

MINUTES OF ARBELA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

April 13th, 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

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to approve the minutes of the March 09th, 2026 meeting

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, motion carried

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

SUPPORT: Beth Duet, motion carried

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave the fire report. Next meeting for the fire board is June 1, 2026 at Millington. The Fire Chief is reaching out to DTE to get reimbursement for a couple expensive call outs for fire crew to watch downed powerlines until DTE could get out there to

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave police report. During the month of March 20 traffic stops were conducted by the assigned Arbela Twp. Deputy. 7 Citations were issued and 3 criminal citations were issued as a result of criminal investigations that took place upon making traffic stops. 5 criminal investigations took place within Arbela Township during the month of March along with a joint investigation with Millington PD which crossed several jurisdictions and will be turned over to the FBI. 1 misdemeanor arrest was made in March for domestic assault. The assigned township deputy responded to 8 non-criminal calls for service and 1 crash investigation was conducted regarding a car vs deer collision.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave a road report. The weight restrictions for the roads have been lifted, roads were graded prior to all the rain and are getting ready for spring. As of the board meeting, no ballot wording for the election in August to remove the Road Commission board and put it and its budget under the control of the County Board of Commissioners.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave an update on building and grounds. The township property line had a tree fall on a neighbor's fence over the weekend, Ed will check it out on Tuesday. As of April 1, 2026 our Sexton, Estee, is back on full time cemetery time and has several foundations to pour, as soon as the weather allows, cement pouring doesn't occur when there is copious amounts of rain. Travis serviced the generator and showed Estee how to change the oil in the machine. He also updated the lights in the hallway to the hall and in the offices. He is going to look and get prices on updating some stuff in the Hall proper as well. The Chad Ross hearing was April 8, 2026 and because the motion from the township attorneys was filed one day late, the judge ruled that he can continue to operate as usual until the next hearing. Jody checked the email in the morning and there was no update on the Birch Valley solar project, however at 2:52 p.m. the email was again checked and there was an email stating that Birch Valley had filed with the MPSC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Agreements-2: One is for the 2 miles of paving for Barnes Rd, from Lewis to Barkley. Discussion was brought up by Tim about the 'ka-thunk ka-thunks' from the seal coating over the cracks coming through the new top of the road and pointed out that taking the road all the way down and completely redoing it would be the best practices solution to keep anything untoward from happening. Which then Ed pointed out that if the township were to take the responsibility of completely redoing the road down to the road bed, which would eat up the road millage fund money for the next two and a half years, leaving no funds for any other road projects. It was ultimately acquiesced that the project should be done in the way to accomplish the project but leaving funds to accomplish other necessary road projects in the township.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to pay \$222,272.81 to pave 2 miles of Branes Rd from Lewis to Barkley.

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Tim Anderson, Yes; Jody Hunt, Yes; Beth Duet, Yes; Ed Hunt, Yes; Motion Carried

The other Road agreement was about doing a gravel patch on Murphy Lake Rd. It was pointed out by a road grader that the stretch from Buell rd to the Perry Creek Bridge was getting a bit rough.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to accept the road agreement to do a gravel patch on Murphy Lake Rd from Buell to Perry Creek Bridge for a total of \$24,500 with a \$10,000 allowance from the county road commission.

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Jody Hunt, Yes; Tim Anderson, Yes; Beth Duet, Yes; Ed Hunt, Yes; Motion Carried

Cemetery Tree Removal: There is a pine tree in Pine Grove Cemetery that needs to come down, and will have to come down in pieces due to surrounding headstones. We have a quote from Michigan Diversified Services, Tyler has \$2,750 for the removal of the pine tree at Pine Grove while leaving the stump flush cut, because of the surrounding graves/headstones, having a stump grinder in would disturb the surrounding area too much. We were also quoted \$3,000 for the Newton-Compau Cemetery, for trimming various trees along the driveway and roadside. As well as trimming low hanging trees around the property as well as hazardous dead branches. Ed would like to suggest that we keep in mind to up the budget for tree removal because there is also a tree in Gunnel Cemetery that should be looked at and removed because it overhangs a spoken for grave site and leaving the tree there would make it exceedingly difficult to get the grave dug at time of need. It was also pointed out that it would be better to pursue this in our own time frame instead of leaving it to occur at time of need for that grave.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to hire Michigan Diversified Services to take down trees in all three cemeteries but not to exceed \$6750.

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Jody Hunt, Yes; Tim Anderson, Yes; Beth Duet, Yes; Ed Hunt, Yes; Motion Carried

Road Millage Renewal: Ballot wording was submitted to Adam to have him look over it prior to submitting it to the county for placement on the ballot in August and make sure it looked correct, he said it looks good and that he would not change anything. This would be for the time period of 2028-2032. Our Voters have been very good to us in the past about approving road millages and the board hopes that they are generous with this millage as well so we can continue to make improvements on existing road conditions.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to approve the Road Millage renewal for 1 mil on the August Ballot.

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Jody Hunt, Yes; Tim Anderson, Yes; Beth Duet, Yes; Ed Hunt, Yes; Motion Carried.

Fire Equipment Renewal: Ballot wording was submitted to Adam to have him look over it prior to submitting it to the county for placement on the ballot in August and make sure it looked correct, he said it looks good and that he would not change anything. This would be for the time period of 2028-2032. The Fire Department is looking at getting a new tanker here in the next few years and they cost a large amount of money.

MOTION: By Tim Anderson to approve the Fire Equipment Millage Renewal for a half mil on the August Ballot

SUPPORT: Beth Duet, Roll Call Vote: Tim Anderson, Yes; Beth Duet, Yes; Jody Hunt, Yes; Ed Hunt, Yes; Motion Carried.

Community Service Volunteer: Ed reached out to Geoff Lansky from the insurance company who told the township to see about liability for a community service volunteer. He mentioned that the township should check with the county about extending workman's comp for the volunteer. Ed contacted the parole officer who had no idea about if that was possible. Ed tried to reach out to the head of parole officers because in the event of injury or illness while working in the course of volunteering at the township, the township would incur a large liability. Geoff strongly recommends that we have the county extend the liability and best practices say to follow the advice of the person with the insurance company covering us.

MOTION: By Beth Duet that if we do not get a favorable answer from the parole department about workman's comp coverage that we do not have the individual volunteer in the township.

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Motion Carried.

Bathroom Project: Deferred covering this until all members of the board are present to discuss. This is going to be more of a fall/winter project anyways, so we have time to discuss.

Thumb Narcotics Contribution: The Township received a letter asking for a donation to help fund the thumb narcotics unit. In the past the township has donated \$500. Discussion was had to continue the \$500 contribution.

MOTION: By Tim Anderson to contribute \$500 to the Thumb Narcotics Unit

SUPPORT: Jody Hunt, Motion Carried.

Auditor Engagement: The Township received the Audit engagement letter that details standard fee rates and other sundries detailed within letter. Highlights from the letter were read out loud by Ed. Mild discussion was had.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to hire Smith and Klaczkiewicz to do the township's audit not to exceed \$6200 plus the \$600 for the completion of the F-65.

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, Roll Call Vote: Jody, Yes; Tim, Yes; Beth, Yes; Ed, Yes; Motion Carried.

Building Inspectors Insurance: Tim as the Building Inspector frequently has residents show up to pay/receive their permits at his home. Further investigation shows that even though it is for purposes of the township, the township insurance will not cover primary. Tim called his insurance company to

inquire as to adding on a policy that would cover if anything were to happen on the property. For a \$1 Million policy, he was quoted \$310/year. The question is does the township cover the cost because it is costs incurred on the township's behalf.

MOTION: By Beth Duet to have the township pay \$310 for insurance for Tim as Building Inspector at his house.

SUPPORT: Jody Hunt, Roll Call Vote: Beth, Yes; Jody, Yes; Ed, Yes; Tim, Abstain; Motion Carried.

Ed mentioned so that it is known, there is to be a Tire Drive at the township hall on July 18, 2026 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. or until the trailer is full.

Citizen Comments:

Kathie questioned the motion filed during the Chad Ross case was filed one day late and wondered why it was filed late. Explanation was given that the lawyer handling the case filed it on Friday April 3, 2026, which was Good Friday and is an Observed Holiday by the Courthouse and it was closed so the date stamp on when the motion was filed was for April 6, 2026 and the court says it needed to be filed at least 3 days prior to hearing.

Merrie asked a question about the solar project. She also asked a question about a culvert on or near her property that the embankment is washing away on both sides of the culvert, Ed will call someone to come and take a look at it.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to adjourn at 7:03pm

SUPPORT: Tim Anderson, motion carried

Beth Duet

Arbela Township Clerk