

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2025, 6:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on September 10, 2025, at 6:48 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Christina Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wareham, supported by Christa Gardner, to approve the agenda, removing item c. Water/Sewer tie-in – Mason, and instead changing it to c. Expansion of Utility Building at Pump House. AVIF

Motion by Janke, supported by Christa Gardner, to accept the minutes from August 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes; and August 29, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. AVIF

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

Motion by Janke, 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 6:55 PM. Steve Klein dropped off a letter and wondered if it would be discussed. Two letters regarding the FOIA request and one regarding the TC Fire Department. Has not received anything regarding the remaining documents. Public Comment closed at 6:58 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted. Mr. Janke questioned the vandalism at the beach, and this is going to be addressed with emergency communications to include cameras for the beach, parks, etc.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: Motion by Wareham, supported by Christina Gardner to approve up to \$400 in expenditures for Jim Siira to attend the MI Rural Water Association conference splitting the cost 50/50 with Franklin Township. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham, to approve in principle Mr. Bradway's request to tie in to the Mason sewer system, and Osceola Township water system for up to four residences, with details to be worked out during the negotiation process.

- d. DBVFD: No report submitted.
- e. TCVFD: Written report submitted. Mr. Klein sent the board a letter. Reiterated the points in his letter.
- f. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted. Followed up with additional questions that were brought up at the meeting.
- g. TLASA: Written report submitted.
- h. NHCWSA: No report submitted. We are on the list for the drains in Dollar Bay to be vac'd out.
- i. Community Compost Site: Written report submitted. We were not approved for the most recent funding applied for.
- j. Supervisor report: John Cima from the Houghton County Road Commission was going to attend the township board meeting in October, but has a conflict. He is scheduled to attend the December meeting. September 2nd Mr. Halkola and Mr. Klein attended a meeting regarding a plan for a new building for emergency/EMT in the Hubbell/Lake Linden area, which was originally rendered to include Tamarack City Fire Department.

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Motion by Wareham, supported by Christina Gardner, to not pursue the offer for TCFD to be included in their current plan at this time. AVIF

Sand Pit Road has been repaired by Wuebben. Vet ad-hoc committee will meet on the 22nd of September. Additional information about the brick pavers in the packet. Vet banners are coming down for the season. Dredge meeting is on the 25th of September. Members are seeking letters of support to include in a grant proposal. Mr. Janke brought up a desire for the township to seek grants for different areas like our dog park, Sandy Bottom, etc. Earned sick time act will affect the township, seemingly only the hourly employees. Additional information is being sought. Road commission work is complete. Mr. Halkola has requested additional road brushing and other work when their equipment is available. Discussion about pooling of water on Elm Avenue. Audit is being worked on. Traverse Engineering request on contingency plans for the water system has not been given an estimate yet. There is a bill in the House that is talking about statutory revenue sharing, and they are looking at eliminating it for the townships. Mr. Halkola will be out of town from the 12th - 20th of September.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Water Project – updated at the Utility Board meeting.
- b. UPPCO Street Light Project, Phase 3 – update – Mr. Halkola is working with Dave Paananen at UPPCO about the lights being considered for Phase 3. On east side of Dollar Bay, the utility lines are in the alleys, leaving no place to hang lights, unless we hang a pole. Seeking alternatives/solutions.
- c. ~~Water/Sewer tie in Mason request discussed from the Utility meeting.~~ Expansion of Utility Building at Pump House – Discussion on seeking a proposal to extend the utility building, to get the items that are sitting outside, inside.

Tabled Business:

- a. Town Hall Meetings – leave on table

New Business:

- a. Township budget amendments – Nearing end of second quarter. Desiring a Special Meeting/Work Session on Budget Amendments. Special Meeting/Work Session set for October 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM.
- b. Julio Offer – buoy trailer – Need to look into who had the ownership of the trailer initially. It was thought perhaps the township owned it. Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham, to explore ownership and determine ownership, and if it is not owned by Osceola Township, to pay Larry Julio the offer of \$1,500 for the buoy trailer. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:56 PM. Derek Bradway questioned which building was being discussed under item c. – unfinished business. Questioned whether the township has considered selling the land by the dredge. Looking at potential four hookups to water/sewer in Mason. Steve Klein questioned what funds would money come from regarding discussions at the meeting (trailer, building expansion). Asked about a building over the vault at the Tamarack City pump house. Wondered who is going to be here during office hours next week in Mark's absence. Mentioned that the TCVFD members are against the idea of the building in Hubbell/Lake Linden area. Public comment closed at 8:05 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Janke, supported by Christina Gardner to adjourn at 8:05 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall.