

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Road  
Sandusky, MI 48471

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was held at the Watertown Township Hall

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**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Supervisor Dick Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call was taken.

**PRESENT:** Coats, Hacker, Henderson, Radloff, Ross  
**ABSENT:** Diaz  
**STAFF:** Cole, Kenny  
**GUESTS:** Matt Cole, Gary Heberling, Al Stoutenburg, Patrick Krumenaker, Eric Levine, Gary Heberling, Bill Parrish, Rick Panburn

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**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Henderson requested approval of:

1. Minutes from Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026

*Motion by Radloff, supported by Hacker, to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, April 7, 2026 ~~Regular~~regular Board Meeting as presented. All present voted yes. Motion carried*

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**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No additions or corrections

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Radloff, to accept the agenda as presented. All present voted yes. Motion carried.*

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Sanilac Co Planning Commission Mtg. Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 3 pm
  - Ross reported receipt an email reminder of this meeting from Sanilac County Administrative Assistant Jody Morris.

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**PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

District 3 Commissioner Gary Heberling provided the Commissioner's monthly report.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Approval of Checks Issued**

Coats presented the monthly disbursements totaling \$30,625.72, covering check numbers 18327 through 18360 along with the monthly financial reports. Discussion was held.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted and placed on file for audit.

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#### **CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **Approval of Current Claims**

- Ross requested approval of current claims.

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Henderson, to approve the current claims as presented. All present voted yes. Motion carried.*

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#### **CEMETERY REPORT**

Ross presented the April 2026 Cemetery Report

- There no were burials during April 2026
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#### **ZONING REPORT**

Hacker reported:

- He received and approved a Land Use Application
- He received a Land Split Application. The property owner is requesting to divide the parcel, separating the area containing the house and shed from the remainder of the property. The proposed split meets all applicable requirements.

*Motion by Radloff, supported by Henderson, to approve the land split as presented. All present voted yes. Motion carried.*

- He received a request to approve a partial withdrawal of land from the PA116 Program.

*Motion by Henderson, supported by Hacker, to adopt the resolution approving the PA 116 partial withdrawal. Roll-call vote: all members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

- He requested direction on finalizing Zoning Fee Schedule. The only issue left is the \$5,000 fee for non-notification of a name change.

*Motion by Radloff, supported by Henderson, to remove the Non-Notification of Name Change fee from the Zoning Fee Schedule. All present voted yes. Motion carried.*

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#### **WEBSITE REPORT**

Ross gave report on behalf of Website Administrator Becky Cambridge.

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#### **TAX ASSESSOR REPORT**

No Report

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#### **SEWER REPORT**

Kenny and Hacker reported:

- Twelve water meters were installed
- They are trying to setup Marshall Drive meter installations for Monday. That will make installation complete to Dell Street.
- They are working on correction of issues with remotely connecting meter readings with the household that should be billed for the usage. The corrections will not be completed in time for the June 2026 readings; therefore, the

same procedure used during the previous quarter's billing cycle will be followed for this quarter. Coats requested serial numbers and models so that she can enter the information into the system. Kenny will email what they have to her.

- No call backs from Blank Electric yet. Kenny will keep trying to contact them.
- Of the 92 meters scheduled for replacement, 31 remain to be completed.

Henderson led additional discussions regarding the following:

- The sewer fund account balances and the profit/loss of the sewer account since 2012.
- The Board resolution requiring that financial software be installed on the Township's computer.
- Whether or not a Township-issued laptop could be used.
- If something happened to the home computer, where would the township be and is QuickBooks and BS&A's data back-up and stored in a secure place.
- Complying with the resolutions recently passed by the Board.
- Home address on bank statements is against the Township's mail policy.
- Additional discussion was held regarding Township financial procedures, compliance with Board-adopted policies, record reconciliation, a solar compliance escrow and the statutory responsibilities of Township officials in overseeing financial operations.

Commented [SC1]:

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## NEW BUSINESS

### **Moratorium on Data Centers**

No action required this month.

### **Ordinance Change Request**

Henderson reported that Linea Energy is requesting the Board release the current \$10.4 million bond and replace it with a surety bond. The matter is under legal review and negotiations are ongoing. Henderson indicated that he will provide an update as additional information becomes available.

### **Advertise Cleanup Day on May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Henderson reported that the May 30 Cleanup Day was advertised on Facebook, the hall sign, and the Township's website.

### **Highline Internet at the Hall**

Henderson reported that internet service at the Township Hall was interrupted last week due to an issue involving Highline. Service has since been restored, and Highline will be reviewing the matter to determine the cause and prevent future disruptions.

### **Mileage – 2026 – 72.5 Cents Perper Mile**

Henderson reported that the Township presently reimburses mileage expenses at 53 cents per mile and that the current federal mileage reimbursement rate is 72.5 cents per mile.

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Radloff, to set the mileage reimbursement rate at the current federal rate of 72.5 cents per mile. All present voted yes. Motion carried.*

### **Road Commission Agreements**

Henderson presented three proposed Road Commission Agreements.

- Agreement to replacement of a culvert on Applegate Road, 405 feet East of Fetting Road. The Township is responsible for the full cost of \$3,345.00.

*Motion by Radloff, supported by Henderson, to approve the culvert replacement as presented. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

- Roadside Ditch Cleaning Agreement for property starting on the west side of Gates Road, 1010 feet south of M-46 and running south approximately 2,800 feet. Estimated cost is \$3,444.00. That is 33% for the county, 33% for the township and 34% for the petitioner.

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Henderson, to approve the Roadside Ditch Cleaning Agreement as presented. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

- Roadside Brush Spraying Agreement for the Township. The estimated total cost is \$3,000 of which the Township is responsible for approximately \$1,500.

*Motion by Henderson, supported by Hacker, to approve the Roadside Brush Spraying Agreement as presented. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

Henderson also recommended reducing the Township's limestone order from 4,000 tons to 3,000 tons. The cost of 3,000 tons of limestone, along with the cost of brining, would be consistent with the amount of Road Millage revenue received by the Township. If additional limestone is needed, grant funding may be available, or the Board can reevaluate the situation at that time. Discussion was held.

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Radloff, to approve reducing the annual 22A limestone agreement to 3,000 tons at an estimated cost of \$84,000. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

#### **Resolution for Partial termination of a PA116 – Keith Henderson**

Please see Zoning Report

#### **Attorney Brian Garner from Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill and Garner P.C. Lapeer, MI**

Henderson reported that he contacted attorney Brian Garner of Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner, P.C. Mr. Garner is willing to provide legal services to the Township at a rate of \$200 per hour, billed in quarter-hour increments, with no retainer fee required. Henderson recommended utilizing Mr. Garner's services based on the work he performed for the Township between 2000 and 2012. He requested authorization to utilize Mr. Garner's legal services, as needed, to help expedite the resolution of Township matters. Discussion was held.

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Henderson, to approve the use of Brian Garner's legal services, provided he is willing to attend meetings as needed and provide timely information and guidance to the Board when requested. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

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#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Spring Cleanup Schedule and Advertise**

Henderson requested the Board members' availability to assist with the May 30 Spring Clean-Up.

- Ross and Cole reported they will be out of town
- Coats volunteered to work the first shift.
- Hacker stated he would be available when possible.
- Henderson indicated he would be available throughout the day to fill in as needed.
- Radloff reported he would be available at some point during the day.
- Krumenaker will review his schedule and advise of his availability.
- Radloff will contact Planning Commission members to determine their availability to assist.

##### **Townley GIS Sewer Info**

Radloff reported that he received the files on a USB, which he gave to Henderson.

### **Cemetery Signs**

Henderson reported that Rick Pangburn made the cemetery signs and they are posted.

### **Trash Pump for Lift Station**

Henderson reported that there are no reasonably priced trash pumps available that can effectively pump from the bottom of the lift station. Alternative options will be researched.

### **Sylvan Drive Property**

Henderson reported that the homeowner submitted a letter explaining his situation. Henderson responded that, while the Township sympathizes with the circumstances, the property is and has been in violation of an ordinance. He granted the homeowner 30 days to provide the Township with a signed cleanup contract. If the contract is not received, legal counsel will be sought.

### **Audit**

Henderson did not receive an auditor's update on this. Hacker reported that, to his knowledge, the forensic auditor is compiling information and will try to find an auditing firm that will conduct a remote annual audit. He also noted that the Township will need to update its financial software programs.

### **EGLE Grant**

1. Walking Trail
2. Pavilion
3. Mausoleum in Cemetery
4. Culvert on Applegate Rd
5. Reconditioned Cemetery and Hall Blacktop
6. Extend Hall Parking Lot
7. Paint Railing in Front of the Hall
8. Furnace
9. Water Heater

Henderson reported that the grant application is progressing. The Township is awaiting signed materials from Cooper Rourke, Linea Energy representative. Once received, they will be added to the application, along with project pictures.

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A resident expressed concerns regarding the fast pace of the solar project and strongly urged that the Board hire an employee to monitor project activities for compliance with Township requirements and ensure adherence to the agreement.
  - The resident also expressed concerns that the EGLE grant may be recalled by the State and noted a clause requiring timely installation of electric service. He cautioned the Board against expending the funds until their retention is assured.
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### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Hacker, supported by Radloff, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All present voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.*

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### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tammy Ross  
Township Clerk

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