

WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M. August 17, 2026
MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:02 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all present.

ROLL CALL:

Lee Carte X Julie Sellers X Kim Thiel X Ethan McNeal X Mike Storey X

Others present: Commissioner Chris Zimmerman, Chris & Taylor Elder/Assessor, Amy Noggle , Kris Beers, Jeanette Aldrich, Mary Ann Wernette, MMPA (reps) Sheila Burkhardt, Brad Parks, Mo Knio, Katie Engle, WT Lawyer Steve Lobert, Michelle Newman.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Many things going on in the township. MMPA is here will respond later in meeting to this. The township is looking into using HUD monies to purchase 50+horsepower tractor for maintenance work out to WWTP ponds and snow removal. Maintenance made township aware that there are two poles in the park which hold the electrical boxes needing replacement due to weatherization.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Ethan McNeal to accept the minutes as written and amended for the July 20, 2026 Board Meeting, Mike Storey supported the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

BOARD MINUTES- July 20, 2026

TREASURER REPORT: A motion was made by Ethan McNeal to accept the Treasurer Report and payments as presented for July 20, 2026 Board Meeting, Kim Thiel supported the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: July 20, 2026

MMPA REPORT: (Attached report) Adam Philipp was absent. Katie Engle represented MMPA tonight. She stated that they received and accepted a quote for replacing the aeration curtain., by Isabella Corp. 10-12 week duration for \$82, 500.00. (This was on Leprino to cover and at the time of sale MMPA said they are taking responsibility for all Leprino's agreements) The curtain is ordered. Pertaining to the discharge location EGLE wants to move it do to landowner's complaining. The township found the easement that the landowner's are to abide by and we should not have to move it they knew about the easement when they purchased their property, we may have to dig out and open up the flow due to sediment and natural growth.. They are also looking at the lagoon leakage remediation trying to get EGLE to approve a 2 year project.

FIRE REPORT: Chief Thiel absent. Ethan McNeal reported 156 runs. Rescue truck is almost done. Jeremy Provatas will be done with classes end of this month and will be going full time EMS.

LIBRARY REPORT: Jeanette Aldrich and Mary Ann Wernette were present. They are looking into patching their parking lot. They are trying to find way to help the reading program it has not been good turnout. Clerk Thiel asked why the Library does not hold weekend hours for returning school students. They said they would look into this as it has been brought up before.

DDA: Amy Noggle President and Kris Beers present. Amy stated they are still working on Business Survey. She asked if the maintenance department could put up the Wheatland banners and maybe clean up the trash cans and benches around town. She said that they will still help Janowicz with Truck or Treat it is Saturday, October 31, 2026. She is unsure of how the date will work out being on Halloween. Fates 11-1/Janowicz 12-1, Bowling Alley 1-3. She asked the township if it would be OK for the DDA to purchase or help the business owner's with their portion of Trunk or Treat. Township agreed with the DDA in helping with candy or trinkets not cash to the business'.

CORRESPONDENCE: Commissioner Chris Zimmerman stated that the county is looking at the Morley/Stanwood area for possible Data Center. There is a "Flock" camera in Big Rapids that they are meeting about and studying. Flock camera is a camera that takes picture of license plate for assistance on finding people, could be violation of 4th amendment. People are not liking it..... Clerk Thiel dispersed the Sheriff report for July, and also gave DDA paperwork on major park expansion project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **MMPA PA198:** After discussion there was a motion made by Mike Storey to accept **Resolution 2026-011** a PA198 agreement with the Michigan Milk Producers Association, supported by Ethan McNeal, and passed unanimously.
2. **Public Safety Revenue Sharing: Sheriff Dive Boat:** Supervisor Carte stated that the Mecosta County Sheriff Department was requesting assistance with purchasing a new dive boat as the present one is old and out of commission. This year the township was given \$6149.00 to be used strictly for Public Safety as having no other ideas as to how or where to spend this money it was determined to give to Sheriff's Dept. Julie Sellers made a motion to write a check to the Mecosta County Sheriff Department for \$6149.00 to go towards the purchase of a new dive boat to be shared within Mecosta County. Ethan McNeal supported this motion and passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **BIOTECH Sludge removal WWTP:** Supervisor Carte stated that it has come to our attention that there is an accumulation of sludge left on the WWTP property from Leprino's knowledge and it has to be removed promptly as EGLE will be doing audit soon. Carte stated that the Operational Contract between now MMPA and the township states MMPA is responsible for 95% sludge removal and 5% township. Katie Engle said that Bio Tech Argonomics will be doing work with her and approx. \$60,000-\$70,000, and has to be done by June of 2027. Kim Thiel made a motion for Bio Tech to remove sludge with the township 5% not to exceed \$3500.00, supported by Julie Sellers and Mike Storey, passed.
2. **Park fencing/electric pole:** Maintenance requested extending the fence project East side of driveway along ditch and then up the hill. They also stated that there are two electric poles that hold the electric boxes in the park that are deteriorating and need replacement immediately. Supervisor Carte stated that he spoke with Edmore Electric and they will do the work and our maintenance department will place the poles. Lee Carte made a motion on installing the park fencing and new electric poles for not more that \$4000.00, supported by Kim Thiel, unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Michelle Newman was present as Superintendent of Chip Hills School she was thankful for the Operating Millage passing in August and that The school will be going on the November election for the bond proposal. Newman also stated that they will be starting the abatement of the

Remus School in September with completion by December. She said they have went back to the Homecoming Parade and they were going to have it in Remus to start back up, but has since changed to Barryton for this reason.

ADJOURN: Mike Storey made motion to adjourn, supported by Lee Carte, adjourned 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly S. Thiel
Wheatland Township Clerk