

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

Minutes

March 9, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Conflict of Interest: None.

Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to approve agenda, with changes under New Business: 12D. and E. combined and 12G changed to Training Requests, carried.

Motion by Murray, supported by Hagood, to approve the Board meeting minutes of February 2, 2026, as presented, carried.

Motion by Hagood, supported by Comben, to approve payment of the bills, as presented, in the amount of \$18,438.86, carried.

Public Comment: Exemption for personal property taxes requested and requestor referred to Board of Review.

Opened Budget Hearing for 2026/2027 fiscal year at 7:09 p.m.

Discussed potential Road projects but did not change proposed Road Fund Budget.

Closed Budget Hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Budget Resolutions/Motions:

Resolution to approve Kearney Township Budget 2026/2027 fiscal year: Motion by Hagood, supported by Comben, to approve Resolution No. 03-09-2026A, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Comben. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Resolution to Establish Township Officer's Salary, Supervisor: Motion by Comben, supported by Hagood, to approve Resolution No. 03-09-2026B, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Comben. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Resolution to Establish Township Officer's Salary, Clerk: Motion by Hagood, supported by Comben to approve Resolution No. 03-09-2026C, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Comben. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Resolution to Establish Township Officer's Salary, Treasurer: Motion by Murray, supported by Valuet, to approve Resolution No. 03-09-2026D, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Comben. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Resolution to Establish Township Officer's Salary, Trustees: Motion by Valuet, supported by Hagood, to approve Resolution No. 03-09-2026E, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Comben. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Resolution to Establish Wages/Salary for Township Employees: Motion by Murray, supported by Valuet, to approve Resolution No. 03-09-2026F, as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Comben, Hagood, Valuet, Murray and Niepoth. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Approval of General Fund Budget: Motion by Valuet, supported by Hagood, to approve the proposed 2026/2027 General Fund Budget with fund balance expenditures of \$373,432, as shown on the proposed budget, carried.

Approval of 2026/2027 Road Fund Budget: Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to approve the proposed 2026/2027 Road Fund Budget with fund balance expenditures of \$0.00, as shown on the proposed budget, carried.

Old Business:

Leslie Meyers, information, FEMA response letter: Ms. Meyers was not available. Board discussed contents of FEMA letter and right to appeal. Board determined that no appeals will be filed by the Township. The Application for Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program was provided but questions were raised that need to be addressed.

Information on Planning Commission laptops: Reviewed information provided by Elrod Technology Solutions. Motion by Valuet, supported by Comben, to approve the purchase of two (2) laptops for Planning Commission Secretary and Chairperson up to the amount of \$2,000, carried.

Federal ADA Compliance pertaining to Township website, STG proposal: Board will address in April.

Michigan PAR Plan Risk Assessment: Clerk anticipated the risk assessment would be completed later this month.

New Business:

Resolution to Implement Property Tax Administration Fee: Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to adopt Resolution No. 03-09-2026PTAF, which is the Resolution to Impose the Property Tax Administration Fee. Role Call Vote: Yes: Comben, Hagood, Valuet, Murray and Niepoth. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Approve Township Board meeting dates: Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to approve the 2026/2027 meeting schedule, as presented, carried.

Xerox Lease/Purchase discussion: Board discussed quotes provided. Board to address at next meeting.

Resolution Adopting Early Voting Site and Municipal Agreement, Agreement, and Proposed Budget /Cost Sharing/Chargeback Procedure: Clerk provided overview of documents and Early Voting schedule. Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to adopt Resolution No.: 03-09-2026EV, supported by Murray. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Murray, Niepoth, Hagood, Comben and Valuet. No: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Centennial Hills Parcel Split discussion: In a prior ordinance, part of certain individual parcels in Centennial Hills were reclassified as Resort Residential. The remaining part of each was classified as Agricultural. The Planning Commission is recommending that the entirety of each parcel be classified as Resort Residential. Clerk will provide information to the Township attorney to prepare a draft Ordinance for Planning Commission Board Members to review.

Training Requests: Requests for prior approval of training from Clerk, Trustee Murray, and Planning Commission Chair Murray reviewed and discussed. Motion by Comben, supported by Hagood, to approve all three requests, carried.

County Commissioner VanAlstine updated the Board on county business.

Officer Reports:

Clerk: Request from County Clerk to use Hall on April 6th and 10th for Election Inspector Certification Training; Great Lakes Franchise Agreement request received; email from the Department of Treasury regarding Small Business Taxpayer Exemption reimbursements; Sheriff Department Report; Antrim County notice for opening on the North Country Community Mental Health Board; notice received from State of Michigan regarding Shanty Creek Hospitality, LLC conditional liquor license investigation; and Voting Equipment update from BOE.

Treasurer: Online tax payment update; notice from BS&A and Point and Pay regarding future online payment potential system changes; and settlement documents sent to County.

Trustee Comben: advised the Planning Commission continues to discuss how to handle affordable housing in zoning; and mentioned the proposed house bills pertaining to housing that will affect township zoning.

Supervisor: Forest Home Township issues with short term rental and affordable housing development; and spoke to Township attorney regarding status of Zoning Ordinance review. Attorney suggested adding a moratorium on data centers to the Zoning Ordinance at some point.

Motion by Niepoth, supported by Murray, to adjourn meeting at 8:38 p.m., carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle D. Valuet, Clerk