

Mark Halkola, Supervisor
Christa Gardner, Clerk
Christina Gardner, Treasurer
Don Wareham, Trustee
Aaron Janke, Trustee



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2025, 6:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on July 9, 2025, at 6:39 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Christina Gardner, and Don Wareham. Absent was Aaron Janke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Wareham, to approve the agendas presented. AVIF

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Christa Gardner, to accept the minutes from July 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes. AVIF

Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Wareham to approve the financial reports for: General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC Utility, and OT utility funds. AVIF

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Christa Gardner for payment of the bills: General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC utility, and OT utility funds. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:49 PM. Mr. Klein questioned the TLASA payments vs. the bills that were paid out. Wondering about a FOIA request that he had from February, still hasn't had it completed. Also mentioned that he had attempted to meet with the clerk previously and that the board could make sure that there was office hours set. Ms. Odgers offered that she was approached by someone regarding a check for June that wasn't cashed in a timely fashion and requested that the clerk hold office hours that are predictable. Hugh Hosafros wanted to thank Scott regarding the repairs at Pioneer Park of the statue that had been damaged. Public Comment closed at 6:56 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: No report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: No action items.
- d. DBVFD: No report submitted.
- e. TCVFD: Written report submitted. Steve Klein, Fire Chief, gave an additional verbal report. Can't have an informed discussion about late payments, hasn't gotten copies of bills since February. Asked about paying taxes on utility bills. The monthly report for the fire fund needs it prior to their monthly meeting. Asked about an extra loan payment budgeted for the building loan. Questioned dividend checks distribution from insurance; should receive a share of the amount. This year the fire fund monies were not received until the month of May; wondered why. He said he sends read requests for emails and they don't get responded to. The hydrants were not flushed as requested, to ensure that they were working.
- f. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted. Question about the MI Rural Water Association.
- g. TLASA: Written report submitted.
- h. NHCWSA: No report submitted. Spoke with them, Dollar Bay is on the schedule to have our drains emptied prior to the end of summer or early September.
- i. Community Compost Site: No report submitted.

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- j. Supervisor report: Talked with Mary Sears from Franklin Township about the sewer line from the Ripley line to Dollar Bay. She contacted the Coast Guard about the interest level on their part; it was indicated that it needs to go up the chain of command. There is also an issue of people that have built houses between Ripley and Dollar Bay that have septic tanks that need to be considered as well. Our interest would be if indeed Franklin Township is planning on seeking an extension. Meeting with township attorney next week Wednesday. Blight plans will be reviewed by township attorney. First part will be done by the end of August, with a focus on garbage or junk cars in the first and second precincts. Vet ad hoc committee is meeting next week, looking at the cannon repair, pavers project will be discussed, and vet banners coming down. Met with John Cima at the Houghton County Road Commission about several issues. Mr. Cima will be attending the township board meeting in Tamarack City in October to update the board on future plans.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Water Project – updated at the Utility Board meeting.
- b. UPPCO Street Light Project, Phase 3 – update – conversations with Dave Paananen at UPPCO, but not recently. Additional lights are to be added in Tamarack City. Possibility of changing the light at the boat launch at Sandy Bottom to an UPPCO pole, removing the township pole.
- c. Special Meeting – Franklin Township sewer idea – update – discussed under the supervisor’s report.

Tabled Business:

- a. Town Hall Meetings – leave on table

New Business:

- a. Wuebben Construction – offer – There was serious damage done on the road at the sand pit. Wuebben Construction gave an offer to repair the road and culvert. Additional bids are being asked for. Ask for a minimal bid from Wuebben.
- b. Tamarack City Park resident request – Resident has requested use of the basketball court on Wednesdays from 1PM – 3PM for pickle ball. They have a portable set up, would put it down, play for two hours, and take it off once done. Motion by Wareham, supported by Christina Gardner to use the TC Park basketball court on Wednesdays from 1PM-3PM with portable equipment for pickle ball, as indicated in the letter from Keith Zerbst as presented. AVIF

Trustee Janke arrived at 7:42 PM.

Additional discussion about pickle ball courts within the township (Dollar Bay) was also had.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:47 PM. Judy Odgers has a question about the minutes on the website. Also inquired how to get the township financials. Commented about Copper Shores offering grants for things like pickle ball. Jim Siira mentioned that Copper Shores has a grant available to apply by August 27. Franklin Township had a garbage issue, and they will be contacting the health department, and he shared that it could be done here too for any garbage issues. Public comment closed at 7:50 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to adjourn at 7:50 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Osceola Township office Board Room.