

**TOWNSHIP OF CHESANING
APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

Regular Meeting: Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board of Trustees.

Members Present: Supervisor Joe Ruthig, Treasurer Cathy Gross; Trustees: Russell Krish, Kevin Carlton, Sarah Tomac and Scott Mrdeza. Absent: Clerk Daniel Himstedt.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was presented for approval. Motion by Mrdeza, supported by Carlton to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: All yeas. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2026 were presented for approval. Motion by Carlton, support by Tomac to approve the January 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: All yeas. Motion carried.

Presentations: None

Correspondence: Ruthig shared correspondence from Saginaw Conservation District. The annual tree sale starts February 1, 2026 and continues through March 31, 2026. The flier will be posted on the Township Office Bulletin Board. Ruthig also noted that Saginaw County Mosquito Control as well as the Saginaw County Road Commission are hiring summer help. Those interested can contact Mosquito Control or the Road Commission.

Public Comments: Three minutes per person – Agenda items only. There were no public comments.

Committee/Commission Reports:

a. County Commissioner – Commissioner Dennis Harris was in attendance but did not have anything new to report. Gross asked him if early voting had been held this past week for the District Voting. Harris indicated there was early voting at the County and it seemed to be running smooth.

b. County Road Commission – Dennis Borchard

c. Cemetery Committee – Scott Mrdeza, Daniel Himstedt and Cathy Gross. Nothing to report.

d. Building Official – Rob Kehoe. No report

e. Ordinance and Zoning Enforcement Officer – Pat Olk. No report.

- f. Rehmann Health Center – Cathy Gross. The next mobile dental clinic is February 16, 2026 and is booked full. WIC is coming to the Center 3 times a month. Chesaning United campaign is ongoing and to date donations have been received totaling about \$24,000.
- g. Fire Board Authority – Supervisor Ruthig. The last meeting was held on January 13, 2026. As of that date, fire runs totaled 9. Orientation is complete for a new fire fighter, Steve Becker. Annual Awards Banquet was held on January 17, 2026. 14 firefighters were recognized as having 100% attendance for all training and maintenance.
- h. Mid-Michigan Waste Authority – Dan Himstedt (Russell Krish, alternate). Russ will attend the meeting on February 9, 2026.
- i. Task Force – Joesph Ruthig (Kevin Carlton, alternate) Ruthig attended the January 27, 2026 meeting. The guest was Tyler Frelitz from Restore 242, the new restaurant that opened in the old Showboat Restaurant building. Tyler said he was very happy with his grand opening and is getting lots of support from the community. He talked about his experiences working at other restaurants which inspired him to purchase the former Showboat Restuarant, remodel it and make it his own. River Rapids Library is hosting an adult reading contest through February. They also have a huge number of used books for sale at a reduced price. Chesaning Downtown Development Authority is working on next year's holiday decorations for downtown Chesaning. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026.
- j. Township Parks – Kevin Carlton, Sarah Tomac. Carlton reported that the Parshallburg Park sidewalks are being snow shoveled by someone but he is not sure who.
- k. Planning Commission - Scott Mrdeza. Scott reported a Planning Commission meeting was held Wednesday, February 4, 2026. The commission went through the zoning ordinance and are pulling together material to present to the Board which they feel should be updated.

Board Officials Reports:

a. Supervisor Ruthig: Young's Inter-County Drain Board met on January 22, 2026 at the Chesaning Township Hall. Total cost of the project is \$2,085,000. Day of review was held on January 17, 2026 with appeals due by then. Neither Saginaw or Shiawassee Counties had any appeals. Pre-payment with non interest for those assessed will be due no later than March 20, 2026. Chesaning Township's assessment is \$121,972.50. Next meeting is March 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chesaning Township Hall. Agenda will include Resolutions of Full Faith and Credit by both Counties and a Bond Resolution.

A Saginaw Area GIS Authority meeting was held on January 26, 2026. 2025 aerial photos are now posted but with some issues. Saginaw has only paid half of the cost and will not pay in full until corrected. The same company has been used in the past for 30 years and have never had any trouble before so any corrections needed will be taken care of.

Gary Campbell who was legal counsel for SAGA has retired and the Executive Board is likely going to recommend Kevin Kilby as new counsel. Membership will vote next meeting. Annual Audit was reviewed and accepted. SAGA had no issues and is in good financial status.

Saginaw County Road Commission held its annual District Meeting on January 28, 2026 at the Chesaning Township Hall at 9:00 a.m. Discussion was held regarding the new road funding bill which took effect at the first of the year. Also, discussion on the need for summer temp workers. Chesaning Township received a list of suggested road projects for 2026 which will be covered at the Chesaning Township Budget Workshop on February 18th at 6:00 p.m.

DTE vs Chesaning Township - Oral Arguments will be heard on March 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Saginaw County Courthouse and will be open to the public for viewing but there will be no opportunity for public comment.

b. Clerk Himstedt: Absent

c. Treasurer Gross: Property tax collection is ongoing with 6% interest being added to summer unpaid taxes. Both summer and winter 2025 property taxes are due by March 2, 2026. After that date the real property taxes must be paid at the County with interest and penalty incurred. Gross also reported that the Mercantile Bank Municipal Money Market account has paid well this past year with close to \$19,000 in interest.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Consider Bids for Chesaning Township Lawn Care – Three bids were submitted for the Grounds Maintenance three year contract. It was noted that even though a three year contract is entered into, the contract states that if either party is not satisfied, they may terminate the contract at any time. Mrdeza commented that he had done research on all three companies but was drawn to “Rescue Me LawnCare LLC”. The bid for all three years was the best of the three companies at \$65,925. References were provided and were contacted. Nothing but good reviews were received.

Motion by Mrdeza supported by Carlton to contract with Rescue Me LawnCare LLC for three years for Grounds and Maintenance at the Chesaning Township Hall, Wildwood Cemetery and Parshallburg Park. Roll Call Vote: Yeas- Gross, Carlton, Krish, Tomac, Mrdeza and Ruthig. 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.

New Business:

- a. Consider Pre-payment of Young's Inter-County Drain Assessment (\$121,972.50)
After Board discussion it was decided to pay off the drain assessment in the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 and avoid any interest charges. Motion by Mrdeza, supported by Tomac to pay the Young's Inter-County Drain Assessment of \$121,972.50 before March 31, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Yeas- Mrdeza, Gross, Carlton, Tomac, Krish, and Ruthig. 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.
- b. Consider Budget Amendment (Insurance and Drain Fund) – Supervisor Ruthig addressed the need to move \$122,000 from Fund Balance to Drain Fund to cover the cost of the Young's Inter-County Drain Assessment to be paid in the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year. Also the Insurance Fund fell short \$2,000 from what was budgeted for the current fiscal year due to improvements made at Parshallburg Park. \$2,000 needs to be moved from Contingency Fund to Insurance Fund to balance the budget.
Motion by Tomac, support by Carlton to move \$122,000 from Fund Balance to Drain Fund and to move \$2,000 from Contingency Fund to Insurance Fund.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas- Gross, Carlton, Krish, Tomac, Mrdeza and Ruthig. 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.

c. Consider Reaffirming Chesaning Township's Principles of Governance

Michigan Townships Association encourages every township board to deliberate on and adopt Principles of Governance annually to guide in stewardship, deliberations and constitute services committing to safeguard the community's health, safety and general welfare. These Principles of Governance maintain the highest standards and traditions of Michigan Townships. Board consensus was unanimous to adopt and sign the Principles of Governance Certificate.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Township Board Comments: None

Approval of Bills: Motion by Tomac support by Krish, to pay the bills as presented totaling \$116,480.46. Roll Call Vote – Yeas: Mrdeza, Gross, Carlton, Tomac, Krish and Ruthig. 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Carlton, support by Krish, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved: _____

**Cathleen L. Gross, Treasurer – Acting Secretary
Chesaning Township**

Supervisor Approval – Yes___ No___

Change Requests_____

Supervisor Joe Ruthig_____ Date:_____