

MINUTES

08 January 2026 / 7:00 PM / Chassell Fire Hall

ATTENDEES

Steve Spahn, Keith Meyers, Cindy Cowell, Doug Hamar, Molly Ploe, Rich Smith, Lynn Gierke

AGENDA

1. Call to Order 7:01

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda C. Cowell motioned to approve the agenda. R. Smith second. All aye. M/C

4. Reading and Approval of December Minutes L Gierke pointed out a misspelling. K Meyers pointed out an incorrect name in r. D.Hamar moved to approve the minutes with corrections. S. Spahn second. All aye. M/C

5. Public Comments None

6. Road Commission Report and 5-year Road Plan Discussion The Township Board approved the five year plan and the plan was submitted

7. Zoning K Meyers indicates a meeting is set up to review current zoning including the 2022 amendment. Meyers reminded that a copy of the zoning ordinances are online on the Township website. Meyers will work with PC to schedule zoning review meeting.

8. Capital Improvement Committee Report D Hamar indicated that the Township Board tabled action on purchasing software for the Township.

9. Recreation Committee Report K Meyers reviewed moving the Chassell Recreation Club from a state nonprofit to a 501 C 3 non profit group. By laws and Articles of Incorporation will need to be created. Meyers has samples to review. This non profit creation will open up opportunity to receive grants and charitable donations to support recreation in Township. Meyers added to his report that the xcountry ski trail gator needs track repair and the parts are delayed coming in from CA.

10. Recreation Facility Issues Meyers and Waters responded to a large group playing hockey at the rink during open skate hours. This response made them aware of need for more lighting on ice rink rules sign. The added lighting is operational. Sig Rho Fraternity offered to assist with rink monitoring.

11. Old Business

- a. **Chassell Mercantile Update** J. Ratliffe update included in 12.d.
- b. **Snowmobile Trail Update** Owners along the natural gas line still need to be contacted for potential easements. The helicopter brushing that occurred along the pipeline cleared out the easement. Baraga tourism reports that they are working with a property owner on easement on the Baraga end of the trail. Grooming is anticipated to begin this winter. The pipeline trail would go into operation for the 26-27 winter.
- c. **Centennial Park Engineering Study** K Meyers expects the final draft on 1/10/26.
- d. **Holy Trinity Old Church** Included in 12. d.
- e. **Sturgeon River Launch Improvements** L Gierke and K. Meyers were notified that the Nat'l Resources Trust Fund award was given for the kayak launch project. 2027 is likely for funds receipt and work start. \$106200.00 was awarded with a \$35400.00 contribution coming from the Township for a \$141600.00 total project.
- f. **Keweenaw Water Trail** K. Meyers reports Copper Shores, WUPPDR, and the Keweenaw Land Trust are cooperating to launch the water trail.
- g. **Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration** Discussed in b. above.
- h. **Hamar Creek Restoration Project** KK Meyers reports that Casey from MTU is working on 2026 project plans.
- i. **Cemetery Landscaping** No report
- j. **Rail Trail** K. Meyers revisited the water draining issue on the trail. EGLE will need to inspect the site. Clay Palosaari also offered to look at the area. Addressing issue will include all parties. No other rail trail updates.
- k. **Marina Development** Gierke inquired if PC had an overview of the guidance from the state meeting. Meyers said yes and offered overview of input given by the state.
- l. **Mountain bike trail/Skills track** A funding proposal is pending with a private foundation. K Meyers indicates that he will work on resubmitting the Visit Keweenaw grant application for the bike trail/park.
- m. **Misslitz Field Improvements** No updates. Work will be completed in the spring.
- n. **Max and Evan Eagle Scout Projects** Max and Evan presented their projects to the full Board at their December meeting. Supervisor Gierke signed off on the Eagle Scout projects. Gierke shared that Township Clerk will submit a story to the Gazette overviews the projects.
- o. **Pike River Bridge** Two bids that were received for the engineering work were rejected. A potential funder inquired if there was a full commitment by the DNR to complete the deck work after a study is completed. Spahn inquired what the max load for the bridge is intended. Meyer questioned foot traffic along with snowmobiles and trail groomers. A discussion ensued on logistics of foot traffic and snowmobile traffic on the same trail.
- p. **Tree Identification on the Fitness Trail/MTU Sierra Williams** No update. K Meyers shared at this time that he is meeting with the MTU wetlands group next week to discuss a similar project for the wetlands around the rail trail.
- q. **Dumping at the end of Hancock Street** A discussion was held regarding options for snow built up after plowing. Discussion moved to community education on proper dumping, ordinance prohibiting open burning in town, and community aggression that Wed and Sat garbage attendants are on the receiving end of regarding updated garbage rates. A no dumping sign was suggested again with Supervisor Gierke signaling support of one.

- r. **Steve Szyszkoski recognition** K Meyers will work with B Waters to purchase gift

12. New Business

- a. **PC Membership** Molly Ploe was welcomed as a new PC member. A current PC member has moved out of the township and created another vacancy on the PC. Gierke will discuss action to fill the position with B Waters.
- b. **Ordinance Review** K. Meyers scheduled an ordinance review meeting.
- c. **Donation Box Suggestions** The PC will recommend that Bethany move forward with the more formal sign statement for donation areas. K Meyers will communicate with Bethany.
- d. **Potential Zoning Change** Jeff Ratcliffe from KEDA spoke regarding a discussion with a light manufacturing operation business looking for expansion property in the area. The company approached Dan Palosaari regarding property along US 41 that is zoned multi use. D Palosaari expressed willingness to create smaller commercial lots. Rezoning for commercial use would be required. The PC posed multiple questions to understand the company activities. K Meyers recommended including the required zoning revision in the revisions already being studied and included when put out for public comment. J Ratcliffe reported on other projects including: current housing to scale projects in the UP led by Moyle; no updates regarding the development of the Mercantile property; a RFP for development of the old Holy Trinity property is currently active; and an overview of 2026 MEDC project funding.

Further PC discussion was held regarding the potential zoning change. K Meyers moved that a map amendment be put forth for the light industrial zone to be extended to include T&J Property across to the other side of US41 and the amended map be put out for public comment. R Smith seconded. All aye. M/C

- e. **Steve Szyszkoski Recognition** The PC would like to recognize Steve Syszkoski for the work that he donated in surveying the Misslitz Field. A discussion of options was held.

NEXT MEETING

February 5, 2026 7 pm Chassell Township Fire Hall

Adjourn K Meyers declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.