

## Stanton Township Board

July 02, 2025

### 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 Meeting Minutes from June 04, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Mark. **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. **2nd** by Tina. **Approved Unan.**

No amendments were made to the April 2025-March 2026 budget.

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The Final FEMA payment was received a few days ago for the Redridge Dam. Stanton Township is now complete with regard to flood damage payments. Thank you was mentioned to Tiffany Vedder at Michigan State Police and our partners at T.E.S., John Paul & Stan Vitton for assisting with the completion of this.

Payments for the project to Barr Eng for Invoice #8, #9, #10 & #11 to be submitted in Q2 of 2025. Barr Eng will provide the submission package for reimbursement submittals. Marty asked Tina and Lori to send him the canceled checks needed for submittals, in electronic form.

The new quote for the Par Plan Cyber coverage provided by Hannula Agency for \$1,000,000 in coverage is \$2,254. Jim **motioned** to wait for next year to reassess if there is a need to add cyber coverage for the Township. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

There is currently no need for any additional cleanup efforts at the North Canal Park.

Mark is waiting to see if there are any proposed rules for Agate Beach Park from John Mattila.

Anderson Excavating completed a ditching project to divert melt and runoff water from the Township Hall building and parking lot, to avoid the constant water running across it. This was finished and looks good. This should result in the elimination of any standing water behind the Township Hall and runoff across the parking lot. It is working great so far.

Keranen Well will be asked when they plan to start on the Kenner Dome Well work, and have it completed by November 15th.

The Board Of Review meeting will be July 22 at 3:00 PM. The upcoming Special Election will be held on August 5th.

Marty reminded the board members that if they would like to visit the township parcel in dispute in Freda to contact Jim for a tour. The township is still working on the historical access litigation to the township parcel which is slow going and at the mercy of the court docket availability. There is a possible update meeting on July 24th.

Financial information has been provided to the Township Auditor and is progressing well. The No-fraud statement was provided as required by law to the township board. The board members will each fill out and send it back to the auditor.

**Roads-** The Canal Road Paving by Bacco Construction, is to start July 07, with completion date of July 18, 2025.

The Dust Control project with the HCRC was completed the week of June 16, 2025. Mark volunteered to ride around with HCRC solution application contractors to provide guidance for one day to the locations on our list. Mike Pionke stepped up and assisted Mark for a day. Wage approval for Mike for his time/miles is suggested at \$200. Thank you Mike!! These shared cost locations should have been flagged by the homeowner with flags provided by the Township and as detailed on the form they received. May need to remind homeowners next year to flag their location to ensure their road gets sprayed. A few residents called to express their appreciation for the dust control.

The final list for the Agg Base (Gravel) with SLFRF (AARPA) funds placement project was sent to HCRC. There is no date given for the start of this work. Possibly this fall. The board will need to make a motion for this bill, prior to the December meeting.

The line painting quote/estimate from HCRC was with a ballpark price of \$0.06/Ft. A brief list was given to HCRC with Major roads asked for painting. Most of the roads have now been painted, and the suggested list of roads will be tabled and reviewed in the spring of 2026.

**Board Member Comments:** Tina mentioned that all new election equipment will need to be purchased for each precinct in 2027. Each precinct should expect to pay \$15,000 for the new equipment needed. There will also be a cost for each township/city to help pay for the new equipment needed for the Early Voting Site at the Houghton County Arena. We will discuss this more at the September board meeting.

Mark made a motion to remove the veterans monument at the Township Hall parking lot, as it is looking in bad shape. Ross Cooney will be informed of this motion as he is looking to find a new home for it, and it was decided to table the motion for now.

**Stanton VFD-** None

**Toivola VFD-** None

**Freda Sewer-** Jim has 2 spare pumps available for the sewer if needed.

**Public Comment-** It was mentioned that an implied easement should be made available for the Township's attorney for the property with the Copper Range easement on it.

A concerned resident mentioned that his bridge is in need of repair and is not safe to drive on for first responders or fire fighters, making it difficult if there was an emergency. He is currently in a lawsuit with neighbors over the safety and upkeep of his bridge. Marty will contact the MTA with this issue to see what to do going forward. The Fire Department and first responders will be made aware of the condition of the bridge.

Bryan Riutta will get signs and posts orders for the township, where they are needed.


Mary mentioned that the roof of the ballfield needs fixed, Mark will look into getting it fixed.

Bryan mentioned that the Liminga Cemetery has some water runoff resulting in sand covering some grave sites. Mark will look into getting this issue fixed.

It was mentioned that some roads are getting bad runoff during heavy rain, after grading was done on them. A resident will call the HCRC to look into getting this fixed.

Bryan mentioned that the school bus can no longer turn around on Heinola Road and was told to turn around in an area too small for the bus. Bryan will ask HCRC to widen the turnaround area if the homeowner, of the students getting picked up, cannot widen their driveway to a length that the bus needs to turn around in.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor