

Stanton Township Board

August 06, 2025

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from July 02, 2025. Marty **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Jim **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Tina presented the bills to be paid. Lori **motioned** to pay all the bills. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Lori **motioned** to amend the April 2025-March 2026 budget item as mentioned. See attached for amendments. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Payments for the project to Barr Eng for Invoice #8, #9, #10 & #11 were submitted on July 23 for Q2 of 2025. This will not include Invoice #12, which will go in Q#3 submission. Invoice #13 was approved to be paid to Barr Eng at this meeting for \$9945.00. The goal of the project funding is to utilize all of the EGLE (MDSO) grant funding and then move to the GLFC funding while another application is submitted for further EGLE (MDSO) funding beyond the award if needed.

Mark discussed the Roof project proposal at the Stanton Ballfield. And presented an estimate for the job from Wall Street Construction for \$3,250. Mark **motioned** to accept the bid from Wall Street Construction. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Marty said "Thank you" to yesterday's (Aug 05) election workers.

The Township's Attorney is still working on the Historical access litigation to the Township parcel in Freda. A meeting was held with the Township Attorney on July 24 to review progress and discuss facts and discuss moving forward. No end is in immediate sight but other cases have recently been decided that may affect Stanton Township's case.

There has been no opinion from MTA on the possible questionable bridge access that is located on private property, over Graverat River. After a discussion with the Township Attorney, he suggested that Stanton Township should give notice to affected parcels that may have none, or possibly delayed emergency services, since the private bridge at this location appears to be in a dangerous condition. Mary gave a list of parcels and a notice was mailed to them. Marty is working with Houghton County Emergency Services to find an alternate route to the parcels.

The bridge was reviewed for the owner, (Gerry Kesti, with a copy of the report provided to the Stanton Township Board), by PE. Bridge Engineer Nate Jurmu on July 25, 2025 and deemed unsafe for designed loads and to be used "at own risk". The bridge was also visited by Marty Rajala & Anthony Lampinen (fire chief) on Monday, August 4 and Anthony concurred that no Stanton Township vehicles should be driven over the structure as it stands. Marty mentioned that First Responders may walk over or use 4-wheelers, if available. Houghton County is currently working on looking for an additional route for access to the properties affected.

Roads- Marty gave an Official "Thank You" to Congressman Bergman and Colin Gwillam for resubmitting the recommendation for funding Stanton Township's "Canal Rd Reconstruction Project" with CPF (Community Project Funding) funds at a level of \$5.1 Million. The project was recommended by the transportation subcommittee to be funded at \$5,100,000.00 and will go to the House and Senate for approval, with final approval from President Trump for the spending. No date of, if and when, this may happen. May possibly know in the late fall or winter.

Bacco Construction finished up Houghton Canal Rd paving projects. Waiting for the final bill for the shoulders.

Final locations of Agg Base (Gravel) with SLFRF (AARPA) funds placement project sent to HCRC. No date was given for the start of this work, possibly in November.

Line painting on HCRC roads within Stanton Township has been completed by the HCRC, we have not yet received the final bill.

Discussion of possible work in the Liminga Cemetery initiated by Mark Haataja. Mark presented 3 estimates for the job. Mark **motioned** to accept the lowest bid made by Blue Line Site Solutions with a bid of \$13,779. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.** This will be paid using the Road Fund.

The driveway entrance culvert at Stanton Township Hall and the ditches on either side of highway and low end of it were cleaned out by Tims Excavating recently, just prior to the heavy rains, to prevent possible erosion of the driveway and the new parking lot. The existing culvert was plugged. Jim will take care of getting some topsoiling and seed/mulching and HV mulch blanket to restore the area next to the ditch just before the driveway entrance, with the price to be kept around \$1,000 for this project.

Bryan Riutta is working on grave digging and may get a digger with mechanical means on call for burials in hard digging locations at the new section of the Liminga Cemetery. Bryan is also working on sign inventory and some missing road signs, the new signs have not been ordered yet.

Board Member Comments: Tina gave the election results from yesterday's election.

Tina mentioned a FOIA Request email that she received. Due to the possible spam risk with this email request, Tina will send the FOIA Request paperwork to the mailing address listed in the email.

Mark mentioned that one of the Township Hall windows has some paint peeling along the window seal. The window will get looked at after the meeting to see what can be done.

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- None

Freda Sewer- Jim gave the rain amounts for the Freda Sewer, which was 6.6 inches for July, and the sewer held up well for that large amount of water.

Public Comment- Jim mentioned that Redridge Dam was tested for lamprey and the results showed there were 40 lamprey at the bridge and 80 lamprey at the test site in Toivola. This shows that the Redridge Dam helps stop the lamprey from going through.

Steve Whitmer mentioned that the culverts are blocked and the ditches are full in Toivola along Matta Road to Agate Beach and to Pine Road. He stating that there is a 190 foot elevation change, making the water runoff worse. He had to get his driveway fixed from the recent heavy rain which flooded this area. He is worried that the HCRC work that was done to temporarily fix the area will result in another washout to his property if not fixed correctly. Marty will contact the HCRC about this issue, and let them know about the 190 foot elevation and the need to fix that area.

Pat Schaefer asked if the board had received an email from his lawyer. They had not. Pat wants the 16 homeowner names that are affiliated with the private bridge that was recently deemed unsafe for use. He also mentioned that he knows people that know of an alternative route that can be used to access the properties affected by the private bridge. He asked if there was a written report that has been done on the private bridge, Marty confirmed that yes there is.

Roy Aho asked if there was work being done with other EMR (Emergency Medical Responders) in the area, in case of help being needed to the area affected by the private bridge being inaccessible for emergency vehicles. Marty replied that Houghton County Emergency Management Coordinator is working with us. Marty also reminded him that once an alternative route is available that EMR and Fire Fighters will use it.

Mark **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor