

Draft
Milton Township
Board Meeting
March 23, 2026

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

Also present: N. Warner, J. Cram, J. Petersen, D. Jerdee, and 4 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.**

Amendment of subject approval of the meeting dates with the minutes on the agenda and change the approval date from March 16th to March 23rd, today.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Atkinson/Renis

Renis: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Beebe: Yes

Veliquette: Yes

Weinzapfel: Yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: none.

Paddle Antrim Annual Report: D. Jerdee thanked the township for their annual commitments and leadership over the last 10 years for the Chain of Lakes Water Trail. Weinzapfel discussed the upgrades at the access at Waring Road on Torch Lake.

Sheriff's Report: In packet.

Fire Department: C. Weinzapfel presented report. Nine calls for service in February. New chassis is close to being delivered, but not completed. Update on fire department programs and community education.

EMS Report – Provided in packet.

Zoning Report: J. Cram presented report. ZA: 2025-06: Weinzapfel asked for clarification. J. Cram clarified that vacation rental is fewer than 30 days, which is permitted and regulated. This is a housekeeping amendment to make sure the ordinance is consistent with the short-term rental ordinance. J. Cram explained that if this is approved, it would be published and it would be legal within 7-10 days.

Motion to approve ZA 2025-06 by Renis/Atkinson

Roll Call:

Veliquette: Yes

Atkinson: Yes

Renis: Yes
Beebe: Yes
Weinzapfel: Yes
Motion carried 5-0.

Planning Commission: As presented by N. Warner and J. Cram.

J. Cram gave an update on ZO 2026-01 for a change to section 117.1616. This is a clarification whether the minimum size of the lot for a development is based on the lot or the development.

They also looked at ZO 2026-02 for clarification regarding having an informational meeting before we schedule a public hearing. It allows time for the staff and board to gather information prior to a public hearing. It can be skipped if it's straight forward. The PC could still conduct subcommittees if they wanted to do that, but gives staff the opportunity to work with the applicant.

Planning commission also discussed migrant workers housing facilities. They have decided not to change this ordinance.

N. Warner explained there is opposition to 2-5 acre development proposal PRD. In keeping with the master plan, it has been considered to give farmers the opportunity to develop land. There are state and federal considerations. Veliquette noted the language of preserving farmland. J. Cram explained that this does not guarantee preservation, but allows for more creative options. It is mentioned that people say they want to preserve the rural character, but don't always support this.

J. Cram said Act 58 has become law and will be effective next year (March, 2027). This increases the number of exempt splits. Milton Township will be reviewing their current ordinances to make sure they are compliant.

County Commission: no report

Unfinished Business

Insurance: Still waiting on information and comparing policies.

Enforcement Officer: Waiting for feedback from attorney.

Fire station finance options: 2 quotes – Special meeting to discuss April 8 at 9:00 am.

Flock Cameras: Waiting on more info from County.

Zoning deputy position: Discussion on the written proposals, which need clarification. Zoning will work on clarification and present new information with who has authority to the board.

New Business

Resolution #2026-11: Great Lake Energy Cooperative Franchise: Has been reviewed by the attorney.

Motion to approve Resolution #2026-11 by Veliquette/Renis

Roll Call:
Beebe: Yes
Renis: Yes
Veliquette: Yes
Atkinson: Yes
Weinzapfel: Yes
Motion carried 5-0.

Metro Act Permit Application – 186 Networks. Still being discussed.

Clean Up days: GFL has agreed to eliminate their fuel surcharge. Weinzapfel will look at other townships and see how the competition works.

Motion to move forward with GFL by Veliquette/Weinzapfel

Roll Call
Atkinson: Yes
Beebe: Yes
Renis: Yes
Veliquette: Yes
Weinzapfel: Yes
Motion carried 5-0.

Tractor Lease: The zero turn tractor lease is up and we are looking at this. The lease is less this year. We will turn it in and get a new one.

Motion by Beebe/Weinzapfel to approve the contract terms with Hutson Inc.

Roll Call:
Beebe: Yes
Veliquette: Yes
Atkinson: Yes
Renis: Yes
Weinzapfel: Yes
Motion carried 5-0.

Roads – overlay of Torch River Rd. We have four roads that will be tar and chipped: Cairn Hwy, O'Dell, Sutter, and East Elk Lake Drive. The cost is \$429K. County has allocated \$28,511 for Milton Township.

Motion by Veliquette/Weinzapfel to approve the proposal for paving.

Atkinson: Yes
Beebe: Yes
Veliquette: Yes
Renis: Yes
Weinzapfel: Yes
Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment – none.

Board Comment:

Received call from Ky Webb regarding a Pickleball Tournament for Elk Rapids Young Life on May 30. He wanted the community and board to be aware. Webb has been told that it is first come/ first serve for our courts. Suggested that he contact the regular pickle ball players to discuss. If public has questions, they can contact Township for Webb's phone number.

Township Clean Up Day are April 25 and August 22.

Scheduled Activities/ Future meetings

Next board meeting is Monday, April 20, 2026 at 9 am.

Special Board Meeting to discuss Fire Station Renovation Finance Options is Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 9:00 am.

Adjournment by order of the chair at 10:01 am.

These minutes are subject to approval at the April 20, 2026 meeting. A copy of these minutes is available at MiltonTownshipMI.gov.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Beebe, Clerk