

GROUT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Gladwin County, MI

April 14, 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, D. Fritzler moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2026 with corrections updates: spelling of "Hancock" in line 8 of Treasurer's report, "Smallwood Lake" in #6 under Commissioners Report, Budget Amendments section, the spelling of Facilities in line 3 of Other matters for discussion, and "Boch" electric line 5 of Other matters for discussion. R. Christie seconded motion. All ayes; 5-0, motion carried

TREASURER'S REPORT: (as of March 31, 2026)

1. General Checking - \$269,448.02
 2. Expense Account Balance- \$2,383.95
 3. Income Received in February - \$92,942.95
 4. Balance of Mosquito Abatement account as of March 31, 2026: \$46,615.41
 5. Huntington CD was surrendered: \$162,263.41, including interest of \$5,723.83
 6. Savings account at Wildfire Credit Union remains at \$5.00. The balance on one CD is \$105,686.60. A second CD was purchased with \$160,000.00
- J. Beck motioned to approve treasurer's report as provided, R. Christie seconded motion. All ayes 5-0; motion carried

FIRE BOARD REPORT: (R Christie)

1. Fire Board met on first week in April
2. Items Reviewed:
 - a. Twenty-seven in March – 3 in Grout Township (1 EMS, 1 downed power line, and 1 fire)
 - b. Fire Chief would like to get a 1 Mil special assessment to cover increased costs and a new truck purchase

COMMISSIONER REPORT: (Commissioner T. Winarski)

1. Master Plan meeting occurred at the end of March. Several people attended and wanted to discuss solar
2. There will be a private Solar Meeting April 30, 7pm KofC Hall
3. Attended Beaverton twp meeting; local businesses sold
4. Approved a second bond issue

5. Plans to fill lakes starting May (with Sanford Lake). Ending in September 2027 with Smallwood Lake
6. Commissioner Winarski attended MMAC (Mid Michigan Action Comm) meeting. 2024 Audit Report is complete. 2025 Audit is underway. Agency running normal again after government funding issues in previous months.
7. Airport – letter to FAA going to be required for community events, for prior approval (because it is a Federal agency). Thunder on the strip has been approved for the next 2 years
8. County audit complete, no adverse findings. They are still looking at updating operations and policies
9. Equalization Report is pending

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.michigan.gov/bureauofelections>
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:

With the addition of payment for gutter installations; Following review, J. Shea moved to accept expenses with addition, D. Fritzler seconded, to approve the bills for the month of April, 2026. All ayes 5-0; motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

M. Hill requests increase of 2026/2027 budget for Election Expenses to increase to \$8,000. D. Fritzler moved to accept changes, J. Shea seconded. All ayes 5-0; motion carried.

JUNK CASES:

1. J. Shea heard back from someone who will tear down mobile home that is uninhabitable
2. 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
3. No response from St Andrews regarding fallen tree
4. S. Bard Road – new complaint, but complainant didn't know address. J. Shea will follow up after he has address

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Treasurer M Hill – EGLE Grant Update – no new information.
2. M. Hill – proposed new cemetery rules. Board to review and approve next month. Will be posted after approval.

3. Cemetery, lots of clean up has been done. Jim picked up PVC pipe for Veteran grave site flags. Jim received request to raise sunken headstones. J. Hite will work on raising headstones as time allows, starting with the ones that are most sunken.
4. 4 Lawn bids were reviewed, board voted to accept Jesse Palmreuter's bid
5. Outsourcing Payroll and tax reporting update – Matt Garant from Hartwick, Garant and Garant is in the last days of busy tax season. He will be working on our taxes by end of the week.
6. M. Hill is scheduling 2025 audit for June 2026 with Campbell Auditing
7. D. Fritzler - ARPA/SLFRF reporting has been finalized and closed
8. J. Shea – would like to consult with Foster/Swift legal firm out of Grand Rapids regarding how to address solar concerns (specifically blocking battery facilities)

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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) 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
 - d) County Clerk offering election worker training starting in June. Open to anyone interested
3. Letter received from MI Dept of Agriculture approving our Mosquito treatment
4. M. Hill – Assessment change - M 154-2025-0386 (current Assessed Value \$7,087,150. Requested Taxable Value: \$5,458,000). Change was 'approved' by our assessor, so we can not protest. We will have to provide refund
5. J. Shea will not be in attendance for May's meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Fritzler

Diana Fritzler

Grout Township Clerk