

MINUTES OF THE ARBELA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

July 13, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: Present – Tim Anderson, Jody Hunt, Gary Woelzlein, and Ed Hunt.

Absent: - Beth Duet

MOTION: By Gary Woelzlein, to appoint Treasurer Jody Hunt to take minutes in place of the Clerk.

SUPPORT: By Tim Anderson, motion carried.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting.

SUPPORT: By Gary Woelzlein, motion carried.

MOTION: Tim Anderson to pay bills and payroll.

SUPPORT: Jody Hunt, motion carried.

Supervisor Hunt gave the fire report. The next fire board meeting will be on July 27, 2026, which is early because of Millington Summer Festival. The fire department is going to participate in the National Night Out on July 30, 2026.

Supervisor Hunt gave the police report. He introduced Tom Peterson who was in attendance at the meeting. Deputy Peterson handled 21 calls for service, animals at large, assist to a stranded motorist, mental health/suicidal person, threats to a government official, noise/neighborhood trouble, destruction of property, traffic crash with injury and Adult Protective Services referrals. He conducted 6 traffic stops, which is a notable decline from last month, probably due to school being out and a significant amount of road construction. Deputy Peterson also addressed fraud complaints with elderly victims. He handled two investigations of fraud in June. As a general reminder, law enforcement will never ask for Personal Identifying Information that is not traceable through public data. If you are speaking to someone that you believe is fraudulent you should end the conversation and call 911.

Supervisor Ed Hunt gave a road update. The first round of roadside mowing has been completed, there are a few things on the tractor that will need to be fixed before the second mowing starts, which will be around the first of August. Grading and chloride were done before the holiday. Barnes Rd has been paved, but gravel edging and driveways have not been completed. The company that puts out signs for construction projects has been contacted several times about picking up signs now that the Bray Rd project is done.

Supervisor Ed Hunt gave an update on the buildings and grounds. John Gunnell is no longer interested in helping with the cemetery foundations, so Lincoln Dunkerson will be working with Estee on an as needed basis, he will be paid the same hourly rate as the sexton. The enforcement of the Cemetery Ordinance has cause a lot of issues, from verbal threats to rocks and wires being

left on the ground to interfere with the mowing. Anyone caught doing this will be prosecuted. It is a sad statement of the world we live in when people are willing to cause injury or damage to people and equipment. The Judge has ruled in favor of the Township in the Chad Ross case. The audit is complete and we have a positive cash flow in each account.

MOTION: By Supervisor Hunt to enter into closed session at 6:10 p.m, pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(e), to consult with the Township attorney regarding trial strategy in connection with case number U-22072, In the Matter of the Application of Birch Valley Solar, LLC for a Renewable Energy or Storage Siting Certificate to Construct a Solar Energy Facility. And to allow present Planning Commission members to attend.

SUPPORT: By Jody ROLL CALL VOTE: Tim Anderson, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Gary Woelzlein, yes; Ed Hunt, yes, motion carried.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to leave closed at 6:47 p.m.

SUPPORT: By Gary, motion carried.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to authorize Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes to continue with filing a brief and oral arguments against Birch Valley Solar.

SUPPORT: By Tim Anderson, ROLL CALL VOTE: Gary Woelzlein, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Tim Anderson, yes; Ed Hunt, yes. Motion carried.

Parker Propane has submitted a bid to supply the Township hall with propane for 2 years at a cost of \$1.499. We have been with Hamilton Propane for 4 years with a current price of \$1.599.

MOTION: By Gary Woelzlein to have the Supervisor contact Hamilton Propane to see if they can get us a better price.

SUPPORT: By Tim Anderson, motion carried.

Gunnell Cemetery survey request had 6 companies send in bids.

Meridian Land Surveying - \$2500.00

Newland Surveying LLC - \$ 1800.00

Tank Surveying - \$ 1700.00

F-S-E (Flint Surveying) - \$2885.00

D&M Site INC. - \$2200.00

R.A. Duthler Land Surveying - \$2400.00

MOTION: By Tim to accept the bid from Tank Surveying at a cost of \$1700.00

SUPPORT: Gary Woelzlein, ROLL CALL VOTE: Jody Hunt, yes; Tim Anderson, yes; Gary Woelzlein, yes; Ed Hunt, yes. motion carried

Supervisor Ed Hunt gave an update on the Gunnell Rd ditch project after meeting with the County road Engineer.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to accept the Edge Line Pavement Marking from Tuscola County Road Commission for 7.61 miles to include Lewis from Birch Run to Willard, Arbela from Currier to Bray, Belsay from Millington to Birch Run and Barkley from Murphy Lake to Barnes for a total cost of \$4500.00.

SUPPORT: By Tim Anderson, motion carried.

Citizens for a Stronger Tuscola, Billy Putman, came to speak about the proposal on the August 4, 2026 ballot where the Tuscola County Commissioners are asking voters to vote for an appointed Road Commission board instead of the current elected board.

Cemetery concerns, Robert Currier and family. The family has concerns about the ordinance and feel that their father's grave should be grandfathered in because he died before the ordinance that was written in 1997.

MOTION: By Tim Anderson that any gravesites that were flagged for non-compliance where the headstone was put into place before 1997 will be considered grandfathered and will not need to comply with the ordinance, but nothing new can be added to that gravesite.

SUPPORT: Gary Woelzlein, ROLL CALL VOTE: Gary Woelzlein, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Tim Anderson, yes; Ed Hunt, yes. motion carried.

Cemetery Concerns, Ed Riddley felt we were going overboard on some things, but will comply with the things he needs to move.

Cemetery concerns, Danielle Dickson. Danielle paid \$650.00 for a 72 inch foundation, the headstone she ordered is only 48 inches, so a smaller foundation was poured and a refund sent to Mrs. Dickson. She feels that she should be allowed the bigger foundation no matter the size of the headstone because that's what she paid for. Supervisor Hunt stated that this should have been handled before the foundation was poured.

MOTION: By Tim Anderson to have the township remove the existing foundation at no cost to Mrs. Dickson, pour a 72 inch foundation and have it done so the headstone can be in place before August 10, 2026.

SUPPORT: By Gary Woelzlein. ROLL CALL VOTE: Tim Anderson, yes; Jody Hunt, yes; Gary Woelzlein, yes; Ed Hunt, yes. motion carried

Citizen Comments: Multiple comments were made about the election and the cemetery ordinance.

MOTION: By Jody Hunt to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

SUPPORT: By Tim Anderson, motion carried.

Jody Hunt,
Arbela Township Treasurer