

Stanton Township Board

June 03, 2026

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 Regular Meeting Minutes from May 06, 2026. Marty **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

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

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

No budget amendments were needed.

Guest speaker Ken Vrana gave an update on the Redridge Dam Project with a possible proposal in the near future of an interested buyer/transfer of ownership of the Redridge Dam. Ken is continuing to work with Eva, State Rep Markkanen, Center of Maritime & Underwater Resource Management CMURM, Nature Conservatory and the Keweenaw Headland Project. The current grants on the Redridge Dam Project would be transferable to the new owners of the Dam, as long as they abide by the grant's stipulations and requirements. If a transfer takes place, the new owner, in conjunction with, Barr Eng may hold a public information meeting in the near future regarding the status of the project. Jim **motioned** to move forward with the investigation of a possible sale of the Redridge Dam and allow Marty make decisions on the townships behalf in the event of a sale/transfer of the Redridge Dam. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The tentative Special Meeting on June 17th, at 6pm, at the Stanton Township Hall has been postponed/canceled due to the possible upcoming sale of the Redridge Dam.

Redridge Dam Funders meeting held 05/28/2026. Possible transfer language of current grant awards from GLFC and EGLE (MDSO) to be provided by the current project funders.

Barr Invoice #23 to for \$9,396.00 to be paid with monthly bills and will be mailed by registered mail with tracking and required signature. This bill #23 will be reimbursed by the MDSO in Q2 reporting. The check for Invoice #20 has still not been cashed by Barr.

John Paul Pietila of Traverse Engineering Services, PC presented a proposal for Ballfield Parking Lot (200 x 200) design & const staking. With a target for an October project completion to allow aggregate base & restoration to winter stabilize, if we get an acceptable low bid. Lori

motioned to accept the proposal from TES to design the Ballfield Parking lot, with a deliverable date by July 20th for solicitation to contractors for a possible opening of bids and possible approval to move forward with construction of the parking lot for an October project completion. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Mary D plans to be back to work in June. The May Election was successful. Thank you to the election workers. There will be a State Audit for the May Election for Stanton Township Precinct #2 (Toivola) on June 15th.

The Assessors office will be sending out notices to parcels/owners he expects to visit this year for continued assessment.

No word yet on the Copper Shores Grant for the Kenner Dome project. Bid packages are due in September for fall project completion. If there is no grant awarded by September, the Township Board will reassess where the funding will come from for this project and determine if they will move forward with an award and construction of the project.

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. Lori will look into this.

Mark has ordered a secure mailbox and it will be put up at the Township Hall soon, w/lock key provided to mailman for outgoing mail.

A proposal for a digital informational sign mounted on the Township Hall was discussed. A 2'x10' sign would cost around \$18,000. Mark said Anthony L. will be asking the Liminga Fire Department to see if they would like to split the cost of the sign. The board will wait to hear back from Anthony before going forward with this.

Adding two Pickleball Courts at the Kenner Dome where the volleyball court is currently, was discussed. There are lots of local small gov'ts now that have built them locally. It is estimated to cost \$80,000. The EB Holman School is in talks of making Pickleball Courts also. This item has been tabled.

Timber Sale Update - Stanton Twp forest manager, Green Timber, said Longyear started Ballfield Timber cutting about 3 weeks ago. The cutting is going well. The Agate Beach harvest plans to start later this summer. This fall sale/harvest has not gone out to bidders yet.

Roads- Special Announcement: Our road reconstruction project on the Houghton Canal and possibly part of North Superior Rd (1.2 miles) has been selected for a \$5,100,000 Community Funding Partnership grant. A Big "Thank you" to State Rep Bergman and Ken Vrana for their efforts in securing this funding for a much needed road project. A 2029 Construction project likely. The project will be constructed with local funding participation of Stanton Township (10%) and the HCRC (10%) of the total project costs, which are \$5,100,000 plus engineering programmed at 15% PE and 11% CE (\$1,326,000), for a total of \$6,426,000. With the project coordination assistance to be through the HCRC, with it being administered through the MDOT, Local Agency Program (LAP). Will need to sign a service contract with the HCRC for 10% of

total project costs, up to \$642,600. Tina mentioned having the shoulders of the roads be 4 feet wide for pedestrians and bicycles.

Road Service Agreement with HCRC for allocating the Section 19 Road Funds not received from HCRC as of yet. Stanton Township to receive approx. \$90,000 & partner with the HCRC on a road project. The St of Mi hasn't sent out Sec 19 awards 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.

Unsure if the USDOT, Rural & Tribal Assistance (RTA) grant for \$500,000 for Engineering Costs will be available yet that was approved last month for re-submittal by OHM.

A HMA skip paving project is being considered for multiple locations (possibly in 2027) based upon the current 5 year road plan, in conjunction with HCRC and Neighborhood Road funding program. Stanton Township would buy the HMA material and HCRC would place it.

Three sealed construction bid/quote packages were received for the adjusting of the Freda Sanitary Manholes. Tina opened the three sealed bids and read out loud the quotes for each bid. After the low bid from Blue Line Site Solutions was checked for accuracy and confirmed, Marty **motioned** to award the Freda Sanitary Manholes project to Blue Line Site Solutions. **2nd** by Jim: **Approved Unan.**

Bryan Riutta ordered the missing road signs and posts. He will be replacing them once they come in.

HCRC has finished the ditching project on McKilligan Rd. and will complete the placement of the aggregate base that was previously approved for later this fall.

Board Member Comments: Lori presented the Board with an updated Capitalization Policy to replace our outdated one. Marty **motioned** to adopt the new Capitalization Policy. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Lori mentioned that the lines on the Canal Road will be painted soon.

Lori said that Agate Beach Park ordered signs stating "1 camper + 1 tent per site" which will be posted at each site, as many campers have been violating this policy.

Lori said that she will shop around for CD's at other banks for when the renewals come due.

The lot adjacent to the Liminga Cemetery has not been surveyed yet for a possible donation/sale from the current land owner.

Agate Beach Rec Committee- None

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- None

Freda Sewer- Jim – The average flow rate was 25,086 with a max of 34,030 in May.

Andy Keranen (UPEA) feels the infiltration for the month of April is over and above what the rated capacity of the drainfield is. He says the system was not designed to have sump pumps or basement foundation drains to be dumped into the system. He suggested that anyone discharging these items into the system to stop doing it. Or a system upgrade will be needed as system capacity is overloaded and not designed for more than 5,600 GPD. Jim H and Jim M will work on letting the residents in Freda be aware of this, via letter and/or in person.

Jim M and/or Marty plan to attend a webinar explaining the new State of Michigan requirements for sewer operator certification on June 04.

Public Comment- Jim M said the washout on the Cemetery Hill by Freda Rd/Covered Dr is being worked on but needs blacktop. HCRC to finish repairing this. Marty will talk to the HCRC on this matter.

Bryan R mentioned that people are driving over one of the headstones at the Liminga Cemetery. The headstone is at the corner of the cemetery and the road is narrow in that area. Mark and Bryan will go assess the issue this week to fix this disturbing problem.

A resident asked what skip paving was, and Marty explained that it was layman's terms for paving only areas of the road that need it most (skipping over the good sections of the road).

Marty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm. 2nd by Jim. Approved Unan.

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor