

Bessemer Township Board Meeting January 12, 2026 minutes

1. **Call to order**, pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Motion to appoint Lisa Hegbloom** to take minutes as the Clerk, Tarnaski, is absent. MOTION by Selin, supported by Aspinwall. AYES: 3 NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
3. **Roll Call**: Present: Aspinwall, Selin, Hegbloom. Absent: Tarnaski, Roberts.
4. **Presentation of the Minutes**: Mr. Aspinwall had a change under (#11) Unfinished Business (d.) Union Negotiations. Leadman, Year 2 should be \$31.80, Year 3 should be \$32.75. Under change vacation time, it should be 5-9 years of employment 3 weeks (21 days). MOTION by Selin, supported by Hegbloom, to approve the meeting minutes of 12/8/25 and as presented with requested updates by Mr. Aspinwall. AYES: 3 NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
5. **Approval of the Agenda**: MOTION by Selin, supported by Hegbloom, to approve the agenda as presented. AYES: 3 NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
6. **Communications**: Ms. Hegbloom presented communications from Spectrum regarding upcoming changes and updates. Mr. Aspinwall discussed previous happenings at the last Special Meeting, Upon his research, he found that recordings are currently allowed at board meetings as long as they do not disrupt the meeting. He added that he believes this was an honest error and we are a transparent Board. We are awaiting special counsel results. MOTION by Selin, supported by Hegbloom to place communications on file. AYES: 3 NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
7. **Reports of boards, committees, and offices**: Motion by Selin, supported by Aspinwall to appoint Mr. Jeff Randall, previous Supervisor, to remain on the current boards/committees he has been on. AYES: 3 NAYES: None. MOTION carried. Mr. Aspinwall will send letters to committees notifying them of this appointment.
 - A. BASA: Mr. Selin reported they did a rate study.
 - B. Section 32: Mr. Randall provided updates. Next meeting is scheduled for 1/20/26.
 - C. GR Trail Authority: No updates.
 - D. GRWA: Mr. Randall updated the last meeting was held on 1/8/26. Discussion was had regarding replacing water meters.
 - E. GRSWMA: Mr. Randall updated the last meeting was held on 12/18/25. He shared the audit was received, accepted and placed on file with an unqualified status. He also shared that they are accepting bids for contracts for a new waste hauler.
 - F. Gogebic Land Bank: No updates.
 - G. PAUD: Mr. Randall updated the last meeting was held on 12/17/25. Paying the bills and discussing a sewer extension for a new home being built.
 - H. Blight Officer report: Mr. Johnson gave an updated document on cases he has been working on.
 - I. Utility Clerk report: Ms. Hegbloom reported that utility bills were mailed out on 1/3/26. They have a due date of 1/28/26. A copy of the billing register was given to the Supervisor, Mr. Aspinwall. The Aged Accounts Receivable report balances were read with a copy given to the Clerk for record to be placed on file.
 - J. Clerk report: Ms. Tarnaski was absent but provided reports to be placed on file for record.
8. **Treasurer Report**: Ms. Hegbloom presented a summary sheet of all Bessemer Township's CD's & Checking account balance activity for December and included any activity from January 1 2026 through January 7, 2026. A copy was given to the Clerk to be placed on file. She also presented a report with the State Revenue Sharing checks and deductions due the F65 report not being filed by the previous auditor. A copy was given to the Clerk to be placed on file. Copies were also made available to the public. She is currently collecting summer and winter 2025 taxes. Balances were read regarding the total amounts collected to date. Ms. Hegbloom also mentioned that the Gogebic Range Bank is now Zeal Credit Union.
9. **Approval of Bills, Payroll**: Clerk provided reports for bills along with check detail reports for review. MOTION by Selin, supported by Aspinwall to authorize the following:

General Fund #17873-17907 & online payments	36492.11
Water Fund #22676-22683 & online payments	44750.77
Anvil Sewer-#	
Ramsay Sewer-#	
West End Sewer-#	

(Partial above was previously approved via voice poll.) ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Aspinwall, Selin, Hegbloom NAYES: None. MOTION carried. Clerk's reports were placed on file.

10. Unfinished Business:

- A. Audit: No update. Mr. Aspinwall will reach out to new auditor regarding a letter of engagement.
- B. Water and Sewer Ordinance Review/Amendment: No update. Tabled until next meeting.
- C. Union Negotiations: Mr. Aspinwall gave update with a 3-year contract agreed upon.
- D. Water/Sewer/Line replacement project: Mr. Aspinwall will research and get back to Board at next meeting.

12. New Business:

- A. Board Meeting Dates for 2026: Tabled until next meeting.
- B. Fire Department DNR Grant: Motion by Aspinwall, supported by Hegbloom to authorize applying and receiving the grant awarded to the Bessemer Township Fire Department in the amount of \$4999 to include a grant match of \$4999 from the Township. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Aspinwall, Selin, Hegbloom NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
- C. Poultry Application and Conditional Land Use Permit approval: Mr. Johnson brought the permit to the board for approval. Discussion was had. Motion from Selin, supported by Aspinwall to approve the Poultry Application and Conditional Land Use Permit. AYES: 3 NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
- D. Zoning Administrator Appointment: Motion by Selin, supported by Hegbloom to appointment Dennis Aspinwall as the Zoning Administrator. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Selin, Hegbloom ABSTAIN: Aspinwall NAYES: None. MOTION carried.
- E. Budget Workshop: Tabled until next meeting.

13. Public Comment (Limited to 3 minutes per person):

DPW employee, Mr. Selin asked if the Board could look into getting a new computer for the DPW office. The Board will check with Mr. Ruppe on prices and options. Mr. Ormes, VA Representative, gave an update on the doings of the Veteran's affairs. He mentioned that the VA is looking for volunteer drivers for appointments on Monday, Wednesday's & Friday's. Ms. Hegbloom was asked by a member of the 4th of July Committee that they are also looking for volunteers. Public comment was also made by two other audience members.

14. Adjournment: MOTION By Selin, supported by Aspinwall, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm. AYES: 3. NAYES: 0. MOTION carried.