

Regular Board Meeting
February 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. **ROLL CALL- Selin, Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski.**
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES – MOTION** by Selin, support by Aspinwall, to approve the minutes of 1/26/26 as presented and place on file. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** The Supervisor requested the agenda order be amended as follows: Item 9C Water/Sewer/line replacement-Darren Pionk of C2AE to present under 6A Reports-Boards/committees and offices. Item 10A BASA-Jenny Adams presentation be moved to 6B under title of same. MOTION by Roberts, support by Selin to approve the agenda as amended. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS: -**
 - A. Sheriff's Department Training Use – Upper Level
Email/communication from Adam Zak (Gogebic County Sheriff's Dept.) requesting use of upper level for training. Discussion was had. Board expressed concern about liability and insurance coverage. Action: Supervisor to request more detailed information (scope, dates, insurance). Item to return at a future meeting.
 - B. Road Commission / Hospital – Grandview Lane Road Funding Request
Summary: Joint request from Gogebic County Road Commission and Aspirus Ironwood to help fund improvements to the short county road segment serving the healthcare system and Wolverine ski/snowshoe trails.
Funding Proposal:
 - County: ~\$20,000
 - Hospital: up to \$15,000
 - Township: \$15,000 is requestedDiscussion was had. Motion by Selin, support by Tarnaski, to place the request on file until completion of budget 2026-27 FY. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried.
 - C. Hannula Agency re: Insurance Carrier Change
Summary: Notice from Hanula Agency regarding servicing of work comp and liability insurance policy will transfer to the Decker Agency. Effective date yet to be determined. Coverage terms expected to remain the same, servicing agent changes only.
 - D. EGLE – Lead & Copper Monitoring
Summary: Letter from EGLE regarding lead and copper monitoring of drinking water taps. 2025 lead and copper tap monitoring results. If 90th percentile > 0, it must be reported on the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report. Bessemer Township shows 0 sites above action level. Report is handled via water authority/City of Bessemer. -
 - E. City of Bessemer re: Planning Commission working on Master Plan amendments.
 - F. Pitney Bowes re: \$5 fee per paper statement effective Feb 19; Clerk will switch to electronic statements.
 - G. C2AE re; TMF progress report: 1,500 spent this period; approx. \$114,400 balance.
 - H. Anderson Tackman & Co. re: Invoice for \$2,500 for F-65 report. Given prior prepayment and penalties from missed timely filing of F65, Clerk will hold payment pending review of original quote/contract.
MOTION by Selin, supported by Tarnaski, to accept communications as presented and place on file. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried.
6. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES & OFFICES**
 - A. Water/sewer/line replacement-Darren Pionk of C2AE: Engineering – TMF Lead Service Line Grant (C2AE / Darren) Summary: TMF grant (\$115,400) already accepted by township for

Approved

lead service line inventory township-wide. Includes: Mapping and potholing (\$40,000) via a bid contractor, Interior inspections of service lines, a formal project plan to support future EGLE/USDA funding. Discussion was had. Mandate: all lead service lines must be removed by year 2040–2041 (Michigan rule). Township concerns: existing USDA water project debt, small user base (approx.. 400 customers), and long-term affordability.

Outcome / Action Items: Darren to:

- Provide estimate of number of lead-impacted services.
- Provide a detailed cost breakdown of TMF grant portions.
- Draft bid package for potholing, to be reviewed before advertisement.

Engineering – USDA Water/Sewer Project Summary: Large USDA project (\$6M, 66% grant / 34% loan) delayed pending completion of latest audit.

- Contractor’s bid is >1 year old; standard 90-day hold period has long passed.

Discussion: - Risk of material cost increases and possible change orders.

- USDA and Dept of Treasury require completed audit before bond closing.

Action Items:

- Supervisor to contact auditor to expedite audit.
- Darren and Dennis to meet with contractor to review schedule and any cost updates.

B. BASA (Sewer Authority) – Plant Upgrade & Rate Study Summary: BASA upgrading 38–40-year-old equipment to meet stricter EGLE discharge limits. Independent Rate study by a contracted entity is underway; final results expected by March 31. Discussion: was had: Current allocations rely partly on estimates due to inconsistent flow metering from all users. Future contracts will require consistent reporting of flows; O&M allocations to be recalculated after 2–3 years of actual data. Township board expressed concern over overall impact on local sewer rate.

Action: BASA to finalize and present official 2027 rate schedule and updated contract language.

C. GRWA: No report

D. PAUD: Point of Discussion: Dispute of approx. \$10,000 in materials on Edelweiss project; audit reported as clean; PAUD continues to maintain cash reserves.

E. Michigan’s Western Gateway Trail Authority: No update.

F. GRSWMA: Hiring of an Assistant Trainee is underway to prepare for succession plan of current administrator’s retirement. Resignation without notice was received from one of the truck drivers. Administrator was able to conduct garbage pickup without interruption. A new driver has been hired to pick up on the weekends until May when his current employer completes hauling contract and new contracted service providers take over.

G. Gogebic County Land Bank: Asbestos removal approved for Anvil/Summit house; Wakefield City Hall redevelopment progressing.

H. Section 32: No meeting; rate study discussion via email.

I. Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Officer described complaint process (photos, certified letter, violation log). Action: Clerk/Supervisor to locate signed ordinance (No. 144) and supply a legal copy to Mr. Johnson.

7. **TREASURERS REPORT: Delinquent Utility Accounts Total A/R: \$39,593.69 with 90+ days: \$13,747.27. Shutoff-eligible: \$9,993.36 (excluding one multi-unit case).**

Motion by Tarnaski, support by Selin, to authorize Treasurer to: send shutoff notices immediately, follow policy notice periods, proceed with March shutoffs for non-payment. Roll call vote Ayes: Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Treasurer gave report of Account Balances as of January 31, 2026. Tax collection for winter 25 is still being conducted with a 3% late penalty now assessed. Office will be open 3/2/26 with the last day to pay taxes at the township office from 9 AM to 5 PM cst. After 5 pm, the office cannot accept payment. Only for Leased Land or personal property tax. All tax collection records are uploaded to the Gogebic County Treasurer’s Office after 5 pm. Copies of A/R report and bank balances were submitted to the Clerk for record.

8. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/PAYROLL:** Clerk gave report of relevant office updates. General Fund Trial balance as of 2/28/26, Profit and Loss Budget v Actual through 2/2026, Profit & Loss Forecast v Actual to date reports were submitted to board members in preparation of next fiscal year budget. Discussion was had regarding recent computer upgrades. New QB software is no longer compatible with CPA. Same issue happened to another municipality: remote access was granted as a solution. MOTION by Selin, supported by Roberts to allow 906 accounting solutions, Will Londo, CPA remote access to continue assistance with financial recordkeeping. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried. In addition, clerk reported Gogebic County Clerk Erin Bunt forwarded language for millage renewal for review and specifics needed for ballot placement. Proposal must pass for renewal of 8 operating mills either in primary or general election to avoid special election. There is a limited number of times to present the proposal to the electors. She was informed of the need for the ballot proposal courtesy of the Gogebic County Equalization Department and appreciated the alert. She spoke with the Gogebic County Clerk, Erin Bunt, and has received a timeline from Erin regarding the elections, the intent to reschedule the inspection of election equipment, and the outline of the language needed on the ballot. Action: Supervisor will obtain the TTV and SEV for the budget and the proposed operating millage renewal for Bessemer Township. MOTION by Selin, supported by Roberts to pay the bills as presented: (voice poll authorization was sought previously for bill payment, clerk included all payables for month)

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 17917-17967	\$50677.53
Water Fund	# 22684-22689	\$11809.47
Anvil Sewer		
Ramsay Sewer		
West End Sewer	# 1338-1339	\$2926.16

ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin, Roberts. Nays: None. Motion carried. In other business, Clerk reported a question came up regarding retroactive vacation pay since the township added the 18-month clause in the contract. Since there was no former retroactive language in the contract or its ratification, she sought direction from the board regarding award of time effective 1/1/26. Discussion was had, noting other entities do not award the back credit. The two DPW employees would get the vacation time on their anniversary date of hire. The other employee’s hire date is effective in February. Additional discussion was had. Township trustee Selin stated the time should not be retroactive, and to award the vacation time going forward. Board members were in unanimous agreement. Clerk will proceed accordingly.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Audit: Discussion was had. Supervisor is to contact Mr. Ahonen to determine availability and obtain letter of engagement.
- B. Water & Sewer Ordinance Review/Amendment: Trustee Roberts will re-forward the documents to board for review. Action tabled until further notice.
- C. Board meetings for 2026. MOTION by Selin, supported by Aspinwall to continue the schedule of the board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 pm for 2026. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- D. DPW Phone and computer equipment: Discussion was had.
 - New Desktop Computer for DPW: Motion by Selin, supported by Roberts to purchase Lenovo desktop at a cost of \$899.99 and reuse an existing monitor. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin, Roberts. Nays: None. Motion carried.
 - DPW Smartphone: Motion by Selin, supported by Roberts to authorize Clerk to work with AT&T on the commercial account and purchase a smartphone for up to \$1,500. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Selin, Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski. Nays: None. Motion carried.
 - Old Clerk Laptop to Fire Department/Discussion was had. Motion by Tarnaski, supported by Selin to have contracted IT services/Mr. T. Ruppe wipe the clerk’s old laptop, install software, and reassign to Bessemer Township Fire Department. Inventory list will be updated to reflect same. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin. Nays:

None. Motion carried. BTVFD reported they will have inventory ready for audit listing on March 18, 2025. Supervisor will remind DPW crew to inventory and list with same deadline to prepare for audit.

E. Fire Department – Joint Ad Hoc Committee Resolution

Purpose: Study potential combined/shared fire services, locations, ISO impacts, and cost savings in partnership with City of Bessemer. Appointments (Township): Letter of interest was submitted and received from Mr. Nathan Ozzello to serve as the Fire Department Representative and from Mr. Benjamin Tucker to serve as the member at large on behalf of Bessemer Township. Ms. Hegbloom offered to serve as the township board representative on the committee. Discussion was had. Separate motions were made and carried to confirm each appointment as follows: Motion by Tarnaski, supported by Aspinwall, to appoint Lisa Hegbloom as the Board Representative to the committee. Ayes: 5 Naves: one. Motion carried. Motion by Tarnaski, supported by Selin, to appoint Mr. Benjamin Tucker as the Member at Large. 5 Ayes. Naves: None. Motion carried. Motion by Tarnaski, supported by Roberts to appoint Mr. Nathan Ozzello as the Fire Department Representative. Mr. Ozzello is the BTVFD Assistant Fire Chief. 5 Ayes. Naves: None. Motion carried. It was noted all representatives are Bessemer Township residents, and all were thanked by the board for their interest in serving the community.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Salary Resolutions:

- a. Supervisor: Motion by Selin, supported by Tarnaski, to adopt the Supervisor Salary Resolution as presented without change. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Selin, Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall (Abstain) Tarnaski. Naves: None. Motion carried.
 - b. Clerk: Motion by Selin, supported by Roberts, to adopt the Clerk Salary Resolution as presented without change. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski (abstain) Selin, Roberts. Naves: None. Motion carried.
 - c. Treasurer: Motion by Roberts, supported by Tarnaski, to adopt the Treasurer Salary Resolution as presented without change. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Selin, Roberts, Hegbloom (Abstain) Aspinwall, Tarnaski. Naves: None. Motion carried.
- All Salary Resolutions declared adopted.

B. Budget Workshop: Discussion was had. In the interest of time, it was the consensus that this can be accomplished electronically so that the supervisor can proceed with the budget preparation. *Annual Meeting & Regular Meeting Date Resolution: Discussion was had. Motion by Aspinwall, supported by Selin, to set the Annual Meeting date for March 30, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with regular meeting to follow. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin. Naves: None. Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted. Motion by Roberts, supported by Selin, to move the previously scheduled board meeting to the following Monday to follow the annual meeting in order to allow the General Appropriations Act to be formerly adopted. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin. Naves: None. Motion carried. Supervisor will contact IT site administrator for publication.

C. Heritage Committee: 4th of July Committee (FKA: Heritage Committee) was unable to attend the meeting and intends March attendance. Discussion was had.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT: The following was discussed: Post Office reopening, Website Agendas & Minutes, and Streetlights: Thanks to Dave Hegbloom for reporting non-functional lights; several were repaired.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Selin, support by Hegbloom to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Hope C Tarnaski, Township Clerk

Draft