

## Stanton Township Board

May 06, 2026

### Monthly Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Toivola Rec Center 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 Regular Meeting Minutes from April 01, 2026. Mark **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Lori. **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. Marty **motioned** to pay all the bills as amended. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Lori **motioned** to amend the April 2026-March 2027 budget item as mentioned. See attached for amendments. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

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Guest speaker Ken Vrana gave a handout to those present and discussed the Special legislation language that is being drafted and possibly submitted to State Rep Markkanen, on Stanton Townships behalf, regarding the Redridge Dam Project. Ken is donating his time on this project, working with Eva along with State Rep Markkanen, and possibly with Federal and State agencies to come up with a solution for the Redridge Dam on whether to remove the Dam or preserve it.

The board reviewed 4 different options for the Redridge Dam preservations that were provided by Barr Eng. With the township's current funds and grants, options 1 and 4 are the most likely options. Option 1, preserving the Dam, would need grants to help cover the cost. And option 4 would cost around \$1.4M to remove the Dam. Superior Watershed Partnership was contacted about possible funding assistance with the Dam, but said they do not have any funds, but can offer grant admin assistance. Marty asked for a special meeting of the Township Board with Barr Eng for a discussion of which way to proceed on the Redridge Dam project, providing materials/handouts for the public, along with taking public input on the topic. It was tentatively decided to hold the Special Meeting on June 17th, at 6pm, at the Stanton Township Hall. The official date of the meeting will be posted to the township website.

Also, regarding the Redridge Dam Project, the township reimbursement request was submitted to EGLE for Q1 of 2026 on April 24, 2026. This included Invoice #18 to Barr Eng as well as #19 documentation shown as a local match. Check for Invoice #20 to be reimbursed in next quarter as it was not cashed by Barr in time for Q1.

A recent FIOA request was completed and sent to the requestor.

Discussion on an interim Deputy Clerk for Tina in the absence of Mary was made. Tina said, if Mary is not back before the process for the upcoming election in August, she will find an interim Deputy Clerk.

No word yet on the Copper Shores Grant for the Kenner Dome project that was submitted on March 18th. This will be a summer/fall project to fix boards and fencing. Bid packages were sent out a few weeks ago and are due in September.

2025 spending report for SLFRF funding submitted on 4/8/26 & 4/28/26. No invitation yet from US Treasury for the final documentation of ARPA Expenditures. Final documentation and closeout for SLFRF expenditures can't be wrapped up until the US Treasury program sends an invite to do so.

The Land Division Act was updated as of March 24, 2026. Nick Djerf, Stanton Township Assessor, will implement.

A discussion to install an outgoing mailbox outside the Township Hall and also have a safe for funds inside the Township Hall to eliminate the burden and expenses of someone running to town more than once a week to the post office and the bank was made. With an expected savings of a few hundred dollars per month for the township. Mark will look into a locked outgoing mailbox and a location outside the Township Hall building that is out of the way of winter plowing and also easy to access.

Timmer Loukus has 2 kids that will be lawn mowing for the township this summer/fall.

Stanton Township forest manager, Green Timber, solicited bid packages to 9 local loggers. They have recommended the high bidder as JM Longyear for an quoted timber value of \$55,746.87 for the ball field harvest. This work is likely to start after spring breakup.

Discussion for an additional, approx 250 x 250', of timber cutting beyond the left field of the Stanton Ball Field, using a portion of ballfield timber harvest funds, for aggregate Parking Lot construction for the ballfield. The neighbor that owns the adjacent lot does not want ball players parking in his field. Marty **motioned** to approve of the additional cutting of timber and put a plan together for the parking lot for the ballfield. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

The coordinator of Agate Beach Sale of timber, with the camping season was discussed. John Mattila will be the coordinator and will discuss times of harvest with Green Timber.

**Roads-** Mark and Jim are working on dust control areas and will need to send the list to the HCRC. The finalized list will need to be submitted to the HCRC by May 19, 2026. The price is 15 cents more per gallon than last year.

Road Service Agreement with HCRC for allocating the Section 19 Road Funds has not been received from HCRC as of yet. Unsure if it's coming for last year's events due to lower MI flooding this year, and whether FEMA declares this year's event a federal disaster.

Our Grant request to USDOT for Rural & Tribal Assistance (RTA) was not selected.

No project awards were made to any municipalities or tribes in Michigan. Marty **motioned** to have OHM resubmit a grant request IF the program is offered again for \$500,000, for Engineering costs for a project. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

A possible HMA skip paving project with HCRC in multiple locations based upon the current 5 year road plan in conjunction with HCRC and Neighborhood Road funding possibly received in near future which is a modification of the Act 51 gas tax was discussed. This would be a 2027 project. Stanton Township would buy the HMA material, and HCRC would pave it.

Construction bid/quote packages were sent out for adjusting Freda Sanitary Manholes, with bids to be received by the June meeting of the Board for possible acceptance and award.

Over 5 road signs are missing/taken in the Liminga/Coles Creek areas along with 12 faded signs that need to be replaced and at least one stolen in the Toivola area. Bryan and John will order them and replace them.

A discussion to authorize 950T (approx \$18,000 from road fund) of Agg base to go along with the HCRC ditching project on McKilligan Rd that was missed on the previous Agg base project with HCRC. Marty **motioned** to have 950T of Agg base on McKilligan Rd as discussed. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

**Board Member Comments:** Jim will be submitting the Dust Control list to the HCRC on May 19th.

**Agate Beach Rec Committee-** John discussed the restoration of the ditching materials in the campground. There are 4 sites that will get some fill and grass. He also plans to add gravel, and re-seed in the fall.

**Stanton VFD-** None


**Toivola VFD-** The roadside clean-up is Saturday May 9th. Volunteers are welcome.

**Freda Sewer-** April had spring runoff, with 10 consecutive days of high level. He had to manually override the computer those days. More water is getting into the system. April had 132,180 gallons, with 8,520 gallons in one day! The system is working hard and is keeping up. Marty said he will have Andy Karanen from UP Engineering look at the sewer system.

**Public Comment-** John said he will be getting gravel for the Toivola Cemetery.

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

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

**Amended budget changes - 05/06/26**

**Stanton Township Funds    April 2026-March 2027**

**EXPENSE**

<b>Code:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Change:</b>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>		
<b>215 Clerk</b> 215-730	Operating Supplies	\$100 up to \$500
<b><u>Liminga Fire Fund</u></b>		
<b>342 O.C. Exp</b> 342-910	Insurance	\$10,000 up to \$10,796
<b><u>Toivola Fire Fund</u></b>		
<b>342 O.C. Exp</b> 342-910	Insurance	\$10,000 up to \$10,143