REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

October 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Wilhelm called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 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 Trustee Mathews to approve the agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous **Motion Carried.**

Minutes: Approve minutes of September 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
Motion by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Treasurer Turner 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 Trustee Lauren. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Can the expenditures from the July 4th celebrations be emailed? Treasurer affirmed and presented an email sign-up sheet for those interested.

Previous Business:

Generators - The Supervisor reported that the generator installation at the drain field site is progressing. The concrete pad has been completed and utility connections have been installed.

Discussion was held regarding relocating an existing propane tank from the township property for use at the drain field generator site and replacing it with a larger tank at the fire hall for the future backup generator.

Board members expressed support for the proposal.

Additional discussion included:

- Expected delivery of the larger generator in November.
- Relocation of shelving in the basement to provide access for electrical installation.
- Coordination with the propane supplier regarding tank relocation and installation.

No action was required.

Tractor Sale - The Supervisor reported that the township tractor has not yet been listed for sale but intends to advertise it and accept bids. The Board discussed following legal bid procedures and awarding the sale based upon the bid process.

No action was taken.

County Zoning Changes – Supervisor Wilhelm informed the Board that Keweenaw County intends to discontinue county-wide zoning in approximately one year and has contacted neighboring township supervisors to discuss the possibility of forming a multi-township zoning

arrangement. A meeting with neighboring township supervisors is scheduled for October 15, 2026.

No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Division Request

Jesse Taivalkoski appeared before the Board regarding a proposed division of a ten-acre parcel with 285 ft frontage.

Discussion included:

- A prior land division application had been deemed incomplete due to concerns regarding the 4-to-1 depth-to-width ratio and ownership documentation.
- Clarification was requested concerning the Township's authority over land divisions and how the Township interprets the 4-to-1 requirement for irregularly shaped parcels.
- Applicant stated that multiple surveyors believe the proposed division complies with the 4-to-1 standard.
- The Supervisor explained that additional review with the township assessor and county officials would be necessary to determine how the ordinance should be applied.

The Supervisor agreed to obtain further clarification and communicate with the applicant before the request returns to the Board for possible action.

No action was taken.

Keweenaw Heartlands Project Presentation

TRUSTEE REPORTS - Trustee Mathews presented several requests from the Gay VFD Auxiliary relating to community events and hall usage.

Discussion centered on:

- Hall reservation procedures.
- Balancing community programming with hall rental opportunities.
- Development of a formal facility use policy.

A. Craft Group

Motion by Supervisor Wilhelm to approve use of the hall on October 22, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until approximately noon for a community craft group. **Second** by Trustee Mathews. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried.**

B. Ladies Night Out

Motion by Supervisor Wilhelm to approve use of the hall on October 23, 2026, from approximately 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a Ladies Night Out event. **Second** by Trustee Mathews. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried.**

Additional requests were postponed pending further review and development of a hall use policy.

Departments:

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Department representatives reported:

- Apparatus remains operational and in service.

- Information has been received regarding upcoming firefighter training opportunities.
- The department successfully obtained access through the Gay Sands gate for emergency response.
- Two incidents occurred during the reporting period, including a vehicle fire.
- Auxiliary support was received toward a grant matching requirement.

The department also discussed a proposed date of May 15, 2027, for the Ed Berger Memorial Fire Department Breakfast fundraiser.

No action was taken.

WATER DEPARTMENT

The Board revisited the previously discussed water and sewer rate adjustment.

Water and Sewer Rate Increase

Motion by the Supervisor, **Second** by Treasurer Turner, to approve a three percent (3%) increase in water and sewer rates effective January 1, 2027.

Roll Call Vote

Trustee Mathews – Aye
Treasurer Turner – Aye
Trustee Lauren – Aye
Clerk Dexheimer – Aye
Supervisor Wilhelm – Aye

Motion carried.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

The Supervisor reported:

- Sewer tank cleaning has been completed.
- No issues were discovered with the filter system.
- Planned PVC repairs will be completed.
- Additional replacement filters will be purchased.

Discussion also occurred regarding obtaining a laptop for required reporting functions.

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT (SECOND ROUND)

Public comments included:

- Questions regarding hall rental policies.
- Discussion of insurance requirements related to pickleball and other activities.
- Coordination of seasonal water shut-off for the School House Museum.
- Suggestions to review facility use policies adopted by neighboring townships.

FIRE CHIEF APPOINTMENT

Motion by the Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Trustee Mathews, to appoint Larry Butala as Sherman Township Fire Chief effective December 1, 2026. **Vote**: Unanimous, **Motion Carried.**

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Wilhelm, **Second** by Trustee Lauren**.**
Vote: Unanimous, Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

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John Wilhelm, Supervisor Melissa Dexheimer, Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees: November 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM