

WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M. November 17, 2025
MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL:

Tom VanSyckle X Julie Sellers X Kim Thiel X Ethan McNeal X Lee Carte X

Others present: Kathy Smith DDA, Chris Zimmerman, Jeanette Aldrich Library.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisor VanSyckle reported that there is not a whole lot going on in the township. Park remains open. Stated that he attended the Mecosta County Township Association Mtg. October 27, 2025 and found that the website and anything socially related needs to be ADA compliant in 2027. State Rep Tom Kunse was present and stated that they got more money for the roads department and giving to Road Commission to decide on where the improvements will happen. Needs to check again on HUD monies spending qualifications.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Lee Carte to accept the minutes as written for the October 20, 2025 Board Mtg. Tom VanSyckle supported the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

BOARD MINUTES-Oct. 20, 2025

TREASURER REPORT: A motion was made by Lee Carte to accept the Treasurer Report and payments as presented for October 20, 2025 Board Meeting, Ethan McNeal supported the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report-October 20, 2025

MMPA REPORT: No representation. Clerk Thiel stated that she spoke with Brad Parks (414-659-0278) 10/29/25. Parks stated he did not see a problem with this. MMPA requested to Clerk of possibly assisting MMPA with tax exemptions, the board stated that is declined. Also Clerk received a FOIA request from Gould Law, P.C. For any communication on IFT for Dairy Distilleries, in speaking with Scott Gould he stated this is questioning MMPA requesting an IFT from them in the village of OVID. He said MMPA is not being cooperative with them and stated that their Remus Plant is all on track for the Brownfield and IFT. He was updated and rescinded the FOIA request.

FIRE REPORT: Chief Thiel N/A, Ethan McNeal reported there are 242 runs to date.

LIBRARY REPORT: Jeanette Aldrich was present and stated that Library running fine. There was candy for Halloween story hour. Needing more members on Friends of Library. December 20 Library has photographer for Christmas pictures. Wheatland Music Organization had Sam Bartlett at library in November.

DDA REPORT: Kathy Smith reported they Disc Golf Tournament was a success. The grand opening will be in the Spring. Halloween over 600 attended, thinking of growing out of Janowicz parking lot. Kathy requested to put the Christmas tree at the township hall, board agreed that would be fine, the tree will be disposed of as soon as taken down. They are hosting a Christmas Event on December 13, 2025. Breakfast and pictures with Santa 9a-Noon. From 4-6pm. A cocoa bar, tree lighting (Dennis). Lighted parade line-up 5:15p parade at 6p.(Tracy Simon) Kathy Smith requested ideas for next year's project for the DDA.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chris Zimmerman: Commissioner Zimmerman present. Chris stated there is construction project going on up at the county building. Canadian Lakers are suing the HOA people for doing things wrong. Mecosta County does not support MMPA on the Brownfield and IFT exemptions.

Clerk Thiel presented the Sheriff report.

Clerk Thiel read a letter calling for removal of Supervisor VanSyckle written by Kris Beers Wheatland Twp. resident. Clerk Thiel reported to board that MTA/MIS team member Shelly Schneider requested the letter be put under correspondence. Discussion was Lee Carte stated that we don't have the power to remove him from board, and that this incident is not the same as the Amy Snyder incident. Julie Sellers stated that she spoke with MTA last year and they said Amy Snyder could finish her term. Tom VanSyckle stated yes I'm going thru a divorce which is no one's business, he still owns his home in the township and that he plans on moving back as soon as he can.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kathy Smith requested better snow removal measures this season as last year there were definitely problems. Discussion was that of keeping up on snow removal for business'.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Update on hall restoration :** Aldrich gutter has new gutters up on Fire Department side. Hall restoration is complete and looks great.
2. **Berger update(Ditch at park):** Supervisor VanSyckle stated that Berger will be out to start the ditch in the park by the end of the week , and if not for sure by end of month.
3. **Park Closing Update:** Park will remain open until inclement weather ensues.
4. **Road repair millage:** This will remain on agenda until deciding of millage.
5. **Maintenance Update/Paid leave surgery:** Supervisor stated that Maintenance worker John McKenzie will be having surgery December 24, 2025 on his shoulder not knowing how long he will be off. John was off for couple weeks last time and we paid him half wages. Board cannot justify paying John while he is off on leave due to expected length of time. Clerk will get him FMLA paperwork to secure his job when healed. We have been looking for someone to fill position until then. Clerk will check with community service worker Jeff Gariepy sidewalks and Matt Sellers Parking lots (insured) or possibly accepting applications.
6. **MMPA Brownfield /IFT:** As a township MMPA requested we sign a letter stating we support the Brownfield exemption, we are not in support of this with MMPA. Supervisor VanSyckle has been corresponding with Mindy Taylor, Controller/Administrator on the IFT and we have been clear with her that we do not support this IFT. County Commissioner Zimmerman stated the county is not supporting the IFT for MMPA. Thus sending to state level.
7. **WWTP fencing project:** Clerk Thiel stated Statewide Fencing is paid in full and job complete. Supervisor VanSyckle stated that in speaking with Adam there are posts with cement attached to them inside the fence. VanSyckle stated this is being addressed with fencing constructor Ervin.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Hall furnace:** Ethan McNeal stated he was in and replaced blower motor, but whole unit needs replacing. There are two furnaces that need replacing. He will be getting 3 separate bids for replacement this year of the 150,000 BTU/80% efficient furnace. Tom VanSyckle made motion to get 3 estimates and going with best efficient job not to exceed \$5000.00, Lee Carte supported the motion and passed. This will occur within next couple weeks due to colder weather coming and hall being rented.

2. **Alleyway Clean-up/enforcement:** Supervisor VanSyckle stated that there have been problems in regards to alleyways in town. Maintenance John McKenzie have been cleaning them up and finding that they are not passable and open to public. The township owns the easement for public use of a 20 foot alleyway and this shall stay open to thru traffic and public use. Ethan McNeal will be getting signage for alleyway posting no more than \$600.00.
3. **Bill Eric Williams:** Received bill for lawyer fees on the Tax Tribunal of \$1676.00 pay.

Adjourned: Lee Carte motioned to adjourn, supported by Tom VanSyckle, passed.
Adjourned 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly S. Thiel
Wheatland Township Clerk