

GROUT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Gladwin County, MI

March 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor J. Shea at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those attending.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK:

Members present: Supervisor: J. Shea, Clerk: D. Fritzler, : Treasurer: M. Hill, Trustee: R. Christie and Trustee: J. Beck

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Following review, R. Christie moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2026 with 2 updates: spelling of "Order" in Call to Order and #4 under Commissioner Report "Legion" should be "Legislative", J. Shea seconded motion. All ayes; 5-0, motion carried

TREASURER'S REPORT: (as of February 28, 2026)

1. General Checking - \$231,493.67
 2. Expense Account Balance- \$783.95
 3. Income Received in February - \$57,013.13
 4. Balance of Mosquito Abatement account as of February 28, 2026: \$36,420.63
 5. Huntington CD Balance: \$156,539.58 matures March 14, 2026
 6. Savings account at Wildfire Credit Union remains at \$5.00. The balance on the CD is \$105,359.75
 7. M Hill finalized Budget for the FY 2026-2027
 8. John Hancock – will be paying 2025 and 2026. Moving forward will pay quarterly
- J. Shea motioned to approve treasurer's report as provided, D. Fritzler seconded motion. All ayes 5-0; motion carried

FIRE BOARD REPORT: (Randy Z)

1. Fire Board met on first week in February
2. Items Reviewed:
 - a. Twenty-six Runs in January – 3 in Grout Township (2 structure fires and 1 personal injury)
 - b. They will be putting together a committee to hire a new Fire Chief; considering making it a full time position moving forward

COMMISSIONER REPORT: (Commissioner T. Winarski)

1. Attended Beaverton twp meeting; local businesses sold
2. Approved a second bond issue
3. Plans to fill lakes starting May (with Sanford Lake). Ending in September 2027 with Smallwood Lake
4. Commissioner Winarski attended MMAC (Mid Michigan Action Comm) meeting. Discussion on 2024 Audit Report. 2025 Audit is underway

5. Legislative breakfast 7:30am March 13th. State Senator and State Rep to be in attendance
6. March 25th Master Plan meeting scheduled. Citizens that are concerned about Solar issues are encouraged to attend
7. Council on Local Government seminar on Blight March 30th @ 7pm (additional social hour at 6pm)

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Bureau of Elections is bringing back the "I voted" sticker contest. Submissions are due before Friday, May 1st @ 5pm. Public voting will be the month of June. More information is available at <https://www.bureauofelections.org/>
2. Gladwin Chamber of Commerce - Home & Garden Show April 25th 9am-4pm @ Arnold Center (490 Industrial Dr). Also accepting recyclables (but no hazardous waste)

CITIZENS COMMENTS: (5 min MAX per resident)

No additional comments from community

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

M. Hill noted we will need additional checks for the new Wildfire CD (this would be 2nd CD with Wildfire Credit Union) and 2 additional checks for John Handcock payments. Following review, D. Fritzler moved to accept expenses with additions, R. Christie seconded, to approve the bills for the month of January, 2026. All ayes 5-0; motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

M. Hill requests changes to March 2026 budget: decreases to multiple categories with overages (including miscellaneous, drain assessments, employer taxes, election public testing, election expenses, grave open/closings, cemetery maintenance - \$17,150.00 total) and additions to multiple items that have overages in YTD category (meeting training, trustee salary, office supplies, newspaper publishing, treasurer salary, town hall expenses and garbage collection fees (\$17,255.00 total)). Net loss \$105.00 J. Shea moved to accept changes, M. Hill seconded. All ayes 5-0; motion carried.

JUNK CASES:

1. J. Shea followed up with Cornell Dr regarding junk in yard and road. No updates or changes have been done at the property, to date
2. No response from St Andrews regarding fallen tree

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer M Hill – EGLE Grant Update – no new information.
2. AMP Mosquito Contract – signed contract. M. Hill to send notice to all of township regarding options to opt out and will include the gypsy moth information
3. Outsourcing Payroll and tax reporting update – Matt Garant from Hartwick, Garant and Garant. No updates yet. M. Hill is scheduling 2025 audit for June 2026 with Campbell agency

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Increase in Lil Willies pricing for 2026. Will still have a port-a-potty May through October

2. Resolution for tax collection agreement – Gladwin County Schools. Motioned by J. Shea. Seconded by M. Hill. Roll call: Shea: yes; Fritzler: yes, Hill: yes; Christie: yes and Beck: yes. Will be resolution 2026-011
3. Resolution for meeting and trainings wages increase – presented by D Fritzler, but not supported by other board members.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. D. Fritzler – 2026 Elections Updates
 - a) No May Election, August Primary (8/4/2026) and November General (11/3/2026) Election
 - b) Township Clerks will now be doing own voter registration cards and signature cards
 - c) Early Voting – Need approval to have County handle (as they have for last several years). Contract will be for next 2 years. J. Shea motioned, D Fritzler seconded. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 – motion passed
 - d) County Clerk will be scheduling quarterly meetings/trainings for all township clerks, starting in 2026. First meeting was 2/24/2026, next one is TBD
 - e) New voting equipment will need to be budgeted for in the next couple of years (\$15-20K)
2. M. Hill created mowing bid form. Will put it on website. J Shea also has 3 calls out for bids
3. Solar Energy Facilities Taxation Act – State of MI has issues. J Shea would like to hire specialized law firm for representation in case of solar legal issues and ask for advise to avoid solar legal issues
4. Board of review went well. Org meeting on 3/3/2026 and 2 days of public meetings (3/9/2026 & 3/10/2026)
5. Generator Service quote from Boch Electric - \$200
6. SLT – will be sending insurance information next week
7. Gutter work for hall – approval for \$395. Motioned by J. Shea, seconded by R Christie. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Fritzler

Diana Fritzler

Grout Township Clerk