

Kearney Township Regular Board Meeting
4820 Aero Park Drive, Bellaire, MI 49615
(231) 533-5719

Minutes

January 5, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Comben.

Conflict of Interest: None.

Motion by Comben, supported by Murray, to approve agenda, with addition of H. FEMA letter under New Business, carried.

Motion by Comben, supported by Hagood, to approve the Board meeting minutes of December 1st, as presented, carried.

Motion by Hagood, supported by Murray, to approve payment of the bills, as presented, in the amount of \$27,260.22, carried.

Public Comment: None.

Old Business:

Expense Reimbursement Policy Review: Proposed changes to the policy and new training and reimbursement request form were discussed. Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, that all training requests from election officials, etc. use the Training and Reimbursement request form, to request prior approval of training, carried.

Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Review openings: Motion by Murray, supported by Hagood, to approve Bryan Graham to the Zoning Board of Appeals through December 31, 2026, carried.

New Business:

Board of Review training: Request from Tim Murray, Cal Rix, and Bryan Graham, for January 12th training. Dick Jacques plans to attend an online session. Motion by Valuet, supported by Comben, to approve the requests from all four members for training and reimburse Jacques for his online training on the 8th, carried.

Policy Resolution for Poverty Exemption: Motion by Valuet, supported by Hagood, to adopt Resolution No. 01-05-2026A with the changes noted, carried. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood, Comben. No: None.

Resolution Establishing Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test policy (Resolution No. 01-05-2026B): Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to adopt the Resolution with changes presented, carried. Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood, Comben. No: None.

Hall Rental Rates: Costs associated with hall rentals, especially in the winter, discussed. Motion by Valuet, supported by Hagood, to approve a change in hall rental rates to \$300 for one-day, \$425 for two days and \$600 for a weekend, which includes the cleaning fee of \$75.00, carried.

Budget Worksheet: draft worksheet provided to Board for review.

Equalization Department and Treasurers Office Service Agreement, June 1, 2026 – June 1, 2027: County updated information on fees. No change for Kearney Township.

Clerk Conflict for March 2, 2026 meeting: Clerk requested the March regular meeting be rescheduled and Budget Hearing be held on March 9th and some election related items will also need to be addressed. Motion by Murray, supported by Hagood, to change the Board meeting from March 2nd to March 9th, carried.

FEMA letter: Deadline of March 18th to agree or disagree with proposed flood plain maps, which can be accessed online.

Public Comment: Dan Bennett, Village of Bellaire President, updated the Board on Village business.

County Commissioner VanAlstine updated the Board on county business.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Tax collection continues.

Clerk: Reviewed correspondence: Diving In newsletter; Project IMPACC update; and insurance renewal policy. Other information: ZBA annual meeting on 1/12/26; Board Contact Information revised; updated zoning fee schedule to be posted online; five mi.gov emails need to be set up; 2 I-9's outstanding; entrance walkway ice issues; minimum wage increased January 1; shredding service to be scheduled; FOIA received for assessor/zoning records; and additional info on 2026 elections including the need to schedule an election commission meeting on February 2nd; Senator Damoose will be in Bellaire.

Trustee Comben: Planning Commission looking at housing language to be incorporated in the next Master Plan.

Supervisor: The hall thermostat on the back wall has been adjusted but heating is still an issue. Quote needed to move the thermostat to the front wall.

Motion by Murray, supported by Valuet, to adjourn meeting at 8:13 p.m., carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle D. Valuet, Clerk