

Duplain Township – March 11, 2026

The March 11, 2026 regular meeting of Duplain Township, 145 W Main Street, Elsie Michigan was called to order by Bruce Levey, supervisor, at 7:30 pm. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Guests: Charles Smith, Dorian Brotschm, Spicer Group; Justin Paulus, OE Youth League; Tim Ringle, Soni Latz, Fairfield Township; Joe Ondrusek, Jason Freeman, Dorothy Ornaelas, Elsie Village Council; Nicki Fickes, Clinton County Commissioner

Agenda: The meeting agenda was presented for approval. It was moved by R. Boots, and supported by R. Ladiski. Approved.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting were presented for review and approval. It was moved by R. Ladiski and supported by R. Boots to approve the minutes as presented. Approved. The minutes of the special February 16, 2026 meeting were presented for approval. It was moved by R. Boots and supported by R. Ladiski to approve the minutes as presented. Approved.

Special Reports:

- a. Spicer Group, Charles Smith, updated officials on the status of the dam and fish passage project and submission of the permit for construction. Next, Smith presented the addendum to the contract for consideration and approval. A complete contract is available upon request. The contract covered design, engineering and oversight of the construction and monitoring of the dam removal with an estimated total of \$435,804.00. It was moved by D. Levey and supported by R Boots to approve the addendum to the initial contract. Approved.

Financial Reports: The monthly financial reports were presented by Amy Bowen, treasurer.

- General Fund \$256,655.99
 - Money Market \$56.42
 - Savings \$185.00
 - CD \$15,084.01
- Emergency Services \$4,096.16
 - Money Market \$178,213.41
 - Savings \$5.00
- Roads \$192,679.89
 - Savings \$5.00
- Dam & s Fish Passage \$24,261.06
 - Money Market \$142.25
 - Savings \$5.00
- Tax Account \$806,963.03
 - Savings \$5.00

It was moved by R Boots to approve the financial reports pending audit. Supported R. Ladiski. Approved

Correspondence: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Old Business –

- a. Roads/Bridge – B. Levey; Presented an overview of the proposed projects, followed by discussion. The contracts will be approved at the annual meeting, March 21, 2026. Total budget \$136,000, match \$35,313, \$171,313. EB Ridge will put \$20,000 in an escrow account for the damage the business does to the roads. Contracts for road projects will be presented at the annual meeting for approval.
- b. Dam Update – D. Levey reported that EGLE has approved the request for advances of payment for the dam project. In addition, with the approval of the amended Spicer contract, the contract will be forwarded to EGLE and possible amendments to the project budget from the EGLE side will be completed.
- c. Lighted Stop Signs – B. Levey - The project is finished, with signs installed at two intersections: Shepardsville and Colony roads, and Shepardsville and Island roads.
- d. Michigan Class – A. Bowen - The proposed Duplain Township Investment Policy was presented by A. Bowen. It was moved by D. Levey to adopt the policy and to move forward with participating on Michigan Class and supported by R. Ladiski. Approved. Noting it will be effective April 1, 2026.
- e. Annual Meeting – Informational, the annual meeting is slated for Saturday, March 21, 10 am, 145 W Main Street, Elsie, Michigan.

New Business –

- a. Fire Update: R. Boots. The proposed Elsie Area Fire Authority agreement was presented. An explanation and overview were discussed. It was moved by D. Levey to approve the agreement subject to review by an attorney, effective April 1, 2026, supported by R. Boots. Approved. The per capita will be replaced by a 1.5 mill contribution annually.
- b. Clinton Area Ambulance Service – The annual operational and authority budget for 2026-27 was once again presented for approval. It was noted that the budgets reflect \$17.00 per capita. However, CAASA would like the township to consider \$22.00 per capita. It was noted that next year the per capita request will possibly be \$31.00 per capita. The financing of emergency services continues to be a concern; there simply has to be a better way. It was moved by R. Boots to approve the \$22.00 per capita, and both budgets. Rescinding the February 11, action regarding the per capita. Supported by R. Ladiski. Approved.
- c. Millage Proposal – Currently the township levies 1.75 mill for emergency services. To cover rising costs, it is proposed to raise the millage levy would like to 2.5 mills, an increase of .75 mills. Noting that ten years ago tax payers were paying 2.5 mills. Resolution No 2026 1b. It was moved by R. Boots and supported by A Bowen to move forward with resolution 2026-1b and the .75 millage request. Roll call: Bruce Levey – yes; Amy Bowen – yes; Ryan Boots – yes, Robert Ladiski – yes; and Dawn Levey - yes. No – nays.
- d. For Information – The annual meeting with the Clinton County Road Commission is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, 8 am, at the CCRC office.

- e. 2026-2027 FY Budget discussion. Action will be taken at the March 21, 2026 annual meeting.
- f. Duplain Township Tree Removal – \$4,800.00 Ferrall’s estimate, a cemetery marker will need to be moved. The removal will be scheduled when there will be the least amount of damage to the grounds,
- g. Building Maintenance – A window broke at the entrance to the library and the tile at the entrance, and both bathrooms of the library are in progress.
- h. Appointment of the Deputy Clerk. D. Levey requested that Mary Levey be appointed as the Deputy Clerk. It was moved by A. Bowen, to appoint Mary Levey as the deputy clerk and supported by R. Boots. Approved.

Commissioner’s Report – Nicki Fickes – a high-speed internet update was presented and a complaint and contact line will be provided, noting that Frontier and Verizon have merged. Water Quality workshop at the Victor Township Hall to focus will be on lakes, Saturday, March 14, 2026, 9-12:30. Jail renovation discussion continues, 95-million-dollar price tag. The proposal will be reviewed further with a focus on maintenance components. Planning and Zoning meeting March 12, 2026, 9 am and the appointment of two Planning Commissioners to the commission. Discussion followed.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – None.

- **Clerk’s Report and Expenditures** – Requested budget amendments - Budget Amendments -
 - Transfer \$400 from 101-101-969 Contributions leaving a balance of \$7,300 to 101-101-801 Professional & Contractual = \$75.16
 - Transfer \$1000. From 101-101-969 Contributions leaving a balance of \$6,300 to 101-101-715 Social Security = \$59.85
 - Board of Review - transfer \$200 from 101-247-956 Misc. with a balance of \$300 to 101-247-900 Printing and Publishing = balance of \$34.58
 - Please note that the 2026-27 proposed budget addresses the short falls to reduce the number of budget amendments.

It was moved by R Boots to approve the budget amendments as proposed and supported by R. Ladiski. Approved.

Expenditures totaling \$16,959.66 were presented for approval. It was moved by R. Ladiski to approved expenditures totaling \$16,959.66 and supported by R. Boots. Approved.

Things That Need to be Talked About – None

Adjournment – It was moved by R. Boots to adjourn at 9:05 p and supported by R. Ladiski. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn D Levey – Duplain Township Clerk