

GROUT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Gladwin County, MI

July 14th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Shea at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK:

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Following review, minutes from June 9, 2026 meeting needed these 3 updates: spelling error in "Order", add "runs" in #2.a. section of Fire Board report and under Commissioner Report #2 add "regarding new applications for battery" after "3 month moratorium". R. Christie moved to approve with the above changes, J. Shea seconded the motion. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT (as of June 30, 2026)

1. General Account Balance - \$ 226,384.55
2. Total Income Received in June, 2026 - \$7,788.39
3. Interest earned on the General Account in May was \$52.74
4. Balance in Expense Account \$678.41
5. Balance in Mosquito Account: \$27,684.00
6. Wildfire Credit Union Savings account balance \$5.00
7. Certificates of Deposit (2) total \$268,396.46 (including \$916.43 in June interest)

R. Christie moved to approve Treasurers Report, J. Beck seconded the motion. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, motion carried.

FIRE BOARD REPORT: (Randy Zdrojewski)

1. Fire board met the first week of July
2. Items Reviewed:
 - a. 25 Runs in Gladwin during the month of June, including 2 in Grout Township
 - b. They participated in Beaverton's holiday parade
 - c. Search for a new Fire Chief continues. They finalized job description and will finalize application at the next meeting on July 28th @ 7pm. They are still trying to have local candidate fill this role

COMMISSIONER REPORT (Commissioner T. Winarski)

1. MMAC – no July meeting
2. Discussion on how to handle vendors at the Courthouse
3. Airport – 2 grants approved. One for snowplow and one for fence repair at fair grounds.
4. Beaverton meeting being rescheduled due to no power
5. Letter of Understanding completed – for new employees
6. Master Plan – lots of discussion regarding solar projects.
 - a. County still operates under old Master Plan until new one is approved
 - b. Zoning board can still address solar zoning issues without new master plan
 - c. J. Shea mentioned wanting Tom to voice that Grout Township does not want data center to be approved/zoned in our township
7. Tom W reminded everyone that the Planning Committee is proper place to voice concerns (meets first Wednesday of the month)
8. Next County commissioners meeting July 28th

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 2026-2027 EMC Insurance Policy Received – Rob Koets is our new contact

CITIZENS COMMENTS: N/A

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

Make change: Remove John Hancock payment (should only be quarterly, not monthly). D. Fritzler motioned to approve the bills with the one change listed above. R. Christie seconded the motion. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None

JUNK CASES – Supervisor J. Shea

1. Cornell Dr – Resident is starting to clean area
2. St Andrews – no new changes/updates
3. Kerswill Lake – structure torn down, but not cleared off

J. Shea will follow up with all cases

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. M. Hill – EGLE Grant Update: Spoke with new representative a couple weeks ago who said they would check on Grout Township's first payment that hasn't been received. No additional information
2. Cemetery Updates – M. Hill and J. Shea
 - a. Plan completed/plotted
 - b. Issue with a recent burial in plot that was already owned by another family. M. Hill will work with residents on moving the recently buried cremains

- c. M. Hill and J. Hite still working on cross-referencing files for site ownerships so it doesn't happen again
- d. J. Hite requested cell phone bill coverage (part or full) because he is taking a lot of calls about cemetery issues on his personal cell phone. Board members ask that J. Hite provide information regarding bill prices for approval next month
- 3. Township Audit – Still no word from previously contracted accounting firm. D Fritzler requests board approval for new auditing company. Three quotes presented. Board selected lowest bid from Schulze, Oswald, Miller & Edwards P.C. (\$4,700 - \$5,200). Motioned for approval by D. Fritzler, seconded by J. Shea. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, motion carried. D. Fritzler will follow up to schedule

NEW BUSINESS - None

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1. J. Shea mentioned that Assessor Dave Brown advised that the township will need to upgrade the assessor software to BS&A by 2030. The prices currently are \$14,000 (current bid is good through October). Board opted to not purchase at this time and to wait until closer to deadline
- 2. Road Commission - J. Shea
 - a. Brining concerns that they aren't using enough and/or not spraying entire road (edges)
 - b. Waiting for bill from Arthur Twp for half of brining for Clarwin Rd
 - c. Parker Rd – can not treat until October
- 3. J. Shea – would like to attend trainings in Frankenmuth (MTA) regarding 1. Data Centers and 2. Land Division Act
- 4. M. Hill – Looking into earning daily interest on checking account
- 5. Safety grant money – County couldn't use 25% of it for the fire department, so gave Grout a refund. The other 75% went to Police as expected. M Hill looking into where the other 25% should be spent/returned
- 6. July Board of Review -Will be Friday July 24th, 2026 9:00am (1 case that needs review)
- 7. Primary Election – Scheduled August 4th, 2026. Absentee ballots had been mailed out June 25th. Public testing is scheduled for Monday July 27, 2026

ADJOURNMENT - 7:24PM