

## Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St., Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amos at 9:00 am. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.

**Present:** Supervisor Dorance Amos, Clerk Debbie Husband, Treasurer Kelly Jensen, Trustee Richard Hults and Trustee Matt Soper.

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Thad Morgan, Creston Scheel, and audience members.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Public Comments:** No public comment. Representative John Roth spoke on economic development and budget proposal legislation that is being discussed. Representative Roth plans on asking for 10-20 million dollars for the growth of Northern Michigan infrastructure in the next budget. United We Smile was a project that he did receive funding for last budget that provides dental services for veterans and children with special needs. Roth also was proud of the award that Michigan received for being the only state that decreased their budget. Antrim County should see an increase in road budget funding next year. Ice storm damage payments are still in the process of being paid as well as many other services. Short Term Rental fees are being discussed that would be managed by the State.

3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda MOTION/S: Hults/Jensen** to approve the agenda as presented. All voting Yes. No 0. **MOTION APPROVED.**

4. **Consent Agenda:**

- A. November 10, 2025 - Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. Zoning Report.
- C. Treasurers Report.
- D. Paying of the Bills.

**MOTION/S: Soper/Jensen** to Approve the consent agenda. **Roll call Vote:** Hults Yes, Soper Yes, Jensen Yes, Amos Yes, Husband Yes. **MOTION APPROVED.**

5. **Sewer Update:** Treasurer Kelly Jensen presented payments have been disbursed of over payment of funds held as the North Bayshore sewer project came in under budget. Milton Township sewer that is serviced by Elk Rapids is now past the 5-year period and members Jensen and Husband will be meeting with Milton Township to discuss hook up participation.

6. **Resolution 2025-16: Motion/S: Jensen/Amos** to support Resolution 2025-16 to collect summer tax payments for the Elk Rapids School District for \$3.00 per parcel. **Roll Call Vote:** Soper Yes, Jensen Yes, Amos Yes, Husband Yes, Hults Yes. **MOTION APPROVED.**

7. **Resolution 2025-17:** Supervisor Amos described the resolution regarding the Board making decisions base on many factors when considering a Special Assessment District. Also, the fact that the Board can decide not to do a district if it so chooses. No action will be taken until next meeting.

8. **Zoning Ordinance Amendment 2025-1:** Zoning Administrator Scheel discussed the amendment that will require the applicant to supply 10 copies of plans to the Board for their review, eliminating the expense to the Township. **Motion/S: Amos/ Soper** to support the Zoning Ordinance Amendment presented by the Zoning Board of Appeals, supported by the County to amend the requirements of applicants. **Roll Call Vote:** Amos Yes, Husband Yes, Hults Yes, Soper Yes, Jensen Yes. **MOTION APPROVED.**

9. **Sheriff/Commissioner Report:** Sheriff Hoch gave update on area incidents. Commissioner Hefferon mentioned his next County Board meeting will be December 18, 2025, and the first meeting will be January 5<sup>th</sup> of the New Year. Rates for ACT will be increased by \$1.00, hoping to make it self-sufficient. County has made agreement with Elk Rapids DDA using a 2024 Base Rate, maximum of 3% increase and \$50,000 cap. District Sanitary Code is changing to aid enforcement of violators.
10. **Ambulance MMR report/Fire Department:** Fire Chief Williamson said MMR is still working on getting reports to him. Chief gave his report of incidents in the area. Truck has a few items to be installed yet. Training hours have been paid, and retirement benefits will be deposited in the next few weeks. Starting new online training to stay certified remotely. Budget with the Fire Board will begin at their next meeting. Santa took a ride on the fire truck to visit downtown. Drone will have thermal imaging camera as well as a speaker to communicate with victims. Just waiting on letter for operation license.
11. **Cemetery Committee:** Costs have increased since the last estimates. The committee discussed priorities of getting more water accessibility points through the cemetery, cleanup of brush and debris, and creating a better map of roads to identify mapping for water, future burial sites, and possible columbarium. Fencing and gates also would provide a boundary that the committee feels would enhance the security of the cemetery. Amos presented a bid from Carl Steuer Excavating to begin cleanup of areas. Treasurer Jensen is investing the funds from the sale of the Old Town Hall and will be accessible when needed after the winter/spring season to complete some larger needed items. **Motion/ S:** to approve up to \$50,000 for the improvements discussed to begin the process. **Roll call Vote:** Husband Yes, Hults Yes, Soper Yes, Jensen Yes, Amos Yes. **MOTION APPROVED.** Supervisor Amos will reach out to Nancy Baker to help promote the new projects.
12. **Road Evaluation:** Townline Road is being discussed to get a chip seal to help with the maintenance of the road. It will need a little side work in addition. Possible sharing with Whitewater Township was pursued by Supervisor Amos as well as the Grand Traverse County. Future talks will occur. **Motion/ S: Soper/Hults:** to move forward with working with Grand Traverse County, and Whitewater Township for road repair on Townline Road. **Vote: all voting in favor Yes 5, Nay 0. MOTION APPROVED**
13. **Attorney Report:** T. Morgan will be putting together a road agreement with other entities for the Board to consider. Anonymous correspondence that was received by the Board should not be considered in his opinion.
14. **Township Board Announcements and Correspondence:** Supervisor Amos spoke with the Tart Trail Committee restating the support of the trail however the financial support would need to be limited due to our financial commitments. Tax tribunals are also still ongoing.

**Adjourned: 10:41 am.**

Debbie Husband Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333

Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting