

Regular Board Meeting
June 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence in memory of firefighter Brian Kuchinski.
2. **ROLL CALL**- Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES – MOTION** by Roberts, support by Selin, to approve the minutes of 6/8/26 with corrections and place on file. 5 Ayes. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MOTION** by Selin, supported by Roberts to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: None. Motion carried.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - a. MI Bureau of Elections RE: new Dropbox feature and provisional ballot reminder
 - b. Gogebic Ontonagon Intermediate School District RE: 2026 Tax Rate Request
 - c. Charter Communications RE: Addition of FanDuel Sports Network in Detroit and Detroit Extra
MOTION by Roberts, supported by Aspinwall, to accept communications as presented and placed on file. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried.
6. **REPORTS-BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND OFFICERS.**
 - a. Lookout Lane: Communication from Ironwood Township Supervisor Jay Kangas potential consideration of Lookout Lane blacktopping for next year. They are not interested in dust control but desire to blacktop.
 - b. GRWA: Representative Randall gave an update regarding rate increases.
 - c. Powderhorn Area Utility District: Representative Randall gave an update on current issues for PAUD as follows: Edelweiss Project: Dispute over material quantities and costs (about \$9,700 difference) between the contractor and engineer. PAUD board is seeking verification via survey comparisons (pre-/post-grade). Audit: Latest PAUD audit is complete; preliminary clean report. Auditor questioned the level of cash reserves; PAUD maintains a large reserve to absorb ski-hill driven revenue volatility. Policy: use periodic surpluses to make extra principal payments on debt rather than lowering rates, thereby shortening the term of loans.
 - d. Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority: Representative Randall gave the following overview: Engineers continue to work on project closeout.
 - e. GRSWMA: Representative Randall gave an update on the findings after the fire regarding structure compromise as well as the continuing search to replace the administrator pending her retirement, which she has delayed until a replacement is found.
 - f. Bessemer Area Sewer Authority: Representative Selin gave an update on the search for an assistant operator. Four applicants are being considered.
 - g. Michigan's Western Gateway Trail Authority: No meeting, no update
 - h. Section 32 Sewer Authority: No update.
 - i. Gogebic County Land Bank: No update.
 - j. Ordinance Enforcement Officer LeRoy Johnson: Mr. Johnson clarified his current scope of work is focused on noxious weed ordinance enforcement. Discussion was had.
 - k. Joint fire department report: Representative Hegbloom reported the next meeting is set for July 6, 2026.

The Treasurer reported the following:

- l. Ms. Hegbloom gave the following updates as part of her oral report: Utility Department: restock of utility postcards have been ordered at a cost of \$356.62. She is currently working on next billing which is set to be mailed out at the beginning of July with a due date of the last Wednesday of July. Aged AR is currently \$46500.68. Report was given to the clerk for the file. Treasurer Report: summer tax process is currently underway. Ms. Hegbloom outlined the process steps needed to prepare the summer tax collection. Ms. Hegbloom gave an update on the recent meeting attended with the Gogebic County Treasurer and other municipal treasurers. Summer tax bills will be mailed by July 1st. Work continues determining appropriate use of public safety revenue sharing \$473.00 payment received as well as 2025 CFR revenues and annual return for CFR distribution.
- m. The Clerk reported the following: Election and voting equipment has just been returned. Election inspector training is set at Bessemer City Hall on Thursday at 10:00 am. Clerk met with CPA Londo to upload records for the auditor. Other additional paper records were collected and scanned by the auditor. Audit will be combined for 2024-25 to satisfy MI Dept. of Treasury requirements.

7. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS/PAYROLL/MILEAGE:

FUND	CHECK NUMERs	AMOUNT
General Fund	#18101-18119 & online	21349.30
General Fund	#18122-18137	17204.51
Water Fund	#22712-22719 & online	22654.08
Anvil Sewer	Online	523.48
Ramsay Sewer	Online	3702.05
West End Sewer	1345-1346	3826.40

***MOTION** by Selin, supported by Aspinwall, to approve payment of bills and payroll as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Tarnaski, Selin, Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall. Nays: none. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Audit- Audit has started, no update.
- B. Sewer & Water Line Project – All requested documentation has been sent to the engineers including draft minutes from 7/8/26 meeting. Once the audit is completed, the project can move to the next stage. No further board action is warranted until the audit is completed.
- C. Park Safety Barrier/fence/equipment: Pending purchase and delivery of barriers. Pending purchase and installation of fence by courts, equipment is pending a formal listing to be considered for action by next board meeting for park.
- D. Turnout gear/tablet quotes: Four sets of turnout gear for the BTVFD are under consideration at a cost of \$16000.00. Original budget was for 10,000.00 earmarked in capitol outlay leaving a gap of 6000.00, which would be expended from the fund balance. MOTION by Tarnaski, supported by Aspinwall to authorize the BTVFD Chief Selin to purchase the needed turnout gear at a cost not to exceed \$17000.00 ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Selin, Roberts, Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski. Motion carried. Discussion was had regarding purchase and internet service for tablets, which would allow for internet service during a fire call. These would be covered under First Net, a division of AT&T which is specific to municipalities. Cost would be \$49.99 for each tablet, and \$15/mo. for internet service with a 2-year commitment. MOTION by Tarnaski, supported by Roberts to approve the purchase of two tablets at a cost of \$49.99 each and to enter into the FirstNet internet service agreement as described-to be added to the township monthly internet service billing. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin, Roberts. Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS: None.

- 11. PUBLIC COMMENT:** (3 minutes per person) General discussion was had regarding need for increased credit line on the credit card with the increase in Microsoft licensing automatically charging to the card, there is not enough on the \$500 line to support office materials or other purchases. MOTION by Selin, supported by Roberts to authorize an increase in the credit line for the credit card issued to the clerk to \$3000.00. ROLL CALL VOTE AYES: Hegbloom, Aspinwall, Tarnaski, Selin, Roberts. Motion carried. Audience members asked about attendance and representation at the Gogebic County Chapter of Michigan Township Association meetings. Discussion was had regarding Local Chapter MTA meetings, most recent meeting held in Marenisco. These meetings are not mandatory attendance, but the supervisor reported attending last 2 of 3. Minutes are reported to be sent out with notices, but none of the board members are receiving them. Betty Perkis is the new chapter clerk. Clerk will reach out to Ms. Perkis to ensure we are on the e mail listing correctly and obtain current and future minutes. Board consensus agreed these meetings provide valuable policy and legislative information, and participation should continue when possible. Audience member asked if the BTVFD pursued grants or corporate contributions for equipment such as turnout gear and/or hoses. BTVFD Chief Selin reported they have attempted to apply for a large Assistance for Firefighters Grant without success, State Farm Grant for hose replacement (10,000.00 grant) they are awaiting response and have received past support from Xcel Energy and Enbridge in small amount of \$50-\$100. They have also secured a DNR grant for wildland gear, which was used to purchase protective clothing for firefighting. Structural gear for firefighting is extremely expensive, a recent SCBA purchase for a neighboring township was over \$100,000.00. One major driver in the conservative purchase of equipment is the exploration of formal combination of the township fire department with City of Bessemer fire department. Most township members also serve in the City of Bessemer department as well. Combining could spread costs, improve grant prospects, and reduce duplication of equipment.

- 12. ADJOURNMENT:** With no further public comment or board business, Supervisor called for adjournment. MOTION by Selin, supported by Roberts, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM. 5 Ayes. Nays: None. Motion carried.