

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
IRA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 6, 2026**

The Ira Township Board of Trustees met in the board room of the Ira Township Hall on April 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: James Endres, Jr., Thomas Lauer, Thomas Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat.

MINUTES:

S. Ruhlman moved to approve the minutes of the 3/2/26 regular meeting, as presented, supported by T. Eder.
All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of RES 26-04-01 Approve and Accept the Recreation Passport Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

T. Eder moved to adopt Resolution 26-04-01 and approve and accept the Recreation Passport Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Ira Township Short Cut Road Park Development, as presented, and authorize the Supervisor to sign all required documents on behalf of the Township, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Lauer, T. Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat
Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED RESOLUTON ADOPTED**

Clay Police - March 2026 Additional Charges

S. Ruhlman moved to approve the additional monthly charge of \$1,700.00 for the month of March 2026 from the Clay Township Police Department, supported by T. Eder.
All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance #148 Ira Township Business Registration Ordinance

S. Ruhlman moved to adopt Ordinance #148 Ira Township Business Registration Ordinance, as presented, to promote the public health, safety and welfare of Ira Township residents and business owners by requiring all businesses located within the Township to register with the Clerk's office and providing penalties for violations thereof, supported by T. Eder.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Lauer, T. Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat
Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED ORDINANCE ADOPTED**

Application for Special Land Use - 7715 Marine City Highway (Big Dreams Ranch) PC-26-465

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Special Land Use Application of Applicant/Owner, Darren Wehner, at 7715 Marine City Highway, as presented, conditioned upon the Applicant/Owner meeting all applicable fire code, building code and animal health requirements. This approval is further conditioned upon the Applicant/Owner providing a signed and notarized Notice of Special Land Use for review and approval by the Township Attorney and submittal to the Township Clerk for recording with the St. Clair County Register of Deeds along with the \$30.00 recording fee. No permits will be issued until the Notice of Special Land Use is recorded, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Location Change for August 2026 Regular Board Meeting

T. Eder moved to approve the request of the Clerk to move the location for the August 3, 2026 regular Board of Trustees meeting to the Ira Township Fire Hall, due to the Primary Election scheduled for August 4, 2026, supported by T. Lauer.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Reschedule September 2026 Regular Board Meeting

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Clerk and reschedule the regular September meeting of the Board of Trustees from September 7, 2026, Labor Day, to September 2, 2026, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

RES 26-04-02 Approving Additional Responsibilities of Deputy Supervisor

S. Ruhlman moved to adopt Resolution 26-04-02 approving additional responsibilities of the Deputy Supervisor, as presented, supported by T. Eder.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Lauer, Thomas Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED** **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

RES 26-04-03 Approving Additional Responsibilities of Deputy Clerk

T. Eder moved to adopt Resolution 26-04-03 approving additional responsibilities of the Deputy Clerk, as presented, supported by S. Ruhlman.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Thomas Lauer, Thomas Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Abstain: James Endres Jr.,
Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED** **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

RES 26-04-04 Approving Additional Responsibilities of Deputy Treasurer

S. Ruhlman moved to adopt Resolution 26-04-04 approving additional responsibilities of the Deputy Treasurer, as presented, supported by T. Eder.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Lauer, Thomas Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED** **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

FDIC International 2026 Conference

T. Lauer moved to approve the request of the Fire Chief and authorize the Fire Chief and a Department Officer to attend the FDIC International 2026 Conference to be held April 23, 2026 to April 25, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana, and authorize expenses related to the conference up to \$1,000.00, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Chain Saw Purchase

T. Eder moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approve the quote from Zimmer's Sales & Service, in the amount of \$215.99, to purchase a Stihl MS182 Chainsaw with 16" Bar, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Agreement RE Annual Outdoor Warning Siren Preventive Maintenance

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approve the three-year (2027-2030) Agreement with West Shore Services, Inc., for the Annual Outdoor Warning Siren Preventive Maintenance Program, for an annual sum of \$2,850.00, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Multigas Detector Purchase

T. Eder moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approve the purchase of two (2) MSA Altair 4XR Multigas Detectors, through Amazon for the amount of \$1,860.04, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Appointment of Fire Department Officer

T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and appoint Tony Spina to the position of Captain for the Ira Township Fire Department effective April 1, 2026, supported by S. Ruhlman.

All voting yes. Oposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

RES 26-04-05 Approving Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association (MI-MABAS) Agreement

S. Ruhlman moved to adopt Resolution 26-04-05 to Approve Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association (MI-MABAS) Agreement, as presented, and authorize the Supervisor to sign all related documents on behalf of the Township, supported by T. Eder.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: James Endres Jr., Thomas Lauer, Thomas Eder, Stella Ruhlman and Jean Corbat

Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

New Water Department Employee

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and hire Dakota Essenmacher as a Water Treatment Plant Operator, effective March 23, 2026, as presented, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Oposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Lift Station Radar

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and approve a quote from Kennedy Industries, in the amount of \$25,794.00, to purchase radar level sensors for the nine (9) lift stations, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Oposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Zobl Court Lift Station

S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and approve two (2) quotes from Kennedy Industries, in the total amount of \$44,864.00, for supplies for the project, and the quote from Teltow Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$89,525.00 for labor for the project, to rehabilitate the Zobl Court Lift Station, for a total project cost of \$134,389.00, supported by T. Eder.

All voting yes. Oposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

MARCH 2026 REPORTS:

Police Run Report

Building Department Permits

Code Enforcement Report

DPS Supervisor

- Cabinet makers have been busy with the Boardroom table;
- Zobl Court interconnection with Clay is complete and will be used in emergency events only;
- Staff working on maintenance of spring equipment, so it is up and running;

Parks & Recreation Director Reports

- Big Dream Farms has offered to provide Live Reindeer for the Christmas Tree Lighting event;
- Update on Easter Egg Hunt which had a huge turnout;
- Update on classes with Painted Toad;
- Rose Gottler of Painted Toad will also be offering a Painting in the Park class for kids;
- Survey for Parks and Recreation Plan update is available;

Fire Department

- 66 runs in March;
- Boat is ready to go;
- Side-by-Side ready to go; trailer should be available soon;

Supervisor

- Met with County Road Commission representatives and Chartier RE Bridge on Arnold Road;
- Discussed with St. Clair County Road Commission remaining available ARPA Funds which might be used to replace a large culvert on Arnold at Bethuy;

- Update on bridge replacements in the Township; only one (1) bridge left to replace;
- Very pleased to announce that the Southwater Authority has initially qualified for a \$2,850,000 appropriation from Lisa McClain's 2027 CPF-Request; the project is for a wet-weather diversion structure improvement at the Waste Water Treatment Plant;
- Workshop here on April 8, 2026 at 10:00 am to discuss Lateral Line Agreements and Police Millage;

Clerk

- Attended St. Clair County Clerks Association meeting on March 12th;
- Participated in a USPS Election Mail Touchpoint ZOOM meeting on March 18th;
- Update on SEMCOG's St. Clair County Outreach meeting held on March 24th;
- Update on the annual St. Clair County Chapter of the MTA meeting on March 26, 2026; Ira Township will host the Fall meeting;
- Enjoyed attending the Fire Department Annual Award Banquet on March 28th;
- Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department for coordinating the Easter Egg Hunt on March 29th; Great turnout and Easter Bunny and Bluey were very popular; Permanent public restrooms should be on our radar;
- On April 9th the Township is hosting an Election Inspector Training with the County Election Clerk's office;

Treasurer

- Bank Balances;
- Water and Sewer Adjustments;
- Carpet is down in the Boardroom; DPS staff did a great job on the Boardroom table;

Trustee Eder:

- Really enjoyed the Fire Department dinner especially the awards and good food - thank you;

Trustee Ruhlman:

- Great job on the Easter Egg Hunt; it was heavily attended;
- Boardroom improvements look great;

BILLS AND DISBURSEMENTS:

T. Lauer moved to pay bills totaling \$180,447.97 and affirm Tax Account disbursements of \$66,753.61 and Trust and Agency disbursements of \$20,633.99 for total bills and disbursements of \$267,835.57, supported by J. Endres, Jr.

All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

Reg Accounts Payable	
Fund 101 General Government	\$84,439.39
Fund 206 Fire Fund	\$32,086.09
Fund 592 Water / Sewer Fund	\$60,599.33
ACH Accounts Payable	
Fund 101 General Government	\$1,834.49
Fund 206 Fire Fund	\$1,194.50
Fund 592 Water / Sewer Fund	\$294.17
Total Bills	<u>\$180,447.97</u>
Tax Account	\$66,753.61
Trust and Agency	<u>\$20,633.99</u>
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	<u>\$267,835.57</u>

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Kott inquired about whether the Township had been approached to build a data center;

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss T. Lauer moved, with the support of J. Endres Jr., to close the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Corbat, Clerk