

MILLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 4, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Millen Township Hall

1) **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

2) **Roll Call**

a. **Board** – Barb Bartlett-Treasurer, Mary Somers – Clerk, Denny Smith – Supervisor, Jeff Somers-Trustee, Scott Kosal-Trustee

b. **Other Attendees** – Rich Gillies, Rodney Cordes, Sarah Gohl, Lauren Gohl, Jim Dorr

3) **Public Comments** – None

4) **Reports**

a. Clerk:

i. Motion to approve meeting minutes Township Board Meeting April 6, 2026. Motion by Kosal, 2nd by Bartlett. Motion carried.

b. Treasurer Balance reports as of April 30, 2026:

i. General Income Fund: \$170,989.69

ii. Grant Income Fund: \$2,500.00

iii. Road Fund: \$108,790.26

iv. Fire Fund: \$0

v. ARPA Fund \$0

vi. Total: \$282,279.95

vii. Motion to accept Treasurer Report, subject to audit. Motion by J. Somers to accept subject to audit 2nd by Kosal. Motion carried.

viii. Motion to pay bills, subject to board's post-audit policy authorizing payment: Checks #12700-12722 from 4/2/2026-5/1/2026; US Treasury, Alcona County Review (BOR Ad), Brighthouse, Consumers, Hawes Township (1/2 Assessor's Computer), BCIA (4th of July Ad), Hawes Township (1/2 Assessor's Printer), Visa (Treasurer Supplies, Beacon, Cemetery Supplies), BS&A (Annual Service Support), Barton City Fire Department, Everett Leeseberg (Kioni Full Burial), Wages, FOE (rent), Mary Somers (Internet), Barb Bartlett (Internet). Motion by Bartlett, 2nd by M. Somers. Motion carried.

ix. Treasurer and Clerk Balance - Yes

c. Road Committee: Supervisor conducted a drive around with Road Commissioner of the township roads, all roads are in good shape and there are no major projects needed at this time. We do have one issue on Trask Lake Road, however, that is an issue that will be addressed at a later time. Due to the damage throughout the county from the ice storm and recent flooding, the Road Commissioner told the Supervisor, that they are full of projects and unless it was deemed an emergency that road work within the township probably would not get done this year. With that being said, the Supervisor discussed possibly putting some of the \$108,790.26 Road Funds into a 6-month CD, that would help generate additional funds in interest gained, his suggestion was \$100,000 into multiple CDs. A motion was made by J. Somers, to authorize the Treasurer to secure one \$50,000, and two separate \$25,000 CD's using money from the Road Fund, the motion was 2nd by Kosal. All in favor, motion passed.

d. County Commissioner: T. Small – None

e. Zoning/Planning: Rich Gillies/Scott Kosal

(1) The Master Plan is with NEMCOG to be made public for review. There will be a public meeting on May 18th, at 6:30 PM. Following that meeting the Master Plan will be ready for the Board to make the final review and approve it. There will also be another meeting on May 12th to discuss another chapter in the Zoning Manual.

(2) Kosal provided an update on blight violation letters. The supervisor asked about any legal action that may need to take place on issues that have not been addressed and Kosal said that he would like to discuss these off-line first prior to submitting anything to the lawyer.

(3) Kosal also brought up that there will possibly be a ZBA meeting on the 18th of May at 6:00, there are some administrative issues that still need to be conducted, if needed the meeting will be held on a different day.

f. Cemetery Sexton Update: B. Bartlett

(1) Bartlett was contacted by Gail Leesberg who said that during the clean up the large headstone that has Williams on it was moved, however, it was not and there is no evidence that it. Bartlett also told her that we wanted to old deer statue removed and said that that her sister wants it. She was told that it needs to be removed and to work with Everett to get it removed with the next two weeks.

(2) There was 1 full burial and 1 cremation.

(3) Following the clean-up the items that were removed were placed behind the storage shed, if people are looking for items they are located there.

(4) A head stone is sinking, Bartlett contacted Crow Memorial in Alpena to get a bid to have it repaired.

g. Fire Department: Chief Cordes

(1) There were 8 medical calls and 1 fire call last month.

(2) The fire department is in the process of securing a new 5 year loan for the fire station.

(3) It was brought up that the township may be eligible for a grant that can be used to provide funding to the fire department. Kosal said that he would look into it, and Codes said that he would use the funds to purchase new Air Packs which cost about \$10,000 each and that he would like to have 4 new ones. Kosal will look into this grant, and if the township can apply for it.

(4) Cordes also stated that Hawes Township Treasurer had inquired from BS&A the cost to upgrade to the cloud, she was told that the cost could be reduced if there were four townships that would like to go in together for the cost of the upgrade. More information to come.

5) Unfinished Business

a. BC Bar Property Tax – No update and no payment received.

6) New Business

a. BCIA Resolution. There was no one from the BCIA to provide paperwork so this will be tabled until next month.

b. Clerk proposed the Township Road Millage Resolution 2026-06, for the renewal of the Road Millage on the August 2026 election. The resolution was read and a motion was made by Kosal to adopt it, 2nd by Bartlett. Roll call vote: Smith (YES), M. Somers (YES), Bartlett (YES), Kosal (YES), J. Somers (YES). Motion passed.

c. Clerk presented the 2026 L4029 for the Supervisor's signature.

d. There was discussion about the Apex Software for the Assessor, there was talk about Millen and Hawes Township's splitting the cost for the software, however Gohl proposed that to the software company and it needs to be separate licenses. She was told that the initial cost would be reduced to \$500 and the annual cost would be roughly \$200. Kosal asked what the Apex software offered, Gohl explained what the software allows her to do. Kosal then asked if Beacon can do this since we already have Beacon and is there a need for Apex if she can use Beacon. Gohl has not used Beacon but said that she is going to research this more and get back to the board with further information.

e. Supervisor mentioned that there is a large oak tree as well as a few others that need to be removed near the basketball court. He has made two called and received one estimate from McFadden tree removal in the amount of \$2,800 to remove the trees include the stumps. Kosal mentioned that he was going check the application dates for a grant to pay for the tree removal. A motion was made by Kosal to hire MacFadden tree removal to remove the trees using the money received through a grant, however, if we don't receive the grant then we will use money from the Park Maintenance funds to do so, the motion was 2nd by J.

Somers. Roll call vote: Smith (YES), M. Somers (YES), Bartlett (YES), Kosal (YES), J. Somers (YES). Motion passed.

- f. Completed the park clean up and the Supervisor wanted to thank all the volunteers that came out and helped.
- g. Bartlett mentioned that she would like to use AAACU to secure the CD's for the Road Fund money as they have a better rate. She said that she would need to open an account and that she would also like to move the Tax Funds from Huron Community Bank into AAACU and eventually do the same with the township money. Requested that two accounts be opened for Millen Township. It was suggested that Barb Bartlett (Treasurer) be the primary account manager and that Mary Somers (Clerk) would be the secondary account manager. It was also discussed that the township general funds would stay in a money market account and transferred in the checking account as needed, which would draw interest. Checks would be written from a checking account at AAACU and authorized personnel to sign checks would remain Barb Bartlett (Treasurer), Mary Somers (Clerk), Debra Kilborn (Deputy Treasurer) and Crystal Cordes (Deputy Clerk). A motion was made by J. Somers to authorize the Treasurer to open a Millen Township Tax Account and Millen Township General account and was 2nd by Kosal. All in favor, motion passed.
- h. Bartlett also stated the Huron Community Bank has started applying interest to the Tax account and that this money is considered income. She was told by MTA that this money should be distributed throughout the school, AMA and others. However, she said that she has talked to the accountant and he informed her that the money should be kept as income and put it into the Township General Fund. She asked the board what their recommendation was and it was directed by the members of the board to put this money into the General account.
- i. Bartlett was told by a resident that she wanted the township to put together a Private Road Collection for Road Maintenance for a private road and put it on the tax bill. It is possible, however the residents need to set up an organized group and all members residing on that road need to sign up and agree to want to do this. The board has not received an official request and at this time is not going to pursue this.
- j. Kosal discussed the Michigan Fire Insurance Holding program and said that the Township would get to hold up to 25% of the payment from the insurance company until the clean up of a property fire is completed and if the clean up is not completed, the township can use this money to finish it. A resolution signed by the board is need as well as an application. There was an email sent out by Kosal and he would like to look into this further and might be something that the board wishes to pursue and sign a resolution stating that we want to enroll in this program. This topic will be added to Unfinished Business for next meeting.

7) **Public Comments** – None

8) **Adjourn** – Motion by Kosal, 2nd by M. Somers. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

***Next Meetings:** *June 1, 2026, 7:00 PM Millen Township Board Meeting*
 July 6, 2026, 7:00 PM Millen Township Board Meeting

*** Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Somers, Clerk ***