

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
July 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Wilhelm called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Wilhelm, Treasurer Turner, Clerk Dexheimer, Trustee Lauren, and Trustee Mathews

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion by Trustee Lauren, **Second** by Treasurer Turner to approve the agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous **Motion Carried.**

Minutes: **Motion** to approve June 2026 minutes with correction of Assistant Chief Butala to Captain Butala by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Trustee Lauren to approve minutes. **Vote:** Unanimous **Motion Carried**

Expenditures:

- Board reviewed bills; no major questions.
- Notable expense: Removal of the men's bathroom urinal in Community Hall for \$275 rather than replacing it for ~\$1,900.

Motion to approve monthly list of orders, invoices, and/or bills for payment. **Motion** by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Clerk Dexheimer to approve expenditures. **Vote:** Unanimous, **Motion Carried**

PUBLIC COMMENT (1):

Residents in Gay raised questions regarding recent water issues. Additional inquires requesting secondary documents being posted to county website in addition to the meeting minutes that were not posted by previous clerk.

Previous Business:

A. Generator Project

- Supplier unable to provide a timeline for the originally planned Generac generator.
- Kohler generator available but at an additional cost of \$4,809; supplier offered to split the difference, resulting in \$2,400 additional cost to the Township.
- Board discussed risks of restarting the project and losing prior pricing.

Motion by Clerk Dexheimer to proceed with Kohler generator and approve additional \$2,400, **Second** by Supervisor Wilhelm. **Vote:** 4 Ayes/ 1 Nay. **Motion Carried.**

B. Dumpster Update

- One dumpster removed; remaining dumpster has adequate space.

C. Grounds & Mowing

- Joe may not be able to perform trimming; John Maynarich may assist with trimming while Joe handles mowing.
- Board will finalize arrangements.

D. Tractor & Equipment Fund

- Municipalities cannot receive 0% financing; leasing through Coyote may be required.
- Board previously approved creating an equipment fund.

Motion to contribute \$300/month, structured around tax-season revenue, toward a \$6,000 annual goal by Supervisor Wilhelm **Second** by Trustee Lauren. **Vote:** Unanimous **Motion Carried.**

E. Fourth of July Event

Event successful; Township did not lose money.

- Approximate profit: \$2,000.
- Parade attendance improved from recent years but positive feedback received.
- Clarification made that the Township **did not restrict** the fire department from participating; Fire Chief had chosen to focus on training.

F. Veterans Memorial

- Project continues but is temporarily slowed due to other priorities. A tank located in Wisconsin may be available; further investigation planned.

G. Starlink Internet

- Confusion exists regarding account linkage and activation.
- Township will request a technician visit to properly install and align accounts.
- Billing for Fire Department mobile currently appears on the Township credit card.

H. Posting Requirements

Supervisor reported:

- Agendas only required for special meetings.
- Treasurer's reports not required to be posted online.
- Township will continue improving transparency and may create an email distribution list for residents requesting documents.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Water System Issues

- A bad relay in Pump #1 was replaced.
- Township experiencing pressure problems; cause unknown.
- Water restrictions remain in place; hydrants should not be used due to low supply.
- Electrician returning for further troubleshooting.

B. Treasurer Report

- Tax bills are being mailed.

C. Clerk – Elections

- Preparing for August 4 election.
- Training scheduled for July 22 in Eagle River.
- Early voting coverage required July 30–31 (8 AM–5 PM).
- Absentee ballots expected to go out by July 10–13.
- Public Accuracy Test scheduled for July 23 at 6 PM.
- Additional election workers needed.

D. Trustee Reports – Trustee Mathews/Trustee Lauren – Nothing to share.

E. Fire Department Report

- Insurance risk assessor clarified that firefighters entering the hot zone must have physicals.
- Those without physicals may serve in non-hot-zone roles.
- Carnival events not permitted under insurance rules.
- Parade participation allowed but no throwing candy.
- UTV sent for repairs; recall work being completed.
- Fire Department represented Sherman Township at the Keweenaw County Safety Event sponsored by Keweenaw County Sheriff's Office.

*Discussions regarding Fire Truck/vehicles and events; Fire Chief addressed that if Fire Trucks/vehicles are planned to be in Parades, it needs to be included in minutes. Clerk addressed that participation of Township vehicles in events **not** sponsored by Sherman Township requires Board approval prior to attending those events, in which case, it did not happen for the safety event.*

F. Water & Sewer Planning

- Township may need a rate increase due to potential major repairs or a new well.
- Gordy Hyrkas cleaning the septic tank.
- Sewer drain field replacement could cost ~\$150,000, with fines of \$4,000/day if the system fails without a plan.
- Township owns land for a new drain field; old field could serve as backup.

G. Grounds & Fence

- Fence around grounds deteriorating; slats no longer available.
- Township may consider removing the fence; grant requirements will be reviewed.
- Local timber workers may help fabricate replacement slats.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2):

Discussions regarding drainfield: life expectance of current, property of new when needed and planning.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Trustee Lauren. **Vote:** Unanimous, **Meeting adjourned** at 7:45 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees: August 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM

John Wilhelm, Supervisor

Melissa Dexheimer, Clerk