

Stanton Township Board

August 04, 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, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman. Trustee/Mark Haataja was absent.

All present read over the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 01, 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 Tina. **Approved Unan.**

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

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

Ken Vrana provided the board with a Draft Concept proposal which would form a *Redridge Heritage Association*, which would be a Nonprofit Corporation and IRS Section 501(c)(3) Scientific Educational Organization. He explained the benefits of having an association such as this, for funding and help with maintenance for the Redridge Dam site. Marty **motioned** to have Ken Vrana continue to work on options for funding the Redridge Dam Site for presentation to the Board for approval. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Marty discussed the interest to have the North Canal Park a USACE Campground. The outreach coordinator for the Detroit District of USACE told Marty that they would not be interested. It was then discussed on what the future of a possible sale of the park or to make a campground there. Ken Verana said that he is willing to look into helping make a campground at the North Canal Park. Marty **motioned** to have Ken Verana explore options with the DNR to make park recommendations at North Canal Park. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The Redridge Dam Project currently in the design and conceptual phases was discussed and plans for a special meeting for the public to discuss the future of the Redridge Dam. At this meeting, the options will be presented and public informed why the Board has motioned and approved to move forward with the removal of the timber crib and steel dams, while keeping part of the concrete as a lamprey barrier. The special meeting will be held on October 8th at 6:00 pm at the Township Hall.

Discussed grant extension and scope change requests to be submitted by Barr Eng. to project funding partners which will modify and scope the project going forward for the Redridge Dam Project, and for Barr to also submit a grant extension through 2027. Great Lakes Fishery does not have an end date for their grant.

Reimbursement requested from GLFC for \$ \$36,624.50 and \$9,691.00 have been paid to the township, and a request from EGLS (MDSO) for \$33,861.50 was also made this month. The

Township should be fully reimbursed after these payments, except for this month's invoices. Lori continues to send the checks to Barr by Certified Mail, this is working well.

Trav Eng proposal for Stanton Township Ballfield Parking Lot design & const staking were sent out to contractors on 07/23/2026, with October 15, 2026 for the project completion to allow aggregate base to winter stabilize. Three sealed bids were returned to the township. Lori opened, and read the bids. Northern Land Solutions, LLC bid was read and checked low at \$67,800. Marty reviewed the bids. Marty **motioned** to accept the low bid from Northern Land Solutions, LLC. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The August State Primary Election went well.

The new website is noted as being ADA accessible according to our web designer.

No word on the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation grant request for the Kenner Dome submitted on March 18. Project Bids are due at the Sept board meeting for moving forward with the Safety work project at the Kenner Dome this fall to fix end boards and fencing. Completion date of Oct 24, 2026. The Board will discuss covering the cost if there is no grant.

No invitation yet from US Treasury for the final documentation of ARPA Expenditures. Lori will look into this.

The Timber Sale Update from Stanton Twp Forest manager, Green Timber, said log delivery receipts are finalized. The total Scaled timber sales with a \$72,365.65 net profit. Agate Beach harvest to possibly start later this summer.

Additional parking signage was placed in the upper lot at NCP for overflow days from the lower parking lot.

Roads- The road reconstruction project on the Houghton Canal Rd & N. Superior Rd is waiting for determination from the FHWA and MDOT as to whether N Superior Rd can be completed with the CPF grant funds. 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 all shake out. Possibly estimated at \$642,600.

Road Service Agreement with HCRC for allocating the Section 19 Road Funds not received from HCRC yet. The St of Mi hasn't sent out Sec 19 awards yet. HCRC is still unsure if it's coming for last year's storm damage.

Unsure if the USDOT, Rural & Tribal Assistance (RTA) grant for \$500,000 for Engineering Costs will be available yet. The grant app was previously approved for re-submittal.

Marty and Mark to work on designing a 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. Stanton Township would buy the HMA material and HCRC would place it. There is no notice of an award to the township yet.

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

Bryan Riutta ordered missing road signs and posts as needed. Lori will look into ordering a "Ballfield Parking" sign with arrows, per the project plan, for mounting after the Ballfield project is completed with Bryan to install the sign.

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

Marty and Lori said "Thank you" publicly to Donny Juntunen for his service to Stanton Township. He has relinquished his duties there. The Board then discussed hiring a maintenance person for NCP, Kenner Dome and boat launch for the remainder of the summer. Includes trash duties, cleanup, nail & fire pit cleanup, monitoring outhouses, pavilions, etc. Timmer Loukus and family to take over.

The Redridge/Freda Loop trail had two culverts replaced by the trails club last fall. The trail is open from Larson Rd to Salmontrout Bridge only. Currently asking the DNR trails group for an update as to when the remainder will be open. Marty believes the MiDNR is working on a project to repair the remaining culverts, and no success yet with the re-route request to the Redridge Dam rec area. The Board has previously motioned to have the trail terminated by the Redridge Dam rather than Mesnard Rd.

Board Member Comments: Jim said after the delayed start date for Dust Control. It is now completed.

Agate Beach Rec Committee- John said some tree trimming was done on some hazard trees in the park. Gravel will be brought in for low spots this fall.

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- Garry said a fire safety grant to be submitted for turnout gear. Also a DNR grant for a backup generator was submitted. They also plan to get an antenna to increase range for their radios.

Freda Sewer- Jim – Letter for the sewer customers regarding the input of seasonal water into the sewer system to be sent out in sewer bill mailings. The flow rate is down to 19,000 gal per day.

Public Comment- John Mattila mentioned having the new website link listed on the tax bill so residents know about the new website. He also requested to have the blacktop redone on Agate Beach Road. He also questioned about upkeep on Township park properties.

The September Board Meeting will be held at Agate Beach Park at 6pm.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by: _____ **Tina Hatman, Clerk**

Approved by: _____ **Marty Rajala, Supervisor**

Amended budget changes - 08/05/26

Stanton Township Funds April 2026-March 2027

EXPENSE

Code:	Title:	Change:
<u>General Fund</u>		
262 Elections		
262-740	State Primary Election	\$0 up to \$2,900
262-860	Mileage	\$400 up to \$1,000
262-957	Election Training	\$0 up to \$3,000
411 DPW - Streets/Hwy		
411-939	Road Sign Maintenance	\$0 up to \$1,500
753 Agate Beach		
753-955	Miscellaneous	\$100 up to \$300