

## **Duplain Township**

May 14, 2025

The May 14, 2025, regular meeting of Duplain Township was called to order by Bruce Levey, supervisor, at 7:30 pm, Duplain Township Hall, 145 W. Mian Street, Elsie, Michigan. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board Members Present:** Bruce D Levey, Amy Bowen, Ryan Boots, Robert Ladiski, Dawn D Levey

**Guests Present:** Paula Pettigrew, Kam Washburn, Kari Dickenson, Nicole Fickes, County Commissioner

**Agenda:** May 14, 2025, meeting agenda was presented for approval. It was moved by R. Boots to approve the agenda with the additions of Elsie Park equipment purchase and stop signs Colony and Shepardsville Roads. Supported by A Bowen. Approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 9, 2025 regular meeting were presented for review and approval. It was moved by R. Ladiski at approve the minutes as presented. Supported by R. Boots. Approved.

**Special Reports:** None

**Financial Reports:** Amy Bowen, treasurer, presented the monthly financial reports.

● General Fund	\$378,351.16
○ Money Market	\$56.42
○ Savings Account	\$85.00
○ CD	\$14,657.14
● Emergency Services Fund	\$26,052.59
○ Money Market	\$92,482.14
○ Savings Account	\$5.00
● Road Fund	\$182,110.34
○ Savings Account	\$5.00
● Dam and Fish Passage Fund	\$95,667.52
○ Money Market	\$142.25
○ Savings Account	\$5.00
● Tax Account	\$0.00
○ Savings Account	\$5.00

It was moved by R, Boots to approve the monthly financial reports and bank balances pending audit. Supported by R. Ladiski. Approved.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

**Old Business:**

1. Road/Bridges – Chloride has been scheduled. Farming should be completed by the time of application.
2. Dam and Fish Passage Project –
  - a. The pre-application meeting was held on site May 5, 2025 at 1 pm. The key players were present: EGLE Dam Risk Management, Department of Natural Resources, Spicer Group. Topics included floodplains, inland waters, wetlands, dam safety, soil erosion and sedimentation control, SHPO and Michigan Endangered Species. All information will be utilized to develop the final design and plan.
  - b. Bruce Levey and Charles Smith met with Martin Bernath and an agreement will be drawn up regarding disposing of sediment.
  - c. USFWS was on site May 13 and 14, 2025 to survey the mussel population and to identify a possible site for relocation.
  - d. All quarterly reports were filed.
  - e. Another grant received EGLE 2025 - \$1,597,500
3. Lock Change – Still pending.
4. Clinton Area Ambulance Articles of Incorporation –
  - a. Last call for comments to the articles.
  - b. Final draft will be completed at the 5/15/25 Clinton Area Ambulance Service regular board meeting.

**New Business:**

1. **Fire Update** – A, Bowen. Official appraisal should be complete by the fire board meeting at that time the options will be outline, lease, renting, and/or purchase. Grants have been applied for to be used for building a new facility. A discussion was held with Ovid Fire Department regarding possible future options. There have been discussions regarding a building millage. Tough decisions to be made in the very near future. No decision at this time. Next meeting of the Elsie Area Fire Association is May 21, 2025.
2. **CAAS** – The combined balance sheet has total assets of \$2,269,891 as of March 31, 2025. This is down from last month's balance of \$2,345,861. Current cash on hand for Operations is \$86,946 and current cash on hand for the Authority is \$181,605. Total assets at this time last year the service was at \$1,559,340. While the Operations balance is still low, money has begun to

flow more. We have not borrowed any more money from the Authority but the funds borrowed have not been reimbursed. Billings for March were slightly lower at \$636,553. Overall collected \$194,927 in payments.

Runs: Rescue 26/Ambulance 1182 – Noting that February and March runs were down (8 calls instead of the average 12 per day) April is up to 10. It was further noted that the hospital ER patient count is also down as was the south end of the county.

3. Rezoning Request – On hold until June meeting. The developer is reconsidering alternate options. Public comment followed. Is this considered spot zoning? The county historically stayed away from this practice. It appears that this request was on a fast track, this is a fundamental problem, a process should not be circumvented. The bottom line is that this is a loss of farm land. No action taken.
4. Informational: Duplain Township roads are scheduled for chloride May 22, 2025 and July 17, 2025
5. Election Update: Three Election Inspectors as outlined by law
  - a. 43 Ballots cast – 21 were Av Ballots
  - b. 15 yes                      28 No
  - c. Invoice will be sent to St. Johns Public Schools
6. Purchase for the Elsie Village Park - Soccer nets for the Elsie Village Park. Ed White and IBEW have been upgrading the recreational facilities at the park. The cost approximately \$550.00 from Quick Goal. D. Levey moved to purchase the four soccer nets for the park. Supported by R. Boots. Approved. Discussion followed regarding Friendship Park, as well.
7. Stop signs at Shepardsville and Colony – R. Ladiski requested that the Road Commission be contacted regarding blinking stop signs at the corners of Shepardsville and Colony and Shepardsville and Island Roads. After discussing the request B Levey recommended that “stop ahead” signs that are solar operated be installed noting that the stop signs are often damaged by large farm equipment. B. Levey will contact CCRC regarding costs and installation. It was moved by R. Ladiski to spend up to \$10,000 for four “stop ahead” signs at the corners of Colony and Shepardsville and Shepardsville and Island. Supported by R. Boots. Approved.

**County Commissioner’s Report** – Nicole Fickes. Reported that Ways and Means and HR committees will meet May 15, 2025, 9 am. Noting that the audit will be presented. In addition, a Broadband Installation by Frontier is in progress in the Ovid and DeWitt areas. In addition, a Mitten Grant was received to educate people regarding the internet and it’s use. Infrastructure Committee May 20,

2025, 9 am jail building discussion renovate or rebuild (91-million-dollar project).  
Opioid settlement grant received 3.3 million over eighteen years.

**Public Comment:** None

Kam Washburn – great work completed on the grant project and the dam removal. A thank-you to Amy for the work on the Elsie Fire Board.

B. Levey a huge thank-you to Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School for grooming Friendship Park.

Clerk's Report: Expenditures totaling \$87,503.20, noting the total was corrected, were presented for approval. It was moved by R. Boots and supported by R. Ladiski to pay the expenditures totaling \$87,503.20. Approved.

Adjourn – It was moved by R, Boots and supported by A Bowen to adjourn. Approved. Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted.

Dawn D Levey, Township Clerk