

Draft
Milton Township
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2025

Member present: C. Weinzapfel, L. Atkinson, J. Beebe, J. Renis, B. Veliquette

Also present: B. Hefferan, S. Kopriva, J. Petersen, L. Meyers, and 10 audience members.

Weinzapfel called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and the Pledge was recited.

Motion to approve the Agenda by Renis/Veliquette. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Atkinson/Beebe.

Roll Call:

Renis: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Beebe: Yes

Veliquette: Yes

Weinzapfel: Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment regarding agenda items: none.

Sheriff's Report: 144 calls in September.

Fire Department Report: 10 calls for service in September. 98 calls for the year. Received grants from MTA & DNR for SCBA units and are applying for a grant from the Grand Traverse Tribe. New fire truck chassis should be delivered soon. Waiting for bond information for remodeling Station 1.

EMS Report: 20 runs for September.

Zoning Report – None

Planning Commission: As presented by Bill Hefferan.

Public Hearing on November 5 regarding Permits with Delinquent Taxes Ordinance and rezoning.

County Commission Report: As presented by Bill Hefferan. Updated on the county budget and items that have been removed from budget with the goal of funding the Public Safety Center. Any concerns with current medical examiner should be reported to Hefferan. Fire Chief Jeremy Ball has been appointed director of dispatch. Please vote on November 4th.

Library Report: Minutes in packet.

Milton Township Library Trustee Appointment. New trustee, Dr. Michael Stevens will be appointed. **Motion** to approve Dr. Michael Stevens appointment for three years by Veliquette/Renis. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Drain Commissioner: L. Meyers provided a presentation on the dams in Antrim County. There is work that needs to be done on the dam in Bellaire and the dam/ overflow spillway in Elk Rapids. There will be two Special Assessment Districts set up to pay for this. Milton Township will only be responsible for the repairs needed for the Elk Rapids Dam. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available, as the Elk Rapids Dam needs to be studied.

Unfinished Business

Insurance: Will revisit in January 2026

Speed limit on NW Torch Lake Drive: Resolution 2025-18

Discussion on the new process to request speed study. Resolution will be sent to County Road Commission who will work with State Police to get study done.

Resolution 2025-18: Speed Study request on North West Torch Lake Drive, Erickson Rd. to Indian Rd.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-18 as amended by Atkinson/Renis.

Roll Call:

Beebe: Yes

Veliquette: Yes

Renis: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Weinzapfel: Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Shoreline Protection Ordinance: Board reviewed ordinance with S. Kopriva

Motion to approve the Shoreline Protection Ordinance as amended by Atkinson/Renis.

Discussion. Veliquette asked for clarification on the amendments. Veliquette feels that grass restriction is too restrictive.

Roll Call:

Veliquette: No

Atkinson: Yes

Renis: Yes

Beebe: Yes

Weinapfel: Yes

Motion carried 4-1.

STR Ordinance: This is deferred to the special meeting at 2 pm with Kopriva regarding the ordinance as well as the township attorney. Public comments regarding the village district rental policy and environmental impacts.

New Business

STR Fees/Fee Schedule: Kopriva said there is currently a fee of \$200 to get a license. Other communities are around \$200-\$500. Looking at the township, with the cost of zoning operations

and monitoring company, zoning administrator, and attorney fees, the township can justify raising license fee to \$500. Will be reassessed when an enforcement officer is hired.

Motion to increase the STR fee to \$500 annually by Veliquette/Weinzapfel.

Beebe: Yes

Renis: Yes

Veliquette: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Weinzapfel: Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Releasing escrow funds for Penahguhme Association: Weinzapfel gave the history on this issue. The escrow accounts can be turned over to associations due to new state requirements.

Motion to release the escrow funds for the Penahguhme Association by Renis/Weinzapfel.

Renis: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Beebe: Yes

Veliquette: Yes

Weinzapfel: Yes

Motion carried 5-0

MERS Contract: Beebe said we are changing frequency of paying our Fire Department to monthly, which will change our contract with MERS. This contract authorizes that change, starting January 2026.

Motion to authorize the MERS contract change by Veliquette/Weinzapfel.

Roll Call:

Veliquette: Yes

Beebe: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Renis: Yes

Weinzapfel: Yes

Motion carried 5-0

Enforcement officer: Policies, payments and responsibilities: Beebe discussed what we envision enforcement to be. MTA template for contract was printed off for board members to review.

Atkinson asked Kopriva to review and she would like our attorney to also review. Board members discussed and will continue to research and review.

Public Comment – same guidelines as above apply.

A citizen talked about having a code enforcement officer. It's a valuable position.

D. Meyers thanked the board for the Shoreline Protection Ordinance and getting that passed.

Suggested reviewing material Torch Conservation Center has regarding root systems. Also reminded the board that at the public hearing, lake associations attended and asked how the board will communicate the ordinance and implement. All associations said they will communicate with their members. Encourages board to get information to lake associations and maybe contractors to inform them of changes and requirements. Also encourages enforcement officer.

Board Comment: Veliquette said he's glad we did the Shoreline Protection Ordinance, but he's concerned about the grass restriction.

Scheduled Activities/ Future meetings

- A. Special meeting Monday October 20, 2025 at 2 pm for STR ordinance
- B. Election is Tuesday, November 4th from 7 am to 8 pm.
- C. Next board meeting is Monday, November 17, 2025 at 9 am.

Adjournment by order of the chair at 10:34 am.

These minutes are subject to approval at the November 17, 2025 meeting. A copy of these minutes is available at MiltonTownshipMI.gov.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Beebe, Clerk