

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

February 18, 2026 @ 7:30pm

Members Present: Supervisor Eric Verlinde, Clerk Tim Karasek, Treasurer Kathy George, Trustee Isreal O'Boyle, Trustee Gabe Warnke

Visitors: Bonnie Hale- Cemetery Manager, Kelby Lieby- MRFD, Dave Esterline- Village of Maple Rapids, David Smith, Beth Botke- Assessor.

Call to Order: Township Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:32pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Visitor Statements:

Bonnie Hale- Cemetery Manager:

- Discussion on proposed cemetery price increases as presented.

Motion: Accept the price structure as presented by Cemetery Manager Hale.

M. Tim Karasek, **S.** Eric Verlinde: **MCU**

Kelby Lieby- MRFD:

- Presentation of February Fire/Medical Report.

Dave Esterline- Village of Maple Rapids:

- Travis Stewart appointed new Trustee.
- 5 year P&R plan presented to the State.
- MR Community Center available to rent.
- Mike Townsend from the DPW retiring.
- New stoplight being installed in the village.

David Smith-

- School Board discussion.
- Discussion on Quest building purchase.
- East Olive school is being sold.
- Next School Board Meeting: February 26, 6:00pm.

Beth Botke- Assessor:

- Assessment notices going out this week.
- BOR meets March 11, 9:00-3:00 and March 12, 3:00-9:00.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: Approval of the December 2025 and January 2026 minutes as presented.

M. Kathy George, **S.** Eric Verlinde: **MCU**

Trustee Report: None

Treasurer Report: Kathy George

- Discussion on Transaction Detail by Account Report.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

M. Tim Karasek, **S.** Isreal O'Boyle: **MCU**

Clerks Report: Tim Karasek

- Discussion on Budget Reports

Motion: Accept the Clerk's report as presented.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Kathy George: **MCU**

Supervisors Report: Eric Verlinde,

- Discussion on FY 2026-2027 road project prioritization.

Motion: Obtain contracts from the Clinton County Road Commission for chip sealing and gravel for Lowe Rd, spot gravel, spray foliage and brush mow as presented.

M. Kathy George, **S.** Eric Verlinde: **MCU**

- Discussion on New Look Computer's proposal on making the township website ADA compliant.

Motion: Accept the proposed website compliance bid from New Look Computers.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Tim Karasek: **MCU**

- Discussion on the financial situation of the Clinton Area Ambulance Service and their request for an additional \$2 per capita for FY 2025-2026.

Motion: Provide the Clinton Area Ambulance Service and additional \$2 per capita for FY 2025-2026 as requested.

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Isreal O'Boyle: Roll Call Vote

Yay

Nay

Eric Verlinde

Tim Karasek

Kathy George

Gabe Warnke

Isreal O'Boyle

Motion Carries.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion on increasing the rate of pay for the Cemetery Manager.

Motion: Increase the rate of the Cemetery Managers hourly rate of pay from \$15 per hour to \$20 per hour beginning April 1 2026.

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Gabe Warnke: MCU

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 9:42pm.

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Kathy George. MCU

Next Meeting March 25, 2026 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk