

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

March 25, 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, Beth Botke- Assessor, Zach Rudat- County Commissioner.

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:

- New cemetery computer program working well. All information to enter is almost complete. Very user friendly.
- Surveyed cemeteries to check for damage.

Beth Botke- Assessor:

- At the BOR March 11 meeting there were 4 petitions: 3 were denied and one approved- balanced with the county.
- Review of the township taxbase:
 - o Ad valorem \$177,044,700
 - o Taxable \$90,316,199
 - o DNR \$795,100
 - o Taxable \$511,000
- \$5 million taxable up from last year.

Zach Rudat- County Commissioner:

- Discussion of the Special Planning and Zoning Meeting.
 - o Want to maintain county planning and zoning services.
 - o Voted to have townships cover the budgetary shortfall.
 - Draft calculations based on:
 - 20% participation fee
 - 40% planning and zoning activity
 - 40% taxable value within the township
- There are two planning commission vacancies: Zach's nominations failed due to lack of support. One commissioner from DeWitt and one from St. Johns appointed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: Approval of the February 2026 minutes as presented.

M. Kathy George, S. Gabe Warnke: MCU

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented.

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Kathy George: MCU

Trustee Report: Gabe Warnke:

- Discussion on CAASA.
 - o The Village of Maple Rapids will be leaving CAASA.
 - o Pushing to pass a county wide milage.
 - o Will be moving from \$22 to \$48 per capita within a few years.
 - o Eugene resigned.
 - o Discussion on options.

Treasurer Report: Kathy George

- Discussion on Transaction Detail by Account Report.
- Cemetery CD coming due, will renew.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

M. Tim Karasek, S. Gabe Warnke: MCU

Clerks Report: Tim Karasek

- Discussion on Budget Reports and needed account transfers to balance year end accounts. Transfers presented and explained.

Motion: Approve the year end account transfers as presented.

M. Eric Verlinde, S. Isreal O'Boyle: MCU

- Discussion on FY 2026-2027 budget.

Motion: Accept the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget as presented.

M. Gabe Warnke, S. Kathy George: MCU

Motion: Accept the Clerk's report as presented.

M. Gabe Warnke, S. Eric Verlinde: MCU

Supervisors Report: Eric Verlinde,

- FY 2026-2027 road improvements total \$97280.90 (plus Marshall Rd.)

- \$42,000 cost sharing with Clinton County Road Commission.

Chloride	\$46084.50
Brush	\$8294.40
Spot gravel	\$7200.00
.51 Miles Lowe Rd.	\$12392.50
.51 Miles Lowe Rd.	\$12392.50
Chip Seal	\$28392.70
Lowe Rd.	\$14304.40
Findlay Rd.	\$14304.40

Motion: Accept Essex Township road improvement projects as presented.

M. Kathy George, **S.** Isreal O'Boyle: **MCU**

- Township website renewal discussion to comply with federal ADA.
 - New Look proposal total bill \$5300.00

Motion: Accept the contract with New Look Computers as presented.

M. Kathy George, **S.** Gabe Warnke: **MCU**

Motion: Accept the supervisors report as presented.

M. Gabe Warnke, **S.** Tim Karasek, **MCU**

Old Business: None

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 9:02pm.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Gabe Warnke. **MCU**

Next Meeting April 22, 2026 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk

draft: March 25, 2026 Meeting