

Stanton Township Board

July 01, 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 June 03, 2026. Mark **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. Lori **motioned** to pay all the bills as amended. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

No budget amendments were needed.

Traverse Engineering Services, PC is working on the Ballfield Parking Lot project. The bid package is due by July 20th for sending out to contractors quotes, and the bids are due by the August 5th Board meeting for the opening and approval of bids and possible award of a bid.

Redridge Dam Project – The Township has not received an offer to purchase the Redridge Dam from anyone or any organization, and there is not any to be expected, anytime soon. A discussion was had to move forward with the removal of the existing dams and creation of a lamprey barrier, as to stay within budget of the project. Also discussed was, what has been awarded to date for the project, and to go forward with the removal of the dams, unless some other funding source becomes available. Marty **motioned** for to have Barr Engineering submit a “change in Project Scope to the project funders”, with the full removal of both the Redridge Steel Dam and the Timber Crib Dam, to put up a lamprey barrier, and to submit a project and funding extension along with the change in the project scope letter, as required, to the funders on Stanton Township’s behalf. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** Lori mentioned to hold a public meeting regarding this topic. A public meeting to be planned in the coming months.

The Elections Committee Meeting was held just prior to this meeting, to appoint the election inspectors for the August 4th Primary Election. Stanton Township has two precincts open for in person voting on Election Day, at the Stanton Township Hall and the Toivola Rec Center.

No word on the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation grant request for the Kenner Dome submitted on March 18. Bid packages are due in September for fall project completion.

No invitation yet from US Treasury for the final documentation of ARPA Expenditures.

The Secure Mailbox is in place outside Township Hall, to be used for outgoing (non-signatory) and incoming mail, with a key access for the township officers and the US Mail carrier.

The possible cost sharing with the Liminga Fire Dept for a digital informational sign mounted on the Township hall was declined by the Fire Dept. Mark will look into less costly sign options.

Discussion on putting up Pickleball Courts at the Kenner Dome was held, with an estimated cost of up to \$80K. Marty **motioned** to approve of getting a set of plans for the proposed pickleball courts at the Kenner Dome, with 3-5 bids for this project. **2nd** by Tina. **Approved Unan.**

Timber Sale Update - Stanton Township forest manager, Green Timber, said log delivery receipts are expected to exceed \$70K for the sale of the Ball Field timber harvest. All saw timber is hauled and some pulp is remaining. These funds are allocated to go towards a new parking lot for the Ball Field. The Agate Beach timber harvest is to start later this summer, this sale has not gone out to bidders yet.

USACE closed down the Township leased Breakers parking lot last week with no notice to Stanton Township or the public. Marty asked the Core of Engineers to post a big sign for parking by the pavilion to allow beach goers an area to park and walk down to the inner harbor beach, also have parking around the exterior of this parking lot. Parking will be allowed by the pavilion.

Roads- For the proposed road reconstruction project on the Houghton Canal Rd, Stanton Township will need to sign a service contract with the HCRC for 10% of total project costs. Final billing to be completed after the actual costs and details are complete. Now estimated at \$642,600, IF the N Superior Rd portion can be completed. N Superior Rd may not qualify. Mark mentioned to pave the boat launch at the same time. Tina mentioned including 4 foot shoulders on both sides of the road being part of this project. Lori asked to have the shoulders that were recently done on the Canal Rd to be widened out to 4 feet as well. This request will be made to the HCRC, when the project is scoped. The project is anticipated to start in 2029.

Road Service Agreement with HCRC for allocating the Section 19 Road Funds not received from HCRC as of yet. HCRC is still unsure if funds are coming for last year's flooding events.

Unsure if the USDOT, Rural & Tribal Assistance (RTA) grant for \$500,000 for Engineering Costs will be available yet.

Marty and Mark to work on 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. This would be a 2027 project if it was to be completed. Stanton Township would buy the HMA material and HCRC would place it.

The Freda Sanitary Manhole adjustment/repair project has not started yet.

Bryan Riutta ordered and received the road signs that went missing. He has started replacing them, and has to replace and/or fix some of the posts as they were sawed off or badly damaged. A discussion on how to prevent so many road signs being stolen each year was held. Roy Britz will talk to the County Sheriff on this issue.

HCRC plans to finish agg base placement on McKilligan Rd in the fall.

The dust control treatment project was delayed and is projected to start July 2nd. Jim has not heard if this is a final date for treatment. Bryan may be able to ride along depending on the date of treatment. Jim said some of the residents asked for a partial reimbursement of funds due to the delay of dust control treatment to their roads, but there is no mechanism in the project by which to reimburse partial payment. So this will likely not happen.

Board Member Comments: Mark said that the weed wacker has been located and will be dropped off at the Township Hall.

Mark talked to Glen Ekdal in regards to the Veterans Memorial at the Township Hall, the Veterans Committee is in the process of gathering names of local veterans for the memorial.

Lori said that the Summer Tax bills will be sent out tomorrow, July 2nd.

Agate Beach Rec Committee- None

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- None

Freda Sewer- Jim – Junes flow rate was average to flow rate for June which is 65,100 gal. The efficiency is less with the pumps running too much due to bad filters which Jim will work on. The webinar on new Michigan State requirements for sewer operators certification that Marty and Jim had planned to attend was for larger sewer systems and the new requirements did not pertain to the sewer system that Freda uses. Jim will send Marty the drafted letter, to be edited if needed, and sent out with the next sewer bills informing residents of the possible need for drainfield expansion of the system.

Public Comment- None

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:08pm. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:_____Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:_____Marty Rajala, Supervisor