REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
August 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Wilhelm called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Lauren

AGENDA APPROVAL:

The Supervisor added a few items to include a discussion with Lori Burton, Fog (Friends of Gay) organization and a proposed water and sewer increase. **Motion** to approve the agenda as amended with the Supervisor's additions by Clerk Dexheimer, **Second** by Treasurer Turner **Vote:** Unanimous **Motion Carried.**

Minutes: Approve minutes of July 9, 2026 Regular Meeting with addition in the Fire Department section. **Motion** by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Treasurer Turner to approve minutes. **Vote**: Unanimous. **Motion Carried.**

Expenditures: *Bjorn Excavating: called out to assist in locating a water system leak. No digging occurred, but the service call still required payment. Explanation that expenses for elections were broken out is why the expense list seems much longer due to potential reimbursement for the early voting expenses.* 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): None at this time.

Previous Business:

1. **Generators Update** – Supervisor Wilhelm reported on recent coordination with Marty from KLP regarding the township's generator installations. Supervisor Wilhelm confirmed with Marty that installation will still occur before year-end, and Marty stated that it will.
   *The drain field generator has been delivered to KLP. The larger generator is expected around mid-November 2026. Prior to installation, KLP will complete all preliminary work**,** including pouring the concrete pad, performing available hookups, and preparing the site. Once the generator arrives, KLP will deliver it, complete the final hookups, and place the units into service. KLP will provide the township with a schedule for both generator projects once finalized.*
2. **Tractor Replacement Discussion –** Supervisor Wilhelm presented updated lease and cost information for a proposed replacement tractor, including cab, loader, and blower attachments. The total purchase price is $58,271.32. Lease options provided by Coyote include:
   - 60-month term: $3,410 down; $1,136.68 monthly
   - 72-month term: $2,937 down; $979.07 monthly
   - 84-month term: $2,601 down; $867.06 monthly

   All lease options include a $1 buyout at the end of the term. The Treasurer noted that confirmation is still needed regarding finance charges and any early payoff policy.

   The Supervisor reviewed an updated cost analysis using the 84-month lease, noting that selling the current tractor and attachments is necessary before proceeding. Based on multiple opinions from equipment users, the current tractor is unlikely to remain reliable through winter. The Supervisor recommended listing the tractor promptly, with sale proceeds deposited into the township's equipment fund. The board previously approved contributing $300 per month to the fund, totaling $3,600 annually, which—combined with sale proceeds—would cover approximately 24 months of lease payments under

the 84-month option. Board members discussed acceptable pricing, listing strategy, and the need to ensure a qualified operator is available once a new tractor is acquired.

Motion by Supervisor Wilhelm to list the current township tractor, with attachments, to sell for $24,000. **Second** by Treasurer Turner. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried.**

3. **July 4th Update –**
    - Treasurer Turner provided revenue totals. Expense breakdown will be provided next meeting or sent out to anyone interested/requesting.
    - Township Equipment Use **-** Supervisor Wilhelm clarified guidance from Lori Burton: Township equipment may be used in parades without a vote, but should be documented in the minutes for liability protection.
4. **Veterans Memorial Project** –
   Supervisor Wilhelm reported that the Veterans Memorial project remains ongoing, with monthly progress expected as part of a long-term development timeline. No major changes have occurred since the last update. Supervisor Wilhelm is currently waiting for a response from a contact regarding initial design renderings. Once renderings are available, they will be shared with the Board and the community. As previously discussed, local veterans will be consulted for input on the memorial's design. After renderings are received, the Supervisor will meet with veterans to gather feedback before moving forward.
5. **Starlink Internet Update –**
   The Supervisor reported ongoing issues with the Township's Starlink system. Although the Roam unit initially worked, the account activation window expired, causing setup delays and resulting in two months of charges during a period when the service was unusable. After activation, the system continued to drop connection despite multiple placement attempts. To resolve the issue, the Supervisor is arranging a professional installation on the gable. Scheduling and cost information from Starlink's subcontractor are pending. The Supervisor aims to have the system fully operational before November.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Treasurer Report** – Treasurer Turner
   Nothing to report at this time.
2. **Clerk Report** – Clerk Dexheimer

   The Clerk provided updates on several administrative items:
   - **Event paperwork** The Township has received the auxiliary's event documentation, including the September 5 sale and the previously approved September 12 event. Residents and groups planning to use Township property are asked to bring completed paperwork when requesting dates to ensure smooth scheduling.
   - **Certificate of Insurance (COI)** Any group using Township facilities must provide a COI naming Sherman Township as the certificate holder. This protects both the event organizers and the Township and helps maintain proper insurance coverage.
   - **Election reimbursement** Sherman Township has received reimbursement for the CCISD May election. Additional reimbursement may be available for the required nine days of early voting. The Clerk is completing required training and verify all steps needed.
   - **Gleaner insurance reconciliation** The Township is working with Gleaner to resolve discrepancies in recorded insurance payments. Some payments were not properly recognized, and both sides are addressing the issue. Updates will be provided as the reconciliation continues.

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3. **Supervisor Report** – Supervisor Wilhelm

Podium Purchase
Supervisor proposed purchasing a podium for the hall to support meetings and potential revenue-generating use of the facility.

- Cost: $109
- No objections from the Board. Supervisor will order the podium.

Hall & Office Lock Replacement
Board discussed replacing locks on the hall, office, and side door due to worn mechanisms and evidence of unauthorized entry.

- Side door can be repaired by shimming and latch adjustment.
- Options include keypad deadbolts with both coded and keyed entry.
- Estimated cost range: $70–$150 per lock. Supervisor will gather pricing; hall locks prioritized.

Friends of Gay (FoG) Organization
Supervisor announced creation of Friends of Gay (FoG), an independent nonprofit formed to support community events and fundraising for township projects.

- Friends of Gay is separate from Sherman Township but will collaborate on township initiatives.
- A FoG board will determine events and fund use. Township Board retains final approval on township expenditures and facility uses.

Water & Sewer Rate Discussion
Supervisor presented preliminary figures for a 3% rate increase, noting no adjustment have been made in three years.

- Water: +$5.67 per quarter
- Sewer: +$4.00 per quarter
- Estimated annual impact:
  - Residential: +$24 water, +$16 sewer
  - Commercial (bar): +$48 water, +$32 sewer
- Current combined quarterly rate: $321
- Projected new rate: ~$330–$331

Board discussed the proposal; no action taken.

4. Trustees Topics – Trustee Mathews/Trustee Lauren
Trustee Lauren not present and nothing at this time from Trustee Mathews.

<u>Departments:</u>
Fire Department – Fire Chief Middlemis-Brown

- The Fire Chief reported three active grant applications: the Michigan Fire Equipment Grant (up to $50,000), the FEMA AFG fire truck grant, and a DNR cost-share grant**. Motion** by Supervisor Wilhelm to approve Fire Chief Middlemis-Brown to complete and submit the Michigan Fire Equipment Grant application, **Second** by Trustee Mathews. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried.**
- Minor vandalism occurred on the department trailer; the wheel well was torn off, likely due to youth climbing on the equipment. The Chief repaired the damage, and the Board discussed installing spare cameras to improve monitoring.
- Call volume has been unusually quiet, and no additional operational issues were reported.

Water Department: Fee increase – *Not yet -proposal discussed under 'Supervisor Report'*

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Sewer Department:

The Supervisor reported that the Sewer Department will complete tank cleaning this month, unit at the drain field. Reid had previously requested to wait for a dry period later in the summer.

Grounds Report:

Grounds maintenance continued as scheduled. A bear entered town and tore up garbage; the issue has been addressed. Grass cutting remains ongoing and is expected to be completed later this week.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2):

Residents provided additional comments regarding possibility of recent youth vandalism incidents. Several noted an increase in local children accessing township areas and acknowledged that minor property disturbances can occur. The Board discussed the possibility that signage indicating video monitoring may help deter activity. A resident reported dropping off "on loan" paperwork for the projector and noted that arrangements were being made to move it to the school, pending an inventory tag. The Historical Society is preparing for the school's 100th anniversary in 2027 and may plan a celebratory event. The resident asked whether such an event would require township permission if held on township property. The Supervisor stated that coordination is welcome and that joint planning is possible, especially given the township's upcoming 125th anniversary. The Board discussed potential timing, noting that July 4th weekend is often difficult due to family travel and that August may be preferable due to reduced insect activity. The Board agreed that further discussion can occur as planning progresses and encouraged continued communication with the Historical Society.
Concerns about damaged fencing at the Old Fire Hall and the retaining wall area. The Supervisor reiterated prior discussion that repairs would occur when time permits. Trustee Mathews asked whether volunteers could assist. The Board agreed that community volunteers may participate and that outreach could be made to residents to help complete the repairs. Trustee Mathews will lead on that project.
No additional public comment was offered.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Treasurer Turner**. Vote:** Unanimous, Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees: September 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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John Wilhelm, Supervisor Melissa Dexheimer, Clerk

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