

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 8th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Lynn Gierke

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

ABSENT:

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke attended the HCRC monthly meeting and has been working on audit preparation. She finalized the SPARK Grant Progress Report and submitted it for the release of the final reimbursement. She has also coordinated the printing and mailing of the sewage rate change and CCR water quality post-cards.

CLERK: Bethany Baetsen informed the Board that Election Inspector Training went well and that the Public Accuracy Test will be held on Tuesday July 14th at the Fire Hall at 10 AM. The State Primary Election will be on Tuesday August 4th. Bethany has been working on Audit reports and general ledger reconciliation as well as occasionally helping the water/sewer Clerk with UB metering issues.

TREASURER: Andrea Aho has completed her audit reports as well as her petition for the November Election. She informed the Board that summer tax bills and newsletters went out and that she overestimated postage so the township has a \$300 credit on account with KCI. Andrea will be unavailable from July 17th-30th which has been posted to the website and office.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Curt Judson reported that the Fire Department had 14 calls since the last meeting mostly due to the recent storm as well as 2 fires at the Bark Park, and 1 bear-car incident on the flats, which brings the year-to-date total to 29. Mat Moore reported that the First Responders received 14 calls since the last meeting and 59 year-to-date.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin informed the Board that Julie Judson has inquired about helping with data entry for the CDMI survey as well as Silversmith entries. Lynn Gierke made a motion to hire Julie Judson and/or other qualified individual to work on Silversmith data and Complete Distribution System Materials Inventory (CDSMI) work at \$18/hr, supported by Bethany Baetsen, Curt Judson abstaining, M/C. Craig mentioned that smoke testing was completed and few issues were found. This indicates that the majority of the issues must be coming from sump pumps. He said the DPW knows of 42 sump pumps going into the sewer. Dan Palosaari volunteered to begin talking to those residents to see if the township can help them reroute their sumps into stormwater drains or ditches. Craig also mentioned the lagoon had 8-12 in. of sludge of which samples were taken and sent in for testing. The kayak launch was pulled due to needing a quick fix. The Pavillion roof is complete and the office roof will be done tomorrow. Michigan Tech will be doing GPR in the cemetery again and will give those files to the township. A tree needs to come down in the cemetery, the expected cost should be roughly \$850. The mower arm should be coming in next week. There are 4 funerals this week. Bethany Baetsen volunteered to start the Go-Fund-Me page for the Fish Cleaning Station. The gazebo donated by the Chassell School is getting a lot of use in the park. Craig inquired about getting a new used bucket truck as the township truck is near the end of its life. Curt Judson made a motion that Craig could look for and purchase a replacement provided the cost stays under 10K, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

Lastly, DP was the only bidder on the rail-trail dip culvert installation and trail fix. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to accept DP's bid for \$6500 to be taken out of the Rec Millage, supported by Andrea Aho, Dan Palosaari abstaining, M/C.

ZONING: Zoning Ordinance meeting will be held Thursday August 6th at 6 PM at the Fire Hall.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Per message from Keith Meyers the PC is asking for approval of an expenditure of \$365 for 18 tree and plant signage on the fitness trail. Motion by Lynn Gierke supported by Dan Palosaari. M/C.

ASSESSOR: Lynn Gierke let the Board know that the Board of Review is still looking for one new member. The next meeting will be held on July 23rd at 5 PM at the Fire Hall.

WEBSITE: Curt Judson will provide Fire Department pictures to Nathaniel Maki for the website.

OFFICE BUILDING: The roof replacement will be complete tomorrow July 9th. Lynn Gierke will inquire about getting the Clerks office printer fixed or replaced as well as whether or not the township needs to upgrade its software agreement with Mueller systems.

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes was not in attendance but sent the board an email with the following important points: The Pike River Pike River Bridge agreement forwarding soon; Sewer Improvement generator shop drawing going out today/tomorrow; B&B forcemain pressure testing tomorrow; RD Water App being entered into RD Apply for review. Chris will update on generator lead time, grinder station install dates, and B&B work once he hears back.

The Board discussed. Lynn will set up a meeting with UPEA to discuss deadlines for the RD Water Loan application, Centennial Park Survey, as well as the generator payment.

REVIEW BUDGET: Still working on Audit

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Pavilion curtains: the board discussed the need for a new system for closing off the pavilion. Garage style doors and roll seal doors are options. Curt Judson will try to produce an AI image of what the pavilion would look like with those options which could be used for a crowd-funding campaign. Dan Palosaari suggested doing the doors all at once instead of piece meal over several years and stressed the need to raise funds from the public or local grants.
- B. UPEA is still working with the PC to complete the centennial park study.
- C. A motion was made per Andrea Aho to inquire with Will Dunstan if he would want the Quonset Hut and could remove it in lieu of payment, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. It was discussed to table the RFP for the Fire Hall addition until the next board meeting.
- 2. Based on the Sanitary Survey Report from MRWA a motion by Bethany Baetsen was made to raise sewer rates to \$47 base rate and \$8 per 1000 additional gallons, remove dollar amount language from the township ordinance for connection fees, and increase the base connection fee for water and sewer to \$1500 each for any new service with additional costs for road crossing or right of ways, supported by Lynn Gierke, M/C.
- 3. The Board discussed employee evaluations and decided it would be easier and more efficient to complete all full-time hourly evaluations around the beginning of the year. This change will be made to the employee handbook. Until then per motion by Curt Judson, Craig Austin will receive a \$2/hr raise and Brandan Schwandt will receive a \$1/hour raise, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM by Lynn Gierke, supported by Bethany Baetsen, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor _____ Bethany Baetsen, Clerk _____