

MINUTES OF ARBELA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

August 10th, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Edward Hunt at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present –Beth Duet, Jody Hunt, Tim Anderson, Gary Woelzlein and Ed Hunt

MOTION: By Tim Anderson to approve the minutes of the July 13th, 2026 meeting

SUPPORT: Beth Duet, motion carried

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to approve the payment of bills and payroll

SUPPORT: Gary Woelzlein, motion carried

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave the fire report. Next meeting is October 5, 2026 at 5:30pm in Millington. National Night out was a success, they served approximately 175 sandwiches and feedback was good. Dave Russell is to meet with the company about the tanker replacement because it takes a few years from commissioning to receiving the final product. Engine number 2 is giving off smoke, this is getting checked out, and hopefully it doesn't affect the replacement schedule. The Fire Equipment millage renewal passed as well as the 911 central dispatch millage as well.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave police report-During the month of July Deputy Peterson handled 20 calls for service, some of which included animals at large, mental health, noise/neighborhood trouble, suspected natural death investigation, civil matters, PPO violation, suspicious vehicles, warrant arrest, lost and found property, and assistance to other law enforcement agencies. 18 traffic stops were conducted during the month for offenses such as speeding, registration display, and improper equipment. There has also been an observed increased speed on North and Southbound Bray Rd. This month Baja Acres hosted the ATV Pro National racing series. Deputy Peterson was present at the track for the duration of the event. The attending crowd was pleasant and no crimes were reported within the venue for the duration of the event. Millington Township hosted their 911 night out during this month. Deputy Peterson was in attendance at that event to represent Arbela Township and flew the department drone at the event.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave a road report. The Barnes rd project is complete with repaving, roadside gravel replaced, and obsolete signs replaced. Murphy Lake Road has had the gravel patch applied along with a double application of Chloride added. To note, Arbela Township used 22A gravel and Millington used 23A and that seemed to have a lot of clay lumps contained within and was reluctant to come out of the dump trailer.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave an update on building and grounds. Gunnell cemetery survey is done and staked, we should have the final paperwork in a few weeks. The Dickson foundation was discussed, the old foundation was removed, new was poured, headstone company was given a date to set headstone. Headstone Company set stone early, removed foundation forms on their own and chipped the foundation cement. Ed read the email that was sent to the Inch Memorials detailing the scope of work and the amounts that would be charged to replace the foundation at their cost. No word had been

received by time of meeting. Septic Tank #1 was pumped this week, tank #2 was not needing to be pumped, and both will go on the schedule to be pumped in 3 years. Chad Ross update, request for reconsideration was filed with the court. Email was sent to the lawyer regarding enforcement about Mr. Ross hosting a wedding. There are 3 properties with ordinance violations and the township is working on issuing tickets. Birch Valley is still working its way through the MPSC. The township truck was in for service for and oil change, fix the passenger running board, caulk the light on the top of the cab to keep it from leaking and look at an ignition issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bathroom Remodel-no updates

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Planning commission recommendation to rezone 3.5 acres of parcel # 003-022-100-0100-00 owned by Mildred Mourer-This was approved by the township planning commission and sent to the county planning commission, County has not responded. Improvements have happened around the property and it is said to look nice.

MOTION: by Jody Hunt to approve the Planning commission's recommendation to rezone portion of parcel # 003-022-100-0100-00

SUPPORT: Gary Woelzlein, motion carried

Propane Supplier: Hamilton Propane submitted an approval to fix price until April 30, 2028 at \$1.499/Gallon as long as the township is on auto-fill and they also allowed a no delivery fee. 2 years may seem like a long time to fix the price for the township but the company felt that it would be beneficial for both parties with no worry of either being gone before the end of the 2 years.

MOTION: by Gary Woelzlein to accept Hamilton Propane to be our propane supplier for the next 2 years

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, motion carried

Political Signs on township property: There were 5 political signs placed at the entrance to the hall election morning, 3-Gabe Lossing, 1-Matthew Bierlein, 1-Perry Johnson, also one for Dalton Atwell was attempted to be placed later that morning and was told no. There is an ordinance in effect

'Political Signs: Political signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32)) square feet in area per sign. Such signs shall be placed only on private property and only with permission of the property owner. Signs must be removed within fourteen (14) days following the election or referendum.'

But we should consider something a little more directed towards township property in particular, a selection from the Township Focus (publication of the Michigan Townships Association) regarding political signs

'Per MTA legal counsel and the Bureau of Elections, a written board-adopted policy or ordinance could be used to regulate campaign materials and activities on township property **outside** the 100-foot limit. As long as the policy is equally and consistently applied, regardless of the candidate or ballot question, a township board may adopt a policy that it will remove **unattended** campaign signs or other materials **from township property outside of the 100-foot limit** on an early voting or Election Day. Note: if a person is handing out materials or holding assign, that may be a protected exercise of political free speech. A township may also regulate the use of its parking lots **outside** of the 100-foot limit. A voter has a right to park his or her

vehicle in a township property parking lot for the period of time it takes for that person to vote, even if the vehicle has campaign signs on it, and the Bureau of Elections does not require any action to be taken. But no one has a right to simply park a vehicle, with or without campaign signs on it, for any longer than the person needs to be on the property to vote or to do township business.'

MOTION: By Beth Duet, to not allow unattended political signs to be placed on township property and vehicles, excepting where they are actively voting or conducting township business

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, motion carried

Budget Amendment: There have been several ongoing legal issues that are affecting our legal budget and with 3 legal bills in queue to be sent out and paid the township needs to increase the budget for legal as that it is only August and the year runs through the end of March.

MOTION: by Ed Hunt to amend the legal budget by \$50,000 from General Fund to Legal Fund

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Gary Woelzlein, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Beth Duet, yes; Tim Anderson, yes; Ed Hunt, yes; motion carried

Authorize Treasurer to open CD- on recommendation from the Auditor to diversify our accounts to keep insurance liability coverage of fund deposits, the township received several different bank offers for CDs/cash management accounts. So far it is seeming like 1 year rates seem to be looking the best and do several with smaller amounts to ladder the due dates so nothing is locked up for a super long time.

MOTION: By Gary Woelzlein to authorize the treasurer to open a CD in the best interests of Arbela Township

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Jody Hunt, yes; Beth Duet, yes; Tim Anderson, yes; Gary Woelzlein, yes; Ed Hunt, yes; motion carried

Citizen Comments:

Pat Jewell-Willard Rd 4 wheelers/Dirt bikes ripping up and down, what can be done about these before someone gets killed? Response was to call 911, and if there is a car in the area they can respond, however, if people want to play recklessly with their lives, eventually it will catch up with them.

Mr. Bitzer-came to speak and introduce himself because he is up for reelection in November. Let us know about several resources that the court offers, Mental Health Court as well as Injunctive Relief for Ordinance Violations, offered to speak to Attorney Flory if he had any procedural questions.

MOTION: By Tim Anderson to adjourn at 6:52 pm

SUPPORT: Gary Woelzlein, motion carried

Beth Duet

Arbela Township Clerk