

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

January 21, 2026 @ 7:30pm

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

Visitors: Gabe Warnke- Trustee candidate, Zach Rudat- County Commissioner

Call to Order: Township Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:30pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Special Appointment:

Motion to appoint Gabriel Warnke as Township Trustee to replace Jacob Klaus up to the next election.

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

Visitor Statements:

Zach Rudat- County Commissioner:

- Planning and zoning discussion. Proposing to extend labor contracts of replacement employees to the end of the year.
- People want planning and zoning, only concern is with the growth of DeWitt and Bath townships.
- Discussion on structuring options of planning and zoning.
- Deb Sutherland is retiring, Stephanie Dush is interested in position and would do well. Support would be helpful.

Approval of the Agenda:

Additions: None

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

Supervisors Report: Eric Verlinde,

- Discussion on CCRC road improvement recommendations.
- Discussion on road project expenditures for FY 2026-2027.

Old Business: None

Final: January 21, 2026 Meeting

New Business:

- Discussion on proposed CAASA bylaw change requiring a 2/3 majority vote.

Motion to agree to amendments to the Clinton Area Ambulance Service bylaws that would change the 2/3 majority vote as presented to ¾ majority vote.:

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Kathy George: Roll call vote: Eric Verlinde- Yay, Kathy George- Yay, Isreal O’Boyle- Yay, Gabe Warnke- Yay, Tim Karasek- Nay. **Motion Carried.**

- Discussion on proposed increase to the CAASA cost of service for the FY 2026-2027 budget to \$17
- per township resident.

Motion to approve the proposed CAASA increase for township ambulance service to \$17 per resident for FY 2026-2027.

M. Kathy George, **S.** Gabe Warnke: Roll call vote: Eric Verlinde- Yay, Kathy George- Yay, Isreal O’Boyle- Yay, Gabe Warnke- Yay, Tim Karasek- Nay. **Motion Carried.**

- Zoning discussion with “Non-Land Use Planning” townships.
- 2026 Meeting dates (all meetings begin at 7:30pm):
 - o February 18
 - o March 18
 - o April 15
 - o June 17
 - o August 19
 - o October 21
 - o December 16

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 8:37pm.

M. Eric Verlinde, **S.** Isreal O’Boyle. **MCU**

Next Meeting February 18, 2026 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk

Final: January 21, 2026 Meeting