

Essex Township- Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

December 16, 2025 @ 7:30pm

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

Visitors: Bonnie Hale- Cemetery Manager, Beth Botke- Assessor, Lee Thelen- CAASA President, Paul Sorah- Maple Rapids Village

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

Visitor Statements:

Bonnie Hale- Cemetery Manager

- Hoping the purchase of new cemetery software is approved soon. Winter is a good time to work on it when outside activity is slow.
- Discussion on raising cemetery transfer fees. Lots of paperwork involved.
- Discussion on reducing the number of cremation burials to 4 instead of 6 (or more).
- Still recommending Pontem Cemetery Software.

Beth Botke- Assessor

- BOR met on 12/9/25. Only one item came through on an error for Orchard subdivision.
- Discussion on Poverty Guidelines Resolution.

Lee Thelen- Clinton Area Ambulance Service

- Zoning and Planning discussion. Costly. County Commissioners want it out of their hands.
- Discussion on zoning formats and costs. Self-zoning could require a \$500,000 budget for legal fees arising from lawsuits.
- Answer any CAAS questions.

Paul Sorah- Maple Rapids Trustee

- Maple Rapids clean water project is moving forward.
- Village approved current budget.
- Darryl Trefoil resigned, Bill Schmidt appointed Chair
- Suggested changes were provided to CAASA on contract by-laws.
- Last month- 1 Fire, 5 Medical runs, new compressor and fire hoses purchased.

Gabe Warnke- Trustee candidate

- Introduced himself.

Approval of Board Minutes:

Approval of the October 15, 2025 Board Minutes.

M. Jacob Klaus, **S.** Isreal O'Boyle: **MCU**

Approval of the Agenda:

Additions: None

M. Kathy George, **S.** Tim Karasek: **MCU**

Trustee Report: Jacob Klaus

- Need to make a decision on CAASA bylaw and proposed article changes.

(Supervisor Verlinde left the meeting due to illness.)

- Tabled vote on articles and bylaws until Eric was available.

Treasurers Report: Kathy George,

- Review of Transaction Detail Report.

M. Jacob Klaus, **S.** Isreal O'Boyle: Accept the Treasurers Report as presented. **MCU**

Clerks Report: Tim Karasek,

- Review and discussion on budget reports.

M. Isreal O'Boyle, **S.** Jacob Klaus: Accept the clerks report as presented. **MCU**

Supervisors Report: Eric Verlinde,

- Postponed, township meeting schedule to be decided at an upcoming special meeting.

New Business:

- Beth Botke: Poverty Guideline Resolution recommendation and discussion as implemented by the BOR.

Motion to adopt the resolution as presented:

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

Motion to accept Pontem Cemetery Mapping Contract

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

Motion to accept James Bancroft 2026-2028 Cemetery Contract

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

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn 8:32pm.

M. Jacob Klaus, S. Kathy George. MCU

Next Meeting January 21, 2026 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Karasek

Essex Township Clerk