Stanton Township Board

October 07, 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 September 02, 2026. Marty **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Mark. **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 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**.

Marty reminded everyone of the Special Public Meeting tomorrow, October, 08 2026, at 6:00 pm to discuss the future of the Redridge Dam. Barr Eng will do a presentation of the options that were considered.

Reimbursement in the amount of $13,595.50 was recently requested from EGLE (MDSO) for Barr Eng payments for the Redridge Dam Project for Q3 of 2026. Also in the payment of the bills today, were approved for Barr Invoice 0.1-4 for $7,557.50 and Invoice 0.1-5 for $18,214.00.

The Ballfield Parking Lot Project with Northern Land Solutions (Charlie Mitch) was modified in size and design, based on existing soil conditions being decent. The parking lot was reduced to approximately 35-40 parking spots. Some funds will remain from the original contract amount for the project and the board discussed putting the leftover funds into the ballfield maintenance needs. Daron Durocher was consulted by Marty about the ballfield repairs/maintenance needed with a list compiled to start with infield repairs. Marty **motioned** to spend the remaining funds from this project and to have Daron Durocher consult with Northern Land Solutions to have them work on needed ballfield repairs and maintenance on a T&M basis. **2nd** by Jim. Lori and Tina in favor. Mark opposed. **Motion Approved.**

The Kenner Dome Project is completed. It looks great.

Lori contacted Ross Cooney about a grant for a Pickleball Court, and was told to apply for a grant in the spring. A discussion on collaborating with the EB Holman School was also discussed and was tabled until the spring.

The timber sale bids for Agate Beach timber harvest came in through Green Timber, with JM Longyear being the highest bidder at $84,492.12 of the 3 bids that came in. Mark **motioned** to accept the bid from JM Longyear. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan**. The harvest will start soon.

USACE has completed the project at the North Canal Park with minor cleanup needed.

Three sealed bids for the 2026-2027 plowing season to start in November and end in April of 2027 were returned to the township. Tina opened, and read the bids. Marty reviewed and checked the bids. Turner Construction bid was read and checked low at $14,580 for the winter season. Marty **motioned** to accept Turner Construction's bid. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan**.

A disposition was held in September regarding the Freda access issue and its road. No word on a resolution yet.

The Final Grant scoring for the MNRTF grants and Stanton Township application for Hemlock Springs Park will be released in early November according to the MiGrants portal.

Marty contacted the Houghton Sheriff to discuss and lodge a formal complaint regarding the destruction of the outhouse at NCP and stolen road signs in the Township. An investigation is ongoing. The bill for the destroyed outhouse was paid at $1,143.32.

Roads- Congressman Bergman's office said that the language for the Stanton Township CFP award for road construction work on the Houghton Canal Road will be modified to include the North Superior paved portion, starting at the Canal Road. Stanton Township will need to sign a service contract with the HCRC for 10% of total project costs. HCRC to provide 10% of costs also. Final billing to be completed after the actual costs are determined. Estimated and to be budgeted at $642,600 from the Road Fund. Estimated completion date for this project is 2029 or 2030.

Road Service Agreement with HCRC forthcoming for the Section 19 (State Disaster Assistance) Road Funds awarded from the State of Michigan recently. Stanton Township to receive approx. $196,000 & partner with the HCRC on a road project. Discussion of where to spend the funding was held. It was suggested to partner with the HCRC on a project on Agate Beach Road. Marty **motioned** to spend all the funds from Section 19 towards the Agate Beach Road in collaboration with HCRC. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan**.

Still 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 if the grant monies are available in this program again in the near future.

Marty spoke with HCRC and the skip paving project in multiple locations might be able to be completed by HCRC in 2027, but at a much scaled back size. Areas of repair to be based on the current 5-year road plan and/or a visual road inspection of areas, at Stanton Township Board and HCRC recommendation. The areas are to be around 50' to 100' in length. Marty asked to board to look for areas that need repair.

A discussion was had to possibly commit to budget money for full paving job and location later, when word is received that Neighborhood Road funds will be awarded. HCRC suggested the remainder of road funds to be in a larger project possibly in conjunction with some HCRC funds and Neighborhood Road funding. The Board Members will consider roads for this which may possibly start in 2027.

The Freda Sanitary Manhole project has been completed and looks good.

HCRC aggregate base project is completed on McKilligan Rd. The project looks good.

Rahala Rd brush hog work looks nice. Requested that the Houghton Canal be done the same way.

Board Member Comments: Lori discussed talks from last month's meeting about putting funds from Agate Beach into a CD. Lori will talk to John M about starting a CD for Agate Beach.

Mark presented the board with a request to get a shed for the lawnmower and equipment at the Township Hall. Lori **motioned** to have up to $7,000 for a shed. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan**.

Agate Beach Rec Committee- None. Marty will inform John Mattila on the logging contract that was awarded to Longyear for the Agate Beach timber harvest.

Stanton VFD- Anthony submitted an equipment list to Marty and submitted a fire safety grant request on behalf of Stanton Township.

Toivola VFD- None.

Freda Sewer- Jim said everything is going good. Getting ready for winter.

Public Comment- None.

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan**.

Submitted by:_____Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:_____Marty Rajala, Supervisor

Amended budget changes - 10/07/26

Stanton Township Funds April 2026-March 2027

EXPENSE

Code:	Title:	Change:
General Fund		
265 Buildings and Grounds		
265-977	Capital Outlays	$1,000 up to $7,000
751 Kenner Dome		
751-930	Kenner Dome Repair/Maint	$25,000 up to $34,000
752 Canal Park		
752-925	Trash/Sanitation-N. Canal Park	$2,000 up to $2,500
Liminga Fire Fund		
342 O.C. Exp		
342-730	Operating Supplies	$1,000 up to $2,000