REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
September 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Wilhelm called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

AGENDA APPROVAL with ADJUSTMENTS:

- **New Business Item #1 removed** from the agenda.
- **Added consolidated Fire Department item** covering:
  - Resignation
  - Interim appointment
  - New Chief Discussion/Appointment

Motion by Clerk Dexheimer, **Second** by Treasurer Turner to approve the agenda with adjustments. **Vote:** Unanimous **Motion Carried.**

Minutes: Approve minutes of August 13, 2026 Regular Meeting
Motion by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Trustee Mathews to approve minutes. **Vote**: Unanimous. **Motion Carried**

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Question raised regarding unusually high electric bills. Supervisor explained: A long-term water leak at an abandoned trailer caused excessive well pump usage; Electric provider installed timers to reduce pump runtime and noted no new wells needed; system stabilized. Treasurer noted historic practice of transferring $100/month from Water to General Fund for electric costs; will review whether this should resume.*

Previous Business:

Generators - Stewart (Keweenaw Power & Lights) assigned to pour pad and complete generator prep work, has not provided the schedule yet.

Tractor Sale - Tractor not yet listed due to hydraulic drip discovered. Issue resolved; listing expected within a week.

Friends of Gay (FoG) - Extensive discussion clarifying purpose and structure:

- Independent nonprofit; Registered as a Michigan domestic nonprofit; Not tax-exempt at this time, in the application process.
- Allows fundraising, alcohol sales, raffles, and events without township liability.
- Intended to support community events that are beyond the approved Celebrations listed under MCL 123.851 and MCL 123.852.
- Clarified that rumors about shutting down the Auxiliary are false.

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer

- Transitioning Water/Sewer accounts to online QuickBooks for efficiency.
- Review of savings accounts revealed significant interest gains after moving funds from Incredible Bank to Superior: **$12/month → $71/month** interest.
- Treasurer plans to move additional accounts to high-yield savings.
- Fire Department millage account may also benefit from higher interest; Treasurer will review.

Clerk

Hall Applications: Auxiliary submitted hall reservation applications:

- November 19–22, 2026 – Indoor craft fair
- April 28–May 2, 2027 – Indoor craft fair

COI valid through June 16, 2027. Two additional dates (July 2027 and November 2027) will be held pending updated COI. Motion to approve dates for auxiliary to use Community Hall, pending all paperwork is complete. Motion by Supervisor Wilhelm, Second by Treasurer Turner. Vote: Unanimous, Motion Carried

Elections:

- Early voting dates assigned: Sherman Township responsible for October 26–27 in Eagle Harbor.
- Clerk mandatory office hours: October 31 & November 1 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.).
- Accuracy tests planned for mid-October.
- A possible reimbursement to the township for wages and mileage due to mandatory early voting.

Supervisor – Hall Security

- New ADA-compliant lever locks ordered ($28 each).
- Planning grant application for interior and exterior security cameras.

Departments:

- **Fire Department:** Previous Fire Chief submitted resignation to be effective August 31, 2026, and Interim Fire Chief to be appointed. **Motion** by Supervisor Wilhelm to accept resignation from previous Fire Chief and to appoint Bill Hodges as Interim Fire Chief. **Second** by Trustee Lauren. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried.**

- The Fire Department reported that all apparatus remains fully operational and in service. The command vehicle and side-by-side have been exercised, with the tender and engine scheduled for operation before month-end.
- The department recently completed its five-year Insurance Services Office (ISO) review. Department officials indicated the review went well, but additional information is needed from the Township Water Department before the process can be finalized. The department stated it is well-positioned for the next review cycle and emphasized the importance of regular hydrant flow testing moving forward.
- The department currently has three grant applications pending, including funding requests for wildland firefighting equipment, a replacement fire engine, and battery-operated extrication tools.
- Since the last meeting, firefighters responded to a truck rollover with injuries and assisted with a motorcycle injury incident at Gay Sands. In both incidents, Fire Department personnel and Medical First Responders were deployed to provide assistance.
- The department also requested access to the gate at Gay Sands to improve emergency response times for Fire Department and EMS personnel.

Water Department:

The Water Department discussed a proposed 3% increase to water and sewer rates. The Board plans to vote on the proposed increase at the next meeting.

If approved, the increase would take effect on **January 1 of next year** and would be reflected in the next quarterly billing cycle. It was noted that including the notification letter with the upcoming quarterly water bills would provide residents with advance notice before the rate change takes effect. Sending the notice at the end of December would not be appropriate, as the current quarter's bills would have already been issued.

Sewer Department:

The Supervisor reported that Reid communicated by text prior to the meeting that he plans to clean the two filters at the sewer facility. It was also recommended that two additional replacement filters be ordered and kept in stock for future maintenance needs.

Auxiliary / Hall Use Discussion

Auxiliary requested clarification on summer hall usage for rummage sales.
Discussion included:

- Supervisor expressed concern about long-term hall occupancy limiting community use.
- Tear-down time estimated at ~3 hours with adequate help.
- Safety concerns noted regarding basement stairs.
- Possibility of boxing items or partial teardown depending on rentals.
- Recommendation to revise hall rental resolution and application annually.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

  Keweenaw County Zoning Meeting for public comment is scheduled for September 14,2026 @ 6:30 p.m., location is the Horizon School in Mohawk, Michigan

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Clerk Dexheimer**. Vote:** Unanimous, Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees: October 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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John Wilhelm, Supervisor	Melissa Dexheimer, Clerk