



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

July 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**

Roll Call: 6 present 1 absent with notice	Schaefer Bouchard Campbell	Present Present Present	DeMaagd Stanton Rairigh Ordway	Present Present Present Absent
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Getty and Smelker, Chief Richardson

Guests: 3

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

Motion Stated:	Motion by Rairigh to approve agenda as presented.
Motion Supported:	Campbell
Motion Status	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nays.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion Stated:	Motion by Campbell to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion Supported:	Stanton
Motion Status	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Roll Call:	DeMaagd Stanton	Yes Yes	Bouchard Campbell	Yes Yes	Rairigh Schaefer	Yes Yes
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6. Draft - Planning Commission Minutes from June 23rd 2025

-received for information.

7. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None**8. COUNTY REPORT:**

Commissioners Catherine Getty and John Smelker report the following:

- Health Dept cuts - Barry County shares a district health dept with Eaton County. Catherine Getty is the current chair. Due to a significant cut in federal funding and a failed millage (in Eaton County), cuts and changes need to be made. Some of those changes are: nine staff positions were eliminated in April; the Connections program was disbanded (4 staff people); a Health officer will retire early eff. 10-1-25, a new health officer will be hired; the Director of Environmental Services will also retire and be replaced; more restructuring will mean future staff cuts; limits will be put on discretionary spending, training, travel, etc.
- Approved a 3 yr installment plan for the purchase of body cameras, car cameras, portable, and mobile radios for just over \$800k. A grant has been sought for this equipment.
- Approved a contract with Motorola & Crouch Communications to buy the equipment described above.
- Approved a Chill grant for low income housing.

The commissioners were thanked for their report.

9. RESERVED TIME: None**9. Emergency Services Report:**

a. Chiefs Run Report Summary

- For the past month there were 302 calls for service, the busiest month since Chief Richardson started with TTES in July of 2022.
- There were: (approx.) 20 paid on-call responses with 7.8 members per call.
- 1 structure fire with 11 members. Last year they met the goal of having 10 members on site within 10 minutes.
- The Chief's goal is to continue getting people on scene quickly. The average out-the-door time for July was 1 minute, 23 seconds, and the average response time within the township is 7 minutes, 22 seconds; the average response time for the full 144 sq miles is 11 min 23 seconds.

b. Summary

- Had 2 cardiac arrest saves on the same shift last month.
- Had 2 nights with 3 calls within 50 minutes; maintained all calls with our people.

A comparison in numbers from July, 2022 (when Chief Richardson started with TTES) and July, 2024:

July 2022

1 ALS ambulance staffed 24/7
4 active paramedics (5 incl the chief)
16 Paid On Call Firefighters (23 total)

July 2024

2 ALS (1- 24 hr; 1 - 12 hr) 2 BLS upgradable (1 staffed M-F 12hr)
21 paramedics - 8 full time
29 Paid On Call Firefighters (36 total)

We have sent 5 people through paramedic school and 7 EMT's through school with five more about to finish. We will be sending 3 more EMTs to medic school in the fall.

When he started in 2022 they were turning over approximately 15 calls per month (to 'turn over' is to ask for help from neighboring emergency services). They only turned over 7 calls total last year.

A big goal Chief Richardson is still working on: ISO rating reduced.

The Chief thanks the township for all of their support.

Chief Richardson notes that he is working on life saving awards to note exceptional work.

Mr. DeMaagd notes his appreciation for the chief's work to improve the time-out-the-door by example. Mr. Schaefer notes the improved morale and work environment in the TTES and thanks Chief Richardson for his good work and his report.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Agenda Request Election Coordinator.

Background: Due to the recent changes and incredible increase in State requirements since 2022 along with changes to the election process, as well as help with non-statutory duties; additional help is necessary.

Motion Stated:	Motion by Schaefer to hire an Election Coordinator at the recommended \$20 per hour for a part time position for approximately 20-25 hours per week to maintain the Election Voter Database, help to coordinate elections, and other duties as requested by the clerk.
Motion Supported:	Bouchard
Motion Status	Motion withdrawn by Schaefer and Bouchard.

Discussion:

Should this go before the personnel committee before it's brought here?

Motion Stated:	Motion by Schaefer to turn over to the Personnel and Compensation Committee this request to hire an Election Coordinator at the recommended \$20 per hour for a part time position for approximately 20-25 hours per week to maintain the Election Voter Database, help to coordinate elections, and other duties as requested by the clerk.
Motion Supported:	Rairigh
Motion Status	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nays.

B. Agenda Request for Trail Maintenance

Background: Jason and his Family maintained that section of trail for years and he has the knowledge and equipment to properly groom the trail. We originally approved \$4000, but based on the condition of the trail and the work required, I am asking for another \$1000.00 and an additional person to assist Jason.

Motion Stated:	Motion by Schaefer to contract with Jason Mills and Jeremy Shriver to perform trail maintenance and mowing on the Township owned trail from Garbow road to Parmalee road for a cost not to exceed \$5000.00 for the remainder of 2025.
Motion Supported:	Campbell
Motion Status	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Roll Call:	Rairigh Bouchard	Yes Yes	Campbell DeMaagd	Yes Yes	Schaefer Stanton	Yes Yes
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Discussion:

This \$5,000 includes the liability insurance cost for these services.

C. Agenda Request for purchase of polo shirts for EMT school.

Background: Thornapple Fire Department is teaching an EMT class and the students need polos to have students go on clinicals.

Motion Stated:	Motion by Bouchard to approve purchasing polo shirts for EMT students not to exceed \$1800.
Motion Supported:	Campbell
Motion Status	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Roll Call:	DeMaagd Schaefer	Yes Yes	Bouchard Stanton	Yes Yes	Campbell Rairigh	Yes Yes
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13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway)

- This is Barry County Fair week. Board Members are staffing the booth.

B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh)

- No report

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer)

- The music series is going well. Planning is underway for Heritage Day, Sept. 13, 2025, to include a Rotary Parade, rotary duck race, turkey dinner at the fire dept, dunk tank.

D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer)

- No report

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh)

- No additional report

F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh)

- The yearly payment to the Road Commission was made this month - \$170,000.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer)

- Catherine Getty, Chair, reports that their meeting was cancelled this week. A Board workshop is scheduled to go over the 5 year rec plan and a joint entity meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22.

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

- A meeting will be scheduled to review the agenda request for an Election Coordinator presented above.

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

- No report

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

- No report

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

- No report

13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

14. POLL OF MEMBERS:

David Stanton (Trustee) - Congratulations to the Chief for 3 years of service with TTES.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) - Great job, Chief.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) - Reminder that the EMS committee will schedule the annual review for the Chief.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) - Hats off to the entire EMS crew - thank you!

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) - Congrats to Chief Richardson.

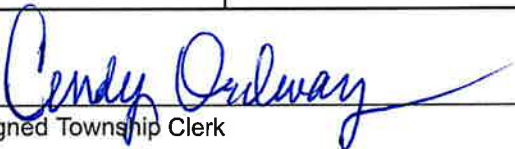
Cindy Ordway (Clerk) - not present.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) - Great to have you on staff, Chief. Three years has gone by fast, and you are doing a great job.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 7:37 P.M.

Motion Stated:	Motion by Campbell to adjourn at 7:37 P.M.
Motion Supported:	Stanton
Motion Status	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nays.


Signed Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Dykgraaf, Recording Secretary