

GROUT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Gladwin County, MI

August 11, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL BY CLERK:

Members present: Supervisor: J. Shea, Clerk: D. Fritzer, Treasurer: M. Hill, Trustee: R. Christie, and Trustee: J. Beck. All members were present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes from the July 14, 2026 meeting were presented. R. Christie asked about why a special meeting was held afterwards and why not everyone was included. R. Christie was upset about a meeting taking place that he was not a part of, especially as the entire Board was part of the approval process in the past of election workers. Discussion followed. A special elections meeting will be scheduled for September following the regular meeting to appoint the election workers for the November General election and all Board members will be invited to attend. A Motion was made by D. Fritzler to approve the Minutes as presented, with a second by J. Shea. Ayes 4, Nay R. Christie. Motion carried.

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

General Account Balance: \$233,833.17

Total Income received in July 2026: \$34,16.67

Interest earned on the General Account in July: \$52.96

Balance in Expense Account: \$678.41

Balance in Mosquito Account: \$18,684.00

Wildfire Credit Union savings account balance: \$5.00

Certificates of Deposit (x2) total: \$269,286.37

Certificates of Deposit interest earned: \$889.81

J. Shea moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and R. Christie seconded the Motion. Ayes: 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

FIRE BOARD REPORT (Randy Zdrojewski):

1. Fire Board met the first week of August - a short meeting.
2. There were 5 runs in Grout Township: 1 vehicle fire and 4 EMS assists.
3. There were 8 "911" calls.

COMMISSIONER REPORT (Commissioner T. Winarski):

1. MMAC meeting held.
2. Beaverton Township is considering a Noise Ordinance
3. At County Commissioners' meeting, they reviewed a proposed recycling program, a draft of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and extend the moratorium on data centers and battery plants.
4. Still working on a draft of the Master Plan.
5. Commissioner Winarski voted "no" on moratorium extension. An extension was passed.
6. J. Shea asked about zoning and land divisions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

As to the Gladwin County Hazardous Waste Day, it was discussed as to whether Grout Township would participate due to the increased cost thereof. Following discussion a Motion was made by J. Shea to participate in the hazardous waste pickup, second by M. Hill. Ayes 5, Nay 0. Motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

J. Shea moved to approve the bills as presented, second made by D. Fritzler. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion passed.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: None.

JUNK CASES:

1. Calls have been made to the owners of the St. Andrews Drive property because no progress is being made. J. Shea has not had any response.
2. Kerswill resident issue with Shearer resident was a neighbor dispute.
3. Kerswill Lake resident – house with tarp on roof disintegrating.
4. Garvie on Cornell Drive is still making progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. M. Hill – No new updates
2. M. Hill is still working on updating Cemetery records. J. Shea will assist Sexton Hite with some repairs and sign installation.
3. Township audit is scheduled for August 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sexton Hite presented a cell bill for his use for Cemetery matters. The bill could be paid in monthly installments of \$32.16 or paid for one (1) year in the amount of \$385.95. The Board discussed the options and a Motion was made by J. Shea, seconded by R. Christie to pay the annual fee. Ayes 5, Nay 0. Motion passed.

2. The Investment Policy previously presented is the same one that the County of Gladwin uses. M. Hill indicated that it was a way to earn additional interest on our accounts while still having access to the funds when needed. The Board asked for a representative of the investment company to attend a meeting to address the Board. M. Hill will make contact and schedule a time for the meeting. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

3. Timothy Ammon has relocated out of the State of Michigan and requested that the three (3) cemetery spaces which he had purchased be sold back to the Township at the rate he paid for them. A Motion was made by J. Shea and seconded by M. Hill to proceed forward. Ayes 5, Nay 0. Motion passed. A check will be issued by the Clerk for \$300.00.

4. The Equalization Services Contract was discussed. It was unknown the Assessor's current view but in the past had indicated that paying extra for additional Equalization Department services beyond the statutory requirements was not necessary. By choosing Option 1, the Board chose the statutory duties' service only and there will be no annual fee assessed to the Township. J. Shea made the Motion to choose Option 1, second by M. Hill. Ayes 5, Nay 1. Motion passed.

5. J. Shea will enter the requested dates for the 2027 Brine Contract and provide to the Road Commission.

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. There was only one (1) matter for discussion at the July Board of Review, being Randy Walker. A change was made to reclassify back to agricultural.

2. The General Election will be held on November 3rd.
3. Information was provided about the new Land Division Act which will take effect in 2027. The Board will continue to review their options.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:36 p.m.

NOTE: M. Hill typed these Minutes from notes taken by Clerk Fritzler prior to her resignation.