

# MINUTES OF ARBELA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

**May 11th, 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, Gary Woelzlein and Ed Hunt

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to approve the minutes of the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting

**SUPPORT:** Gary Woelzlein, motion carried

**MOTION:** By Beth Duet to approve the payment of bills and payroll

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave the fire report. Next meeting for the fire board is June 1, 2026 at Millington at 5:30pm.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave police report. During the month of April there were 30 traffic stops conducted by the assigned Arbela township deputy. There were 12 citations issued for violations such as Speeding, Disregarding a Stop Sign, Failure to Yield and other violations. The highest speed observed this month in the township was 82 mph and was observed on Vassar Rd near Barnes Rd. Other notable speeds observed this month was 75 mph on Millington Rd and 78 mph on Birch Run Rd. All 3 speed violators received citations. 1 criminal citation was issued as a result of a criminal investigation that took place upon making traffic stops. An additional 4 tickets were issued in the township but Tuscola County Deputies who are not assigned to the Arbela Township for other violations. 3 criminal investigations took place within Arbela Township in April with one Misdemeanor arrest was made in connection to one of those investigations. All criminal investigations have been completed and closed. The assigned Arbela Township Deputy responded to 7 non-criminal calls for service during the month of April as well, such as responding to alarms, a welfare check, motorist assists and traffic hazards. 1 crash investigation was conducted on the border of Millington and Arbela Twp and involved 2 vehicles where a westbound vehicle on Arbela Rd failed to stop and yield the right of way to a northbound vehicle on Vassar Rd resulting in a collision. There were serious but non-life-threatening injuries as well as property damage. The Assigned Deputy reminds all motorists: **Making complete stops at stop signs and allowing enough time to look both ways several times before proceeding through an intersection can prevent crashes, injuries and loss of life. The minimal seconds a person may save by rolling through a stop sign is not worth the risk that comes with disregarding the safety of oneself and others.**

This is Deputy Fini's last report with Arbela Township, she took a job with a department in Washington State, and we wish her well and she will be missed in the township.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave a road report. Ed had a virtual meeting with the Road Commission and Spicer about the Gunnel Road project. The Bray Rd project should be started before the June board meeting.

Asphalt Millings are to be stored in the parking lot of the township hall. Chloride was applied to the gravel roads on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Terry will be pulling the tractor out to mow here soon.

Supervisor, Ed Hunt, gave an update on building and grounds. As far as current code goes for new buildings, Sonitrol says that we are not up to code with emergency lights and other emergency sundries, however, we are up to code for an existing building and operational as is. If we were to want to bring everything to new building code we would be spending possibly over \$10,000, as Sonitrol would not give us an exact quote unless we were willing to commit to having the work done.

Tree Work at the cemeteries, This was done on May 1<sup>st</sup> and an extra tree was needed to be taken down in Pine Grove outside of the one that was on the schedule to be removed. It was felled into the woods as if it had fallen naturally.

The board was supplied with the proposed settlement agreement with Mr. Chad Ross, as well as a copy of the FOIA request he submitted on May 6, 2026 and the lawyer response to the request.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Planning Commission Appointments:** Cindy Wilson will be leaving the planning commission this month at the end of her appointment term and the board thanks her for her service on the planning commission. This leaves a position that will need to be filled, Pete Mowery has served on the ZBA almost as long as Jim has and is willing to leave his position on the ZBA and take the open position on the Planning Commission. Along with Pete Mowery, Duane Weber will need to be appointed as well.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to appoint Pete Mowery and Duane Weber to the Planning Commission

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

**ZBA Appointment:** As that Pete Mowery has left his position on the ZBA to serve on the planning commission the board would need to appoint someone to serve on the ZBA. The alternate Jeff Yorke is willing to be appointed as a full time member of the ZBA. This also works out well because Pete would have needed to be reappointed in June anyways had he kept his position on the ZBA.

**MOTION:** By Gary Woelzlein to appoint Jeff Yorke to the Zoning Board of Appeals

**SUPPORT:** Tim Anderson, motion carried

**Early Voting Site Agreement:** This agreement is between Arbel Township, Tuscola Township, and Millington Township for the 2026-2027 election years. This covers the 9 days of early voting for a regular election as well as the 3 days of early voting for special elections. This agreement has already been agreed to by the participating clerks, but still needs to be approved by the board.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to accept the early voting site agreement

**SUPPORT:** Beth Duet, motion carried

**Cemetery Ordinance Enforcement Motion:** The board adopted the revised ordinance last November, does the board intend to enforce the ordinance? Is the board prepared to deal with pushback if we send out letters/remove unapproved decorations? Discussion was had regarding several non-conforming grave sites, all which hinder the free and easy use of a lawn mower in the cemetery. Most hinder the ability to utilize any adjoining gravesites. Discussion was also had regarding how the board would need to be fair to all persons being interred into the cemeteries, it is not fair to explain the rules to incoming family members while allowing existing non-conforming residents to exist. Time limits were

discussed. A 30 day flag out prior to removal with a hold of 30 days after removal was voiced as an acceptable amount of time to allow for removal/disposal without having to store items for overly long. Also any drug paraphernalia is to be disposed of immediately including lighters left in the cemetery/on grave sites. Discussion was also had about how as a board we need to support our Sexton in their duties of enforcement of cemetery rules.

**MOTION:** By Jody Hunt to allow the Sexton to remove nonconforming items from gravesites after giving 30 days notice, and then to hold items for 30 day before disposal

**SUPPORT:** Gary Woelzlein, motion carried

**Citizen Comments:** Kathie asked a question about if we were going to attach a date to when we notify family of non-conforming gravesites as a way of tracking time. It was agreed that yes, we would make note of dates on letters, if letters are sent out.

**MOTION:** By Tim Anderson to adjourn at 6:34pm

**SUPPORT:** Jody Hunt, motion carried

Beth Duet

Arbela Township Clerk