Curt Judson to approve. M/C.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin reported the past month he has been working on the Lakeshore Dr. (LSD) Lift Station (LS) issues. During a power outage on January 29th both the generators on LSD and Main LS failed. The Main LS generator isn't used enough and had condensation issues. Will need to look at in the spring about adding panels to block wind. FH concrete steps were broken from ice shed off of the roof. We have a tentative agreement for the purchase of the Compactor for \$15,000. Recreation Donation boxes are being constructed. Craig asked the board to purchase a Snow Bucket for the skid steer. Prices ranged from 1000- 3600 plus shipping. Resignation of Jake Elenich, last day Jan. 24th. We are sad to see him go but wish him well!. Garbage transition has been rough. Lots of comments from the public, good and bad. Good news we are breaking even but not for recycling. Consideration for 2026-27 ice rink year to have 2 ice rinks. The school has offered for free a 16' pavilion for the park. Cost to move \$500.

ZONING: None

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers informed the Board that the township was awarded a grant for \$106,200 from the DNR Natural Trust Fund to provide more amenities at the Canoe Kayak Launch. Jeff West with UPEA has completed the required boundary map. PC will be working on reviewing the current Zoning Ordinance for amendments. The first meeting will be at noon on 1/16/26. The PC was contacted by a local business wanting to move to Chassell. Need to investigate the zoning for possible locations. PC is reviewing the Draft Engineering Study. Meeting with MTU Wetlands Club to discuss wetland signage on the ski trail. Pike River Bridge-Need to get commitment from DNR that they will provide funds for construction. The township has local donations for the Engineering. Donation box wording suggestion, recommended formal wording from list Bethany Baetsen provided last month. Dumping at the end of S. Hancock St. was brought to the attention of the board. Suggested installing a

No Dumping Sign. Lynn Gierke will check with the Houghton Co. Road Commission to see if that is feasible. The Recreation Committee is working on Articles of Incorporation and 501(c)(3) status. The Gator Trac is getting fixed for \$6,500. Recreation Club funds will be used for repair.

ASSESSOR: BOR meeting organizational meeting will be March 5 from 5-6:30 pm. Appeal Hearings will be Monday, March 9 from 3-9 pm and Thursday, March 12 from 9-3 pm.

WEBSITE: The Deputy Clerk, Ann Vollrath is helping with website updates.

OFFICE BUILDING: N/R

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes presented a resolution to pay 1st installment to B&B for 800' for forcemain installed when funds are available. Motion by Curt Judson supported by Andrea Aho. M/C. Still waiting on MJO, for Build America Buy American (BABA) certifications. Chris Holmes explained how we will need a separate checking account when we get the USDA Rural Development Loan.

REVIEW BUDGET: Andrea Aho made a motion to approve the budget amendments, supported by Curt Judson, M/C. See attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. MRWA-Training Session, Asset review May 18-22. Will include smoke testing, rate study and manhole inspection.
- B. Pavilion Curtains-Discussion about steel vs. wood costs to lower sides. The quote from the SPARK grant was estimated at \$30K. Keith Meyers suggested applying for a Copper Shores Recreation grant. UPEA will provide 3D views and cost estimates for 8-10' roller doors .

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Draft Centennial Preliminary Report Review-Discussion. Send comments to Chris Holmes for revisions.
2. Sewer Budget Deficit Elimination Resolution. Discussed. Motion by Andrea Aho supported by Curt Judson. M/C

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM by Lynn Gierke, supported by Curt Judson, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk _____