



TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Eric Schaefer, Supervisor / Laura Bouchard, Treasurer / Cindy Ordway, Clerk
Curt Campbell, Trustee / Ross DeMaagd, Trustee / David Stanton, Trustee / Sandra Rairigh, Trustee

REGULAR MEETING

April 14, 2025, 7:00 PM

Meeting Held at Thornapple Township Hall, 200 E Main St., Middleville, MI 49333

1. INVOCATION

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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| Roll Call: 7 present | Schaefer Bouchard Campbell DeMaagd | Present Present Present Present | Stanton Rairigh Ordway | Present Present Present |
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Getty, Commissioner Smelker, Chief Richardson

Guests: 3

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

Additional items for tonight's agenda are f. Minutes of the Regular Meeting March 10th 2025 (pulled out from consent agenda for correction), g. February 19th Special Meeting Minutes, h. March Planning & Zoning Report, i. 2025-26 Meeting Schedule, j. EMC Insurance, k. Cyber Insurance. Attachment under c. and d.

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| Motion Stated: | Campbell - Motion to approve agenda as amended to add additional attachments and items f. through k. as described above. |
| Motion Supported: | Rairigh |
| Motion Status | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays |

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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| Motion Stated: | Campbell - Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with this change: remove a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting March 10th 2025 from the Consent Agenda and move to f. under 12. New Business. |
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| Motion Supported: | Rairigh |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | Bouchard Campbell DeMaagd | Yes Yes Yes | Schaefer Stanton Rairigh Ordway | Yes Yes Yes Yes |
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6. For information only:

- a. DRAFT Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of 3/24/2025

7. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None**8. COUNTY REPORT:****Commissioners Catherine Getty and John Smelker**

- The 2024 Barry County Annual Report from the Solid Waste Oversight Committee was handed out.

The commissioners reported the following from their last meeting:

- Job positions in the public defender's office were reclassified and revised for prosecutors
- The Solid Waste Oversight Committee was abolished and re-formed is as an ad hoc committee to the new Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
- Adopted a new sick leave policy
- Approved a changes in personnel policies setting wages and promotions for non-union employees
- Approved grants for Bailey Natural Preserve and Charlton Park
- Approved a resolution to establish a property clean energy program for an apartment building project in Hastings through the PACE Energy and Climate Center
- Abolished the jury board and will use a computer model
- Added 3 people to the Mental Health Board, 1 to Barry County Zoning Board of Appeals
- Approved a contract with Pine Rest for services for court involved individuals
- Heard presentations on solid waste and the airport
- Heard a presentation from the Barry Conservation District regarding spongy moth
- Appointed a jail committee to evaluate needs at the Barry County Jail
- Completed a process that pulled a property out of the PA116 agreement (not in Thornapple twp)
- Pete Dunn will represent the township on the Administrative Board.

Board Response:

Thank you to the commissioners for their report.

9. RESERVED TIME:**Andrew Beck (Lions Club Fireworks)**

Andrew Beck reports that he is working with DBA Director Cassandra Clark to offer this day of special activities to the community. 4th of July activities begin at 9:00 am at the pavilion. At 6:00 pm a live band and multiple activities will be free to the public. The number of spectators is growing and is expected to be about 3,000. The cost is \$15,730.00. In the past the Thornapple Township has committed \$3,000/yr for 3

years. Mr. Beck requests \$4,000/yr (3 year commitment) so they can keep this event free to the community. Local businesses have been solicited for contributions and three businesses regularly support this effort. Ambulance and fire personnel will be on site during the fireworks. A professional company has been hired for the fireworks.

Board Response: The township will put this on their May agenda.

Steve Shultz (BCI Fiber)

Mr. Shultz did not attend the meeting.

10. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

a. Chiefs Run Report Summary

Chief Richardson reports 24 paid on-call responses, and a lower number of regular EMS calls than usual, and 4 structure fires with an average of nine people. The chief expresses thanks to the crews for a great job at a large barn fire. Thanks is extended to Brad Bender for doing the origin cause investigation which was a lightning strike.

b. Summary

Rock the Country will be held June 13 & 14 at the Barry County Expo with an expected 30,000 people influx. They will have 4 ambulances onsite. This event includes onsite camping. Lots of pre-planning is going into this event.

Midvilla Project is underway - Chief Richardson is grateful for the good work of developer Nate Heyboer.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Retirement Contribution (Personal and Compensation Committee Scheduled for 5/7/2025)

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Motion to approve purchase turnout gear storage, not to exceed \$2200.

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| Motion Stated: | Rairigh - Motion to approve the purchase of turnout gear storage, not to exceed \$2200. |
| Motion Supported: | DeMaagd |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | DeMaagd | Yes | Schaefer | Yes |
| | Rairigh | Yes | Stanton | Yes |
| | Ordway | Yes | Bouchard | Yes |
| | | | Campbell | Yes |

B. Motion to approve purchase turnout gear from Wayland Fire

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| Motion Stated: | Campbell - Motion to approve the purchase of turnout gear from Wayland Fire for a cost not to exceed \$1750.00. |
| Motion Supported: | Stanton |

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| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |
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| Roll Call: | Rairigh Ordway Bouchard Campbell | Yes Yes Yes Yes | Schaefer Stanton DeMaagd | Yes Yes Yes |
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C. Capital Item Purchase for TTES. Capital items were requested for purchase to maintain operations of the department including a Power Load, a Dell laptop computer for ambulance, a TL-9 adaptor for extrication, two recliners, 4 SCBA bottles, (20) desktop chargers for new pagers, new office chairs, forged Halligans.

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| Motion Stated: | Campbell - Motion to approve the budgeted Capital Item Purchase for a cost not to exceed \$41,100.00. |
| Motion Supported: | Rairigh |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | Ordway Schaefer Stanton Bouchard | Yes Yes Yes Yes | Campbell DeMaagd Rairigh | Yes Yes Yes |
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D. TTES Hiring and Rescheduling.

Chief Richardson explains the request for hiring two full-time paramedic firefighters.

Bouchard notes the ambiguity of insurance costs for new hires. The chief expressed the challenge of insurance coverage and costs and suggested that the Board re-assess the medical insurance coverage when new numbers come out in July. Bouchard notes that several employees have expressed appreciation for the insurance benefit.

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| Motion Stated: | Stanton - Motion to approve the hiring of two full-time paramedic firefighters. We have 20 paramedics currently on the roster, but with the recent transition of two of our regularly scheduled medics taking full-time positions and one who averages two to three shifts weekly is retiring. The remainder of our 17 paramedics - 7 are full-time and 10 are part-time. The remaining 10 paramedics only work 1-2 days a month and have limited to no weekend availability. To maintain operational readiness, we need to have consistency assuring staffing levels of all units and with the hiring of two full-time paramedic firefighters we will be able to accomplish operational readiness. |
| Motion Supported: | Schafer |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | Schaefer Stanton | Yes Yes | DeMaagd Rairigh | Yes Yes |
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| | Bouchard Campbell | Yes Yes | Ordway | Yes |
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E. Rutland Ambulance Service Contract. This contract is to provide service to Rutland Township. The contract was approved by their Board last week. Chief Richardson is confident that TTES can provide this service effectively and estimates an additional \$70,000.00 in revenue to Thornapple Township.

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| Motion Stated: | Rairigh - Motion to approve the Emergency Services Protection Contract between Thornapple Township and Rutland Township. |
| Motion Supported: | Campbell |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | Campbell Bouchard DeMaagd | Yes Yes Yes | Rairigh Ordway Schaefer Stanton | Yes Yes Yes Yes |
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F. Minutes of the Regular Meeting March 10th 2025

Correction to the minutes on page 7 - Finance committee report. Delete the line "All taxes have been collected" and replace it with a statement that reflects that the collection of 2024 taxes is completed and has been turned over to the county.

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| Motion Stated: | Campbell - Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2025 regular meeting as amended (description above). |
| Motion Supported: | Schaefer |
| Motion Status | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

G. February 19th Special Meeting Minutes.

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| Motion Stated: | Bouchard - Motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025 Special Meeting. |
| Motion Supported: | Campbell |
| Motion Status | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

H. March Planning and Zoning Report.

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| Motion Stated: | Schaefer - Motion to approve the March Planning & Zoning Report. |
| Motion Supported: | Campbell |
| Motion Status | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

I. 2025 - 2026 Meeting Schedule

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| Motion Stated: | Ordway - Motion to approve the 2025 - 2026 Meeting Schedule |
| Motion Supported: | Schaefer |
| Motion Status | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

J. EMC Insurance.

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| Motion Stated: | Ordway - Motion to approve continuation with EMC Insurance |
| Motion Supported: | Schaefer |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | Stanton Ordway Schaefer | Yes Yes Yes | Rairigh Campbell Bouchard Demaagd | Yes Yes Yes Yes |
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K. Cyber Insurance.

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| Motion Stated: | Bouchard - Motion to continue cyber insurance through Hiscox |
| Motion Supported: | Rairigh |
| Motion Status | Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

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| Roll Call: | Rairigh Campbell Bouchard Demaagd | Yes Yes Yes Yes | Stanton Ordway Schaefer | Yes Yes Yes |
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13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway)**

- No report.

B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh)

- Two things: 1) a downed tree and 2) significant mole problem. Both issues will be addressed.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer)

- Eric Schaefer met with an architect to discuss a plan for uniformity in appearance of businesses, beginning with those in town and then addressing those on the M-37 corridor.
- DDA Riverbank Music Series begins June 26 and the Rotary Club is looking into getting an annual food license for food sales.

D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer)

- We are combining with Caledonia Township. The public accuracy test for that election is being held at Caledonia Township Hall on April 28 at 10 am. Any voters living in Thornapple Twp who attend Caledonia schools will vote at the Caledonia Christian Reformed Church. This change is only for the May 6 election.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh)

- Mr. DeMaagd noted the recent news reports of high Fentanyl deaths in the United States and asked Chief Richardson about local impact. Chief Richardson reports several opioid saves in Barry County but that the number of opioid overdoses has been low since his service began. The availability of Narcan has helped death rates drop. Noted were local vending machines with access to free Narcan at Barry County Community Mental Health and several at Pennock Hospital.

F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh)

- No report.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer)

- New Chairperson, Catherine Getty stated that the first meeting for the 5 year rec plan will be held 4-16-25.
- Getty is checking into an engineering and design grant application for the trail and received encouragement to complete the application for the grant.
- Upkeep and maintenance of the trail is being discussed.

H. Personnel and Compensation (Ordway, Campbell, Schaefer)

- No report.

I. Property and Public Utilities (Stanton, DeMaagd, Campbell)

- Meeting with Chief Richardson the week of 4-20-25 to discuss maintenance issues.

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Stanton)

- Pothole work is being done.
- A road tour is scheduled for April 17.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Stanton, Schaefer)

- Meeting minutes from the March meeting will be approved at the next meeting.
- Work is being done to secure the area from the public.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

15. POLL OF MEMBERS:

David Stanton (Trustee) - Thoughts and prayers are extended to Sheriff Leaf in the passing of his son.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee)

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee)

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Welcome back, Sandy Rairigh.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – The 2024 tax year delinquency rate was almost 1% higher than it usually is, at almost 3% delinquency. Also, due to moving our banking to Consumers Credit Union, we accrued \$93,000 in interest last fiscal year, compared to the previous year's gain of \$28,000. We are receiving better interest rates and fewer fees with Consumers Credit Union.

Cindy Ordway (Clerk)

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) - Welcome back Sandy Rairigh. The MTA Conference was successful and educational. Extend prayers for the Sheriff.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:15 P.M.

Motion Stated:

Campbell - Motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

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| Motion Supported: | Bouchard |
| Motion Status | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. |

Cindy Didway, Clerk

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Dykgraaf, Recording Secretary