

**Douglass Township
3521 W. McBrides Rd
Stanton, MI 48888
989-762-8014**

**Minutes Regular Board Meeting
2-18-26
7:00 pm**

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Roll Call

Present: Kathy Rasmussen, Holly Huff, Ken Bunting, Eric Tester, Kristi Cordray

Approval Agenda Items

Motion made by Ken Bunting to move Zoning Administrator report to top of reports, seconded by Eric Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Motion made by Eric Tester to approve agenda, second by Ken Bunting, Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Approval Minutes from Jan. 21, 2026 Regular meeting

Motion by Eric Tester to approve minutes, seconded by Kathy Rasmussen Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Public Comment on Agenda Items none

Reports

Zoning Administrator Kelsey report

- Gave report on tickets, permits, etc. discussion on conditions for variances to be granted.

Treasurer Cordray report

- Motion made by Kathy Rasmussen to approve Kristi Cordray going to conference, seconded by Eric Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Motion made by Eric Tester to accept treasurer report, seconded by Ken Bunting. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Report accepted.

Clerk Huff report

- Reported on expenses for general business and checks.
- Motion made by Eric Tester to accept clerk report, Ken asked for clarification on some refunds. The refunds are for Veterans exemptions and double payment due to escrow payments. Motion seconded by Kristi Cordray. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Report accepted.

Supervisor Rasmussen report

- Groundskeeper application received, will need to do budget amendment for current year when we start the budget workshop discussion tonight.

Trustee Ken Bunting report, Fire board report

- Has attended two nonscheduled meetings-one with Day Township fire, and Stanton firemen. Kathy Rasmussen also attended. This was to discuss a possible merger. Questions and potential pros/cons were discussed at the meeting. The second meeting Ken attended was with Stanton to review applicants and set interviews for vacant chief position in Stanton. Interviews will be next week.
- The township needs to determine the most cost effective option for fire coverage which will also protect our community and plan for future needs.

- Motion made by Kathy Rasmussen to gather info on finances on a possible merger with Day and Stanton into an authority seconded by Eric Tester Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Trustee Eric Tester report, PC report

- At the last PC meeting, they elected officers. Matt Moorman is chairperson, Mark Hill is vice chair, Fletcher Wernholm is secretary and ZBA member. The PC went over the changes to STR ordinance. There is a special meeting Feb. 25 with our lawyer on the data center ordinance. The PC meetings are now going to be held at 6 pm.

Old Business none

New Business

PA 116 Termination Request

- Approved the request by resolution from Jake Smith for a partial termination of PA 116.

Fire millage

- Discussed putting fire millage on the ballot for August 2026. Our current rate is .5861. An increase to .75 would keep pace with rising costs for equipment, and continued fire coverage.
- Motion made by Eric Tester to put the fire millage increase from .5861 to .75 for four years on the August 2026 ballot, seconded by Kristi Cordray. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Kathy Rasmussen will follow up on ballot resolution language.

Budget Workshop

- Amendment to 2025/26 budget of admin fees: to increase 33,384.57.
- Motion made by Holly Huff to approve budget amendment, seconded by Eric Tester. Ayes : 5 Nays: 0.

The following items were discussed, and motions made during the line item reviews in preparation for the 2026/27 budget:

- Motion made by Eric Tester to increase land division application fees from \$25.00 to \$60.00 to match other fees on permit application, seconded by Kristi Cordray. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Motion made by Eric Tester to open a cemetery bank account for future care of cemetery, seconded by Holly Huff. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Account will be opened at Sidney State bank.
- Motion made by Holly Huff to increase cemetery fees as recommended, seconded by Kathy Rasmussen. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 The extra fee for non residents and an additional \$25 for each service provided will be used to fund the cemetery account. The account will be used for repairs, maintenance of cemetery.
- Motion made by Kathy Rasmussen to change the deputies' pay to hourly at \$15.00 per hour up to \$3502.00, seconded by Eric Tester. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 This will reflect hours worked more accurately.
- Kathy Rasmussen presented an insurance proposal from Breadon Group out of Rockford, Mi. The proposal provides more coverage for the township, at a slightly lower cost than current provider. They would also align with our fiscal year.
- Motion made by Kristi Cordray to switch from Accisure to The Breadon Group insurance, seconded by Ken Bunting. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Further line item discussion: capital outlay projects of siding, sound system, 3% increase in pay to board, deputies, PC, ZBA, BOR, ZA, election equipment and supplies, employee travel and training, software and internet services, groundskeeper expenses, repairs/updates to the hall, chloride/roads.
- Motion made by Kristi Cordray to approve proposed budget for 2026/2027 with approved changes, and present to public at budget public hearing March 18, seconded by Holly Huff. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Announcements none

Next meeting date March 18, 2026 7:00 pm which includes budget Public Hearing

Public Comment none

Board Comments: Adjournment

- Motion made by Eric Tester to adjourn, seconded by Holly Huff Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
- Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully,

Kathy Rasmussen

Holly Huff