

# MINUTES OF ARBELA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

February 9th, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Edward Hunt at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present –Beth Duet, Jody Hunt, Tim Anderson, and Ed Hunt Absent: Gary Woelzlein, showed up later

**MOTION:** By Beth Duet to approve the minutes of the January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

**MOTION:** By Tim Anderson to approve the payment of bills and payroll

**SUPPORT:** Jody Hunt, motion carried

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave the fire report. The budget for this coming year is on tonight's agenda for the board to discuss. The next Fire Board meeting is in April and they will also be going to look at a Tanker truck that will be similar to what they will be getting to replace the existing tanker. There was also discussion about how quality protective gear for our firefighters are important to protect them from harmful chemicals that are leading to a rise in cancer percentages and other illnesses.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave police report. During the month of January, Deputy Fini conducted 29 traffic stops, with 10 citations issued. 1 criminal citation was issued as a result of a criminal investigation stemming from a traffic stop. There was 1 OWI and Open Intoxicants as a result of a different traffic stop. The top speed that was observed and ticketed by the deputy was 90 mph on Birch Run Rd and the second highest being 77mph. There were also citations issued for a failure to stop within an assured clear distance, which resulted in a rear end collision, and a School Bus Violation for failing to stop for a school bus while its lights are activated/child crossing. Other Tuscola County officers not assigned to Arbelá Township also conducted stops and issued an additional 3 civil infraction citation and 1 misdemeanor citation. The Deputy also made one Felony arrest. Alcona County Sheriff's Office requested assistance in apprehending a suspect of a very serious felony crime and was suspected of staying in Arbelá Township. Along with Millington Twp Deputy, the Arbelá Twp deputy were able to take him into custody and the suspect was lodged in the Tuscola County Jail until Alcona County Sheriff's Office were able to take him into custody back to their jurisdiction. There was a variety of other non-criminal calls the deputy responded to including medical assists, mental health calls, abandoned auto, residential alarm, and suspicious circumstances. There were also 2 crash investigations that took place and those were property damage with no occupants injured.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave a road report. There is the Road and Budget meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Ed handed out the letter from the road commission that was addressed to the township supervisors. There have been minimal complaints about the tax assessments for drains. The Ellis drain will hopefully be done in late spring/early summer of 2026.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave an update on building and grounds. The insulation installation was completed, Advanced asked about doing the rest of the hall and they will get back to us with some numbers. Cemetery updates include that 2 graves have been thawed so far with a few more on the horizon. The township has borrowed a ground thaw system from Millington Township for the remainder of the winter season, as needed, Terry Hunt will transport the system for the township and will charge the hours to Arbela Township come spring. Ed also gave an update on where things are with Ranger Power, they wanted to see how the township came up with their numbers, Ed sent his math along with the adding machine tape, Ranger Power wanted to request a meeting to discuss concessions and reimbursement.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Bill Lutz-County Commissioner**-Ed invited Mr. Lutz to the meeting to discuss their disagreement with how the Road Commission is handling the investigation into several problem intersections. The County Commission asked the Road Commission board to come to several of their meetings. The Road Commission did not show up to the meetings, The County Commissioners asked the Road Commission to show their financial records as the County Commissioners state that they have not received an accounting from the Road Commission in several years and would like to see them. The County Commissioners state that the Road Commission declined to provide the financial statements. Ed pulls out his financial statement put out by the Road Commission and asked if that report is the one they were talking about. The County Commissioners asked the Road Commission to consider preventative signs at several proposed problem intersections. The County Commissioners then received a strongly worded letter from the Road Commission Board's lawyer. The County Commissioners intend to reply with a strongly worded letter of their own. They would also like to put on the ballot in November a vote to disband the County Road Commission Board and bring it back under the control of the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners stated that they had bought several preventative items that they intended to put up at several intersections, to which a Township Board member stated that the County, Road Commission or County Commissioners, could not touch many of the road signs that come up to main Michigan roads as those are MDOT property and cannot be tampered with at the county level. When asked if they achieved their goal of disbanding the Road Commission Board, what would their plans be, it was stated that they had plenty of time to figure out what would happen going forward.

**Fire Department Budget:** discussion was had over the proposed budget for the Millington Arbela Fire Department. With various factors being discussed such as how the cost of many items have gone up. Other items gone over were the vehicles the Fire Department has and the valuation attached to them by EMC and what would happen if any of them would need to be replaced.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to approve the 2026-2027 Millington Arbela Fire Department's Budget with Arbela Townships share being \$72,212.00

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson Roll call vote; Tim Anderson, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Beth Duet, yes; Ed Hunt, yes, motion carried.

**Arthur Latham Park:** The Township has been invited by Millington Township by way of Bob Loomis to join the park cooperation for Arthur Latham Park. Discussion was had about how in the past, being

involved in the park cooperative was a tangle of issues and how as a township the board does not want to get into that again. As well as being leery about being involved in a park from an insurance liability.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt that we do not participate in Arthur Latham Park

**SUPPORT:** Beth Duet Roll call vote; Tim Anderson, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Beth Duet, yes; Ed Hunt, yes, motion carried.

Gary Woelzlein joined the meeting late

**Hall Bathrooms:** This is an estimate of Material list of \$32,783.45. Does the board agree to put this in the budget to have this done this upcoming fiscal year or does the board wait? The Township would have to take bids to do installation. This is a lot of money so the board will reflect on this item and will vote on it next month.

**Wilkenson Contract:** The proposal for seasonal dust control for 2026 was for 3 applications for a cost of \$17,825.00 for a prepay.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to approve the Wilkinson Contract for Dust Control in the amount of \$17,825.00

**SUPPORT:** Gary Woelzlein Roll call vote; Tim Anderson, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Beth Duet, yes; Ed Hunt, yes; Gary Woelzlein, yes; motion carried.

**Network Services:** This contract was sent via email to us to approve for the upcoming years IT support in the amount of \$1,250.00

**MOTION:** By Beth Duet to approve the Network Services Contract in the amount of \$1,250.00

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

**Gunnel Road Proposal:** The bids that were submitted were just for design, not for doing the actual work. The Road Commission said they would cover the cost of replacing the culvert. The cost estimate to get the work itself done might be about \$10,000 to get it done and the Road Commission mentioned that they might be interested in bidding on doing the work for the project. The necessity of having this done was explained. Drain Tile was installed at a neighboring field allowing surface water to get to the ditch quicker than it can be sent away down the ditch resulting in overflow water washing across the road into a resident's yard. This also results in the topsoil of the road washing away, and into that resident's yard. The bids were examined and it was noted that there was nothing wrong with accepting the lowest bid. The township does have the money in the Road Improvement Budget. The Work would possibly be done in 2026.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to accept the lowest bid for the design of the ditch project, supplied by Spicer, at \$14,500

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, Roll call vote; Tim Anderson, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Beth Duet, yes; Ed Hunt, yes; Gary Woelzlein, yes; motion carried.

**Budget Amendments:** Beth typed up a several page document examining where our general ledgers are in their budgets coming up towards the end of the fiscal year. Two major ones were examined to be the most in need.

**MOTION:** By Beth Duet to transfer \$33,913.67 from the solar escrow account to legal to bring the balance back up

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

**MOTION:** By Beth Duet to move \$12,000.00 from General Fund Balance to cover any upcoming legal bills

**SUPPORT:** Jody Hunt, motion carried

**MOTION:** By Beth Duet to amend the Revenue and Expenditures budget for Cemetery Contractor by \$3,000.00

**SUPPORT:** Jody Hunt, motion carried

**Citizen Comments:**

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to adjourn at 7:38pm

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

Beth Duet

Arbela Township Clerk