

Stanton Township Board

January 07, 2026

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, and Clerk/Tina Hatman. Treasurer/Lori Anderson was absent.

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from December 03, 2025. Marty **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Marty read the Financial Statements. Jim **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Tina. **Approved Unan.**

Tina presented the bills to be paid. Marty **motioned** to pay all the bills. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Marty **motioned** to amend the April 2025-March 2026 budget item as mentioned. See attached for amendments. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

The work orders #12 & #13 for Barr Eng have been signed for more work on the RedRidge Dam. Which is around \$50,000.

Barr Eng Invoice #18 for \$28,319.28 was approved to be paid in this month's bills.

Previously paid Barr Eng Invoice #17 submitted to the GLFC/FWS on 12/29/2025 is waiting for reimbursement for the RedRidge Dam for \$24,912.90. GLFC personnel were off for holiday but should be processed in the next few days.

The Stanton Township public budget meetings will be held starting today following this board meeting, and 1 or more meetings at a later date, possibly tomorrow evening, and/or Jan 12, if needed, at the Township Hall.

The discussion of the progress with OPUS web for the Stanton Township website development and needs, that was approved last month, has been tabled until next month.

Marty will contact Nick Djerf about his starting as Stanton Twp Assessor and to meet with Mary as soon as she can.

Stanton Township was NOT selected for the MNRTF grant for 2026 for the Hemlock Springs Park Project.

Public Comment period opened for reapplication and/or suggestions to the MNRTF grant application resubmission. None received.

Mark **motioned** to approve the cost of the resubmission of the MNRTF Grant sharing to 30%, to a maximum of \$145,000, and have Ken Vrana/Mike Markham @ OHM Advisors revise and resubmit the application for next year's (2026-2027) round of grants. **2nd** by Marty.

Approved Unan.

Note: We will need to budget for \$145,000, if selected next year.

Marty will get ahold of Mr. Childs to update him on this effort to resubmit the MNRTF Grant application.

No word on selection or award yet for Grant request to USDOT for rural communities for up to \$500,000.00 for road design services for the CFP road grant. No match required for this grant.

No word on CFP Grant Award from Bergman's Office yet. 2026-2027 Budget to reflect the required 10% Stanton Township contribution required for this grant, in case of award.

The DNR led trail repair project (culverts) project on Freda Trail from Larson Rd to Riipi's clearing at the bridge over the Salmon Trout river was discussed. Marty has emailed Ron Yeane and has not gotten a response from him yet, to see if the project was completed. Completion date was fall 2025 to get the trail opened.

Timmer Loukus from Aire Care capped upstairs plumbing at Township Hall to stop/prevent any more leaks. Thank you Timmer for volunteering your time!

The Township Freda Parcel litigation has been ordered to mediation by the Court system. Discovery documents were provided to the Township Attorney. The mediation meeting with the Township attendance is required in Marquette on Jan 21, 2026. Marty will be at this meeting acting on the behalf of the Township. The Township would like to keep access if possible.

Green Timber (Stanton Township forest manager) has identified a couple of Stanton Township forest parcels that they feel are ready for a cutting. They will get a sale package proposal together for the Board to consider by late winter/early spring for cutting in late summer/early fall.

A meeting was held with Supervisor Marty & John Mattila with the Coastal Management Group for a grant application. They provide no funding assistance for design or construction of a project and they will act as facilitators and advisors for suggesting possible funding partners and/or grant programs to apply for. Marty will look further into this grant application to see if we should go forward with it. Marty will also talk to HCRC to look into other fixes for the Agate Beach erosion issues.

Roads- The Road Service Agreement with HCRC for allocating the Section 19 Road Funds not received from HCRC as of yet. Stanton Township expects to receive approx. \$90,000 and partner with the HCRC on a road project for Stanton Township road projects.

Marty will design and send out bid packages to 3 bidders for adjusting Freda Sanitary Manholes at the request of the HCRC. And allocate approx. \$14,000 from the Road Funds account to complete this work next spring. With a possible May start for the project.

The Redridge road sign is missing again. HCRC will install a new sign if Bryan or HCRC can get it ordered. Marty will talk to Bryan and ask him to order new signs, if HCRC does not.

A discussion was held on whether we should move forward with getting a Kenner Dome rink estimate for upgrades and repairs or doing a small bid package job. It was decided that Marty will talk to those that recently upgraded their rinks to see what other options there are before going forward.

Board Member Comments: The Kenner Dome has been having issues with the Public Skating times not being honored. Marty will discuss this with Jarron H, the rink manager, to make sure that Public Skating is being honored when kids/families would like to skate it during that time.

Tina mentioned that the Toivola Fire Department is looking into buying a new laptop, and they have allocated up to \$1,000 for it, and would like to get reimbursed for this once it is bought, and not need to wait until the next board meeting. It was approved to reimburse the payment for the laptop when the receipt is submitted.

Agate Beach Rec Committee- John said that the revenue for this year's campers was between \$17,000-\$18,000. Also the water sampling tests are now done year round (4 times a year) to help keep the campground open longer into the fall.

Stanton VFD- Anthony said they purchased a new truck for the Redridge Firehall for \$40,000. It is a 1994 Spencer GMC Pumper Tanker, 1500 gallon truck and will be getting shipped up. Also one member is finishing up fire training and will be getting her firefighters gear ordered soon. There was a quote done for new lighting at the Liminga Fire Department to switch it over to LED lighting, and also may be changing out the ceiling tiles at the fire hall. The department plans to sell their "Old Mac" truck soon. Anthony also mentioned that the Fire Department is always looking for new members. The two Stanton Fire Departments will keep the Fire Departments as they are, and not combine them into one department.

Toivola VFD- Garry said that one guy is interested in becoming a First Responder. The Toivola Fire Department is looking into installing an exhaust system for the Firehall to be able run the fire trucks in the building safely. The pagers/radios are ordered and on their way.

Freda Sewer- Jim said that the 18 year old system is going strong, and has processed and pumped out 16,501,230 gallons of gray water to date!

Public Comment- John M mentioned that the Agate Beach boat launch has not received a grant. Grant ideas were discussed. John will look into other grants to fix the boat launch and he will also talk to a DNR officer about it.

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

Amended budget changes - 01/07/2026

Stanton Township Funds April 2025-March 2026

EXPENSE

Code:	Title:	Change:
<u>General Fund</u>		
101 Legislative		
101-802	Contractual Services	\$5,000 up to \$7,500
262 Elections		
262-734	Election Contract Maintenance	\$200 up to \$1,230
265 Building And Grounds		
265-920	Utilites	\$500 up to \$800
265-930	Repairs and Maintenance	\$5,000 up to \$7,000
<u>Fire Fund Pct#1 Liminga</u>		
342 O.C. Exp.		
342-862	Fuel/Vehicle	\$1,000 up to \$2,000
<u>Sewer Fund</u>		
Expense		
850	Telephone	\$0 up to \$222