

Stanton Township Board

February 04, 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, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from January 07, 2026. Mark **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

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

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

Lori went over the April 2025-March 2026 budget and the board agreed to amend a number of items. See attached for amendments.

Stanton Twp's Truth in Taxation public meeting was held prior to this meeting today at 5:30 pm.

The 2026 Board of Review meeting dates have been set as follows:

- Organizational Meeting - March 03, Starting at 3:00pm
- First Meeting - March 09, at 2:00pm-5:00pm & 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Second Meeting - March 10, at 9:00am- 3:00pm.

Payment was received from GLFC on 1/13/26 for Barr Eng Invoice #17 for \$24,912.90 for the RedRidge Dam. Invoice #18 will go to MDSO in Q1 of 2026. Payment for Invoice #19 for \$20,024.50 was approved.

The 2026 Poverty Exemption and Asset Test Guidelines was presented. Lori **motioned** to adopt Resolution 2026-01 for the 2026 Poverty Exemption and Asset Test Guidelines. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved** on a **Roll Call Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays**

OPUS Web is working on getting our new website up and running. Tina presented the board with images on what the new website will look like. One option for the Main Page is to have multiple photos rotating through, instead of one photo. The board asked the public to send in, to any of the board members, any new photos from around Stanton Township that would be suitable for this feature.

Final documentation and closeout for ARPA expenditures can't be wrapped up until the US Treasury program invites us, via email notice, according to the MTA article. The ARPA funds were spent on road work with the HCRC last year.

Lori, Mary and Marty have connected with Nick Djerf at the Twp Hall, in his new position as the Stanton Twp Assessor. He is getting an estimate and time frame established for incorporating GIS parcel Identification linked to the Twp website, and is working in conjunction with Calumet Twp to bring the cost down. His assessors work has started, and he is justifying parcel valuations and adding parcel info that may have been missing or needing updating. Chuck has been helping with the transitioning.

Marty and OHM are moving forward with resubmitting the MNRTF grant for Hemlock Springs when the window opens. Marty is working on Resolution 2026-02, committing the 30% Township participation to \$145,000, to be adopted at next month's meeting. Along with having the required open comment period during that meeting.

No word on selection or award yet for RTA (Rural & Tribal Assistance) Grant request to USDOT for communities for up to \$500,000.00 for road design services for the CFP road grant. No match required for this grant.

No word yet on the CFP Grant Award from Bergman's Office. Congress is still working on approving the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) spending bill.

Stanton Twp's Freda Honor roll parcel ownership/access litigation mediation was attended by Marty in Marquette which was held on Jan 21, 2026. It is suggested by the Twp Attorney that we may need to provide an Engineers opinion of stability of the road for vehicular traffic on the current easement. The road may need some upgrading or work to stabilize it. Waiting for an actual directive from the Attorney before going forward. Lori thanked Marty for his time he is putting into this.

The board reviewed the Green Timber (Stanton Twp forest manager) Timber cutting proposals for Ball Field and Agate Beach parcels. Marty **motioned** to approve both proposals. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Marty will meet with HCRC in the spring to review any improvements to the ditching at Agate Beach to minimize the shore erosion problems.

Roads- Waiting on a Road Service Agreement with HCRC for allocating the Section 19 Road Funds. This will not come until Stanton Twp/HCRC receive official notice from MSP for the actual funding award. Stanton Twp is to receive approx. \$90,000 & partner with the HCRC on a road project.

The board reviewed and approved sending out Construction bid packages to a minimum of 3 bidders for adjusting Freda Sanitary Manholes. This bidding is by invite only. With a June start date for the project and to be completed by September 12th.

HCRC ordered the new Redridge Road sign and will install it when it is received.

Marty and Mark will go in the next few weeks to review the Kenner Dome for work for a spring time project to fix end boards and fencing, as well as look at rink boards for hazards.

WUPPDR is looking for a composting site in Stanton Township to purchase.

Board Member Comments: None

Agate Beach Rec Committee- None

Stanton VFD- Anthony said the new truck is at the Redridge Firehall and their "Old Mac" truck is at John's to get ready for auction. A possible MMF class may be held in Chassell in the spring. A new air exchanger was put into the Liminga Fire Hall. He also brought up that the street names in Redridge and Freda have very similar names, which make responding to an emergency challenging. It was suggested to possibly change the names of some streets to eliminate this. Marty will check with Roy Britz for input.


Toivola VFD- None

Freda Sewer- Jim said there have been no clogs and it's working good, with it pumping up to 800-1,000 gallons a day with more flow on cold days.

Public Comment- Kathy asked what Hemlock Springs was in case there was a callout for emergency services. Marty explained the recent Township purchase of the 32 acres on Coles Creek Road to eventually be a new park in Stanton Township.

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

Amended budget changes - 02/04/2026

Stanton Township Funds April 2025-March 2026

EXPENSE

Code:	Title:	Change:
<u>General Fund</u>		
215 Clerks		
215-803	Dues and Memberships	\$100 up to \$200
265 Building And Grounds		
265-804	Plowing	\$3,000 up to \$7,000
751 Kenner Dome		
751-804	Plowing	\$1,500 up to \$3,000
756 Toivola Rec Center		
756-921	Toivola Rec Center Electric	\$1,500 up to \$2,200
<u>Fire Fund Pct#1 Liminga</u>		
336 Fire Protection		
978	Vehicles/Apparatus	\$20,000 up to \$42,500
342 O.C. Exp.		
342-730	Operating Supplies	\$1,000 up to \$1,400
342-802	Plowing/Snow	\$3,000 up to \$5,000