

SPALDING TOWNSHIP

These minutes are unapproved.

POWERS, MI

February 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Moraska at 6:30 p.m. The following members were present: Jim Moraska, Connie Wells, Kevin LaBonte, and Chris LeBoeuf, Jerry Bartnicki. Guests included: Leon Felch, Dan Hammerberg, Randy Viau, and Gerald Kleiman.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None given.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chris made a motion to approve the agenda with Connie supporting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes with Jerry supporting. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: All bills are paid and up to date. The County-wide clerks quarterly meeting was held on February 17th. The Election Security and Emergency Protocol document is almost in place. The State is looking at new election equipment (tabulators and VATS). Reviews and demos will be taking place this Spring. Upcoming Election dates for 2026 are Tuesday, August 4 2026 (Primary Election) and Tuesday, November 3, 2026 (General Election). All Township ballot containers will be recertified by inspectors this April or May. This happens every four years. Mandatory Election Cycle Training for all Township Clerks will happen sometime between April and June. Bi-annual Election Inspector Training will happen in July 2026.

FINANCIAL/TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry presented handouts showing the Township's monthly balances (check register), breaking down accounts, cash summary, and balance sheets. Connie made a motion to accept the report with Kevin supporting. Motion carried.

LIQUOR REPORT: All is well in both taverns and the grocery store.

FIRE REPORT/FIRE CHIEF & FIRE DEPARTMENT: The department responded to five calls that lasted 11 hours and 17 minutes with an average of 6 members responding.

There was one regular meeting with 9 members present.

There was one training meeting that covered hose line deployment, fire streams, fire behavior and fire attack. Seven members were present.

There was one out of Township training meeting: FFI & II, two members attended.

There was one Menominee County Fire Chief's Association Meeting held in Nadeau. Fire Chief Dan Hammerberg attended.

Equipment repaired and/or improved: small equipment was run and floor drains were cleaned.

The Fire Department is still awaiting award announcement for the 2024 AFG Grant.

CEMETERY/PARK REPORT: Our Cemetery Sexton completed two cremation Spring burials. No Park Report.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: The Board of Review recertification training happened on February 4th. Three individuals were trained. They are now certified for two years. The Board of Review for our Township will be held on March 9th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and March 12th from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The land value studies and ECF studies have been completed for the 2026 tax roll. Land values for 2026 are set \$2,200 per acre for wooded parcels and \$2,200 for agricultural parcels. Swamp land is valued at \$1,450 per acre.

With these land values and ECF values, our ratios are as follows: Agriculture – 49.86%, Commercial – 49.38%, Industrial – 49.70% and Residential – 49.66%.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None given.

OLD BUSINESS

BS & A UPDATE: Four members of the Board met via phone with a representative from BS & A Software. During this meeting, we learned that BS & A is continuing to provide .net services. Therefore, we will not be purchasing the service that includes Cloud capabilities.

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2026: Supervisor Moraska gave members of the Board a rough draft of the Proposed Budget for 2026-27. A short discussion ensued. We will approve the Budget at the next regular meeting.

USDA INFORMATION: The USDA Rural Development Department has issued an ARI Request for Information on the Spalding Township Fire Hall. We will need to give the department a copy of our 2026-27 budget, a list of officials and a copy of our insurance declaration.

BOARD OF REVIEW TRAINING & DATES: Three individuals were trained on February 4th for the Spalding Township Board of Review. They are Ruth Blahnik, Lee Vincent, and Joyce Labre. They are now certified for two years. The next Board of Review dates are March 9th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and March 12th from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

MTA LETTER: The members of the Board signed a letter listing goals and objectives they pledge to follow in accordance with the Michigan Township Association.

ROAD COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 26 AT 9 AM: Jim will be attending a Road Commission meeting on the aforementioned date to discuss further road construction plans within our Township.

UPSET LETTER: The Township received a letter from the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team asking us to contribute funds. However, because we are a governmental agency, we are unable to contribute.

MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS (ROLL CALL VOTE): Chris made a motion to pay the bills with Jerry supporting. Roll Call Vote: Chris LeBoeuf, yes, Kevin LaBonte, yes, Jim Moraska, yes, Connie Wells, yes, Jerry Bartnicki, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dan Hammerberg inquired about Personal Property Tax Funds and where the money is placed. He also thanked the Township Board for the Annual Fire Department Recognition Dinner. A discussion ensued about passing along a 20% gratuity to Cindy Swille, the caterer. Jim made a motion to send this gratuity with Chris supporting. The motion carried.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE TOWNSHIP: None given.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Kevin supporting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Wells, Township Clerk

