

Stanton Township Board

September 03, 2025

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Agate Beach Rec 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 Meeting Minutes from August 06, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Tina **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** The Toivola Fire Fund 5 Month CD will be renewed.

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

Lori **motioned** to amend the April 2025-March 2026 budget item as mentioned. See attached for amendments. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Lori and Tina met with the auditor to go over recent audit findings to discuss and address a few items on the Stanton Township Audit. These items have been resolved.

Marty recently approved work orders #8 & #9 for Barr Eng to move forward with the work of the design survey and scanning of the Redridge Dam. Full payment for Invoices #8, #9, #10 & #11 were received on Aug 25 for Q2 of 2025.

A FOIA request for information relating to Greaverat Bridge was completed according to the Township Attorney's interpretation of the law's requirements. The Township Attorney drafted a response letter to the requester. Tina and Mary printed and sent it out in the mail on Friday 8/29/25.

An emailed letter was sent on 8/26/25 to Houghton County Emergency measures office asking if they, or anyone else, has determined an alternative route to parcels affected by Greaverat Bridge. The response was that they have not determined an alternate route and are NOT working on it as it is the homeowners responsibility to provide a route to the owners parcels and buildings, but emergency measures will continue to respond in whatever manner they are able under the conditions they find. An updated letter to the homeowner/parcel owners was mailed to all affected parcels on 8/29/2025 stating this, with language as suggested by Stanton Township Attorney. Tina will attach a copy of the letter to the meeting minutes. (see attached)

Marty **motioned** to have the Stanton Township Attorney review and update a draft for the Township FOIA Policy and procedures. With the board to review, comment and possibly adopt

an updated Township FOIA policy to be consistent with the statute and current legislation, and rescind the previous adopted policy at October's board meeting. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The board agreed to grant permission to MTU Senior forestry group to do a resource assessment study, survey and report on Agate Beach Park (247 Acres) and the North Canal Park (116 acres). This should be a great addition to our latest recreation plan. There will be no noticeable impact to the park's facilities and will be at no cost to the Township.

National Geographic may be doing some filming at Agate Beach for a "Pure Michigan" film to be concluded in the near future. The film director was told to follow all park rules and we would not sign a waiver (that might need to be reviewed by Township Attorney) as it is a public park and open to all who follow the law and local park rules.

Superior National Bank is looking for possible projects in the areas for volunteer cleanup for their "SNB Day of Giving" on October 13th. Both Agate Beach Park and the North Canal Park could use this help. Tina will email SNB to let them know that both parks can use help and have them contact John Mattila and Donald Juntinen to go over cleanup needs.

OHM will possibly submit a "No match required, design assistance grant for rural areas" request to the USDOT for Canal Rd (CFP) project design costs for Stanton Township. The grant request will be for up to \$500,000.00 for road design services for the project. This grant preparation submission would cost Stanton Township up to \$2,000.00. If the CFP grant is awarded, this USDOT grant would save Stanton Twp and Houghton County the cost of design services, and allow more funds for the construction costs. The grant application opens on September 6th, 2025. Mark **motioned** to have Stanton Township apply for the CFP grant. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Roads-

Bacco Const finished up Houghton Canal Rd paving projects. HMA Shoulder widening to be paid for with SLFRF funding. A final bill has been received by the township. It was mentioned that this will be paid from the Road Fund account.

No date has been given for the start of the Aggregate Base (gravel) work in multiple locations in Stanton Township by the HCRC. The SLFRF (AARPA) funds placement project was sent to HCRC. Marty let them know that we need final billing by the December regular board meeting for approval of payment. Marty will request to have the gravel come from quarry rock to avoid nails and sharp debris, which has popped vehicle tires in the past.

Line painting on HCRC roads within Stanton Township was completed by the HCRC. We are still waiting on a bill for this project.

There was a request from a resident on Messy Manor Rd for a yield sign coming off the logging road onto Messy Manor Rd.

There may be some flood relief funding coming to the HCRC from the State of Michigan with the latest declaration of support from the Michigan Governor. The Houghton Canal Rd and Misery Bay Rd culverts, among other repairs, are needed around Houghton County.

Board Member Comments: Mark mentioned that he met with Glen Ekdahl at the Stanton Township Hall to discuss a possible area for the new Veterans Memorial. Glen liked the area behind the Township Hall. The board did not want the memorial in an area hidden from view. The board would support a more visible area for the Veterans Memorial.

Mark mentioned that Bryan Riutta could not turn his bus around very well at a bus stop on W. Heinola Road. And if the township would purchase two loads of gravel, the homeowner would be willing to move the gravel around himself. Mark **motioned** to have the township buy two loads of gravel for that area of W. Heinola Road. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Mark will look for a contractor to fix the leaking windowsill at the Township Hall.

Agate Beach Rec Committee- John Mattila ordered a replacement well screen for the Agate Beach well per Health Dept Request of 8/22/25.

John mentioned that a camper who had stayed two nights at Agate Beach Campground did not want to pay in advance for their campsite. The camper also left without paying for one of the nights. This is not a common occurrence and most campers are happy to pay in advance.

John mentioned upgrades being made to the Agate Beach Rec Hall.

The hillside by Lake Superior is eroding at Agate Beach due to water runoff and also people using the hillside as a way to get access to the beach. John asked about putting up signs and posts with rope between the posts to deter people from using the hillside this way. Marty **motioned** to post up signs and roped posts in this area. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved by** a 4-1 vote. Ayes Marty, Lori, Jim and Tina. Nays Mark. Marty will contact the HCRC to let them know of the water runoff coming from the road and to look into ditching and culvers to divert the water runoff.

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- A Copper Shores grant was made for new radio's and pager's.

Freda Sewer- None

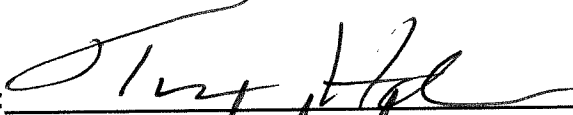
Public Comment- John questioned the way the payment process for the gravel being bought for the Liminga Cemetery roads was coming out of the Road Fund. Lori said that cemetery roads are to be fixed with the Road Fund Account and if the Toivola Cemetery needs updating to their roads it should also come from the Road Fund.

Marty will contact the HCRC to request getting a traffic count put on the Agate Beach Road and North Superior Road.

Road grants were discussed.

It was mentioned with the increase of daytime use of Agate Beach, would it be possible to put a donation box up to help with the cost of running the park. Fees for parking were also mentioned. No action was taken at this time for this.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor