

DRAFT

Watson Township Board Meeting
1895 118th Ave. Allegan, MI 49010
August 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Joe Yearous, Michelle Harris, Tera Davis, Mary Ann Baker, and Kevin Travis

AGENDA:

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Treasurer Davis made a Motion to approve the Minutes as presented, Trustee Harris seconded, all in favor, Motion passed.

BILLS:

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$31,376.77, Trustee Yearous seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Davis gave a summary balance of all accounts.

JULY BUDGET REPORT:

Several accounts have exceeded the budgetary balance amount. The Board discussed each line item. Supervisor Travis made a proposal to move \$16, 604.69 from the General Fund to cover the deficit in each line-item account. Trustee Harris seconded the motion, all in favor, Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Opened at 7:12p.m. and closed at 7:12p.m.

REPORTS:

a) PLANNING COMMISSION:

The commission dealt with a landowner who would like to put up Solar panels in front of his house. This would violate the ordinance as written. The property has 500ft frontage to the road and as such the commission approved his request.

b) CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Three cases were closed, ten cases currently opened.

c) SEXTON:

Mr. Holshoe has several cremation burials this last month.

d) LIBRARIES:

No report

e) COUNTY COMMISSIONER-DALE DUGAN:

Commissioner Dugan reported on the July 9 and 23rd meeting. The audit of the county financial statements was given the highest rating, The Public Defender Director, Mr. Catalino, gave a report on his office. The State of Michigan looks to its programs and leadership to offer improvement in other counties. The Board approved ballot language for the renewal mileage for the conservation district in November. More information can be found on the county website.

f) FIRE REPORT:

The Fire Board will return to quarterly meetings starting in October.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) PARK UPDATE:

Supervisor Travis reported that the ADA compliant picnic tables for the park will be in place soon. Wightman did not follow up and communicate with the township on this matter. The manufacturer broke them in storage and is working to replace them. Supervisor Travis is also looking for a metal 55-gallon metal drum to put hot ash in from the grills as to not melt the plastic trash cans.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) PA 116 GREGORY AND AMANDA HELDER:

The Board discussed the application. Treasurer Davis made a motion to approve PA 116 for Gregory and Amanda Helder, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion passed.

b) ZONING UPDATES FROM P.C.:

An ordinance was offered by Supervisor Travis and supported by Treasurer Davis to amend the zoning ordinance of the township of Watson related to land division. Roll call vote: Trustee Yearous yes, Treasurer Davis yes, Supervisor Travis yes, Clerk Baker yes, and Trustee Yearous yes. Motion passed.

c) MCKENNA PROPOSAL FOR MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS AS RELATED TO DATA CENTERS, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE, WIND, AND SOLAR:

Supervisor Travis made a proposal to agree to the masterplan amendments related to the Data Center, Battery Energy Storage, Wind and Solar in the amount of \$5700, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

d) CREMATION RATES:

The Board discussed the township fees for cremation burials. The current fee was set in 2013 as \$100 for residents and \$400 for nonresidents. The Board compared current fees in Martin, Hopkins, Allegan Township, Chesire and Trowbridge, it was then determined that \$250 should be the new fee for resident cremation burial. Trustee Harris made a motion to increase cemetery fees for cremation burial to the following: Resident \$250 (M-F), Nonresident \$400 (M-F), Resident \$350 (Saturday), Nonresident \$550 (Saturday), Resident \$700 (Sundays and National Holidays), Nonresident \$900 (Sunday and National Holidays) Foundation fees will increase to \$0.75 per square inch effective August 7, 2026, Supervisor Travis seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

BOARD ROUND TABLE:

At the last meeting we discussed the noncompliance of the cemetery ordinances as to what is allowed on the graves and removal of bushes. The Board agreed that October 1st would be the final date before all items would be removed and kept at the Township Hall for pickup.

Clerk Baker wanted to thank all the election workers for their hard work and dedication, Bev McKinnon, Maria Holshoe, Kathy Morris, Tami Gohns, Catherine Gernaat, Tera Davis, Scott Fenner, and Jack Eveland.

Trustee Davis said the township is ready for the audit coming up this week.

Supervisor Travis wanted to thank the residents of Watson for passing the road mileage by a two thirds majority.

ADJOURN:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Harris seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Adjournment 9:01p.m.

Mary Ann Baker
Watson Township Clerk