

Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2026

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, Trustee Richard Hults and Trustee Matt Soper.

Absent: Treasurer Kelly Jensen.

Also Present: Attorney Thad Morgan, and audience members.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comments:** None.
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda MOTION/S: Hults/Soper** to approve the agenda as presented. All voting Yes. No 0. Jensen is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. January 12, 2026 Board Meeting.
 - B. Zoning Report.
 - C. Treasurers Report.
 - D. Prepaid Bills.
 - E. Paying of the Bills.

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

5. **Sheriff/Commissioner Report:** Sheriff Hoch gave update on apprehension with the assistance of the canine unit Zeke. Sheriff Hoch also reported the efficiency of the Flock camera in a recent suspect location. Coat and Hat Drive is still active and still needing donations, especially youth sizes. They can be dropped off at the Fire Department. Dispatcher positions are available at the Sheriff's Office. Substation in the Township will be staffed with an additional officer soon. Safety building design is in final stages before groundbreaking which should begin at the end of this year or beginning of 2027.
6. **Ambulance MMR report/Fire Department:** Staff and call report was presented. The old tanker was sold for \$57,000. Fire Board approved the 2026-2027 budget, and it will be discussed at the Budget workshop tomorrow with the Township Board. New officers were elected. Deputy Chief Vince Cooper, Captain Joe Fischer, Lieutenant Kyle Clark, and Zack Strine is training Coordinator. Rick Whisler was awarded "Firefighter of Year for 2025".
7. **Nakewama Trail:** Supervisor Amos discussed the desire from the Nakewama Trailway system for financial support as well as the public support that was given last year, to assist the TAP grant process. This support would be a one-time commitment for Phase I from Townline Road up to North Bayshore. This is the only part of the trail system at this time that would be in the Township. The entire system in this area is in the MDOT right of way. Future phases could include a section to Maple Bay Park and Natural Area. Discussion included any monies that are contributed, should the project not move forward, would be returned to the entity. Hults stated we would not have a long-term contract. **MOTION/S: Amos/Soper:** Motion to support Nakewama Trail with a \$1,000 one-time support for grant and no longtime commitment to maintenance or liability. There was discussion by Soper regarding financial commitment. Husband discussed the future of the trail being the start of a larger system was a desirable feature. Husband would also like to keep the option open for future support with a small park and recreation budget once the project is in use. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Soper Yes, Amos Yes, Husband Yes, Hults Yes. Jensen is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

8. **Sewer Rate increase.** Treasurer Jensen has provided the Board with projected income from the funds that support the sewer fund. She previously discussed the increase of \$1.00 with Brad Muma of Performance Engineering and is confident that the amount will support future needs. Husband commented that the cost is in line with the area averages. Amos commented that getting the reserve built is important. **MOTION/S: Husband/Amos.** Motion to adopt **Resolution 2026-2** Elk Rapids Township Sewer Use and Rate as presented. Roll Call Vote: Amos Yes, Husband Yes, Hults Yes, Soper Yes. Jensen is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.** Milton Township Sewer compliance discussion included the background of over 5 years ago the Maple Harbor Sewer project included Milton Township up to the Oasis Tavern. Milton Township has been contacted to present the non-compliance of the State mandatory 18-month window for a property to hook up to an available public sewer. Attorney Thad Morgan has suggested that Elk Rapids Township reach out EGLE, Milton Township and residents to help with enforcement of the still unconnected properties. Attorney Morgan will draft a letter to aid in the cross jurisdictional issue. **MOTION/S: Husband/Amos.** Motion to have Attorney Morgan draft letter to help enforce compliance of Milton Township Sewer system connections by writing letters to Milton Township residents, Milton Township Board and EGLE. Roll Call Vote: Husband Yes, Hults Yes, Soper Yes, Amos Yes. Jensen is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.** Hults mentioned the sewer grant that was discussed at a meeting with Representative John Roth had a deadline and Amos agreed that Jean Derenzy will follow up and make sure the Township gets an update.
9. **Cemetery Update:** Supervisor Amos described the work being done at the cemetery to clean up the east side of the property. One complaint was received about the smoke from the burning. Also, the easement for a irrigation line that was donated by Ellen Welch area was cleaned. Amos thanked Ms. Welch for the past donation stating it is the only way to safely irrigate the cemetery without staining the headstones. There will be dead tree removal occurring pending weather conditions. For the present time, main water lines extension will be a focus, also grounds cleanup. Future plans will include irrigation and ground leveling. Sexton Shugart had agreed to work with the contractors in coordinating the work. Amos thanked the Stuer Excavating crew for their donation of many hours of work on their invoice. Ellen Welch resident behind the cemetery, complimented the work crew but suggested a letter to close neighbors letting them know work was going to be taking place. A green belt of evergreen trees was discussed to perhaps border the East boundary of the cemetery. There will be additional work needed, and Spring will be a time to evaluate our next steps. Discussion about hours will be continued.
10. **Township Board Announcements:** Budget workshop is cancelled for today. Rescheduled for Tuesday at 10:00 am due to an emergency. March Board of Review is March 9th 3pm- 9pm, and March 10th 9am – 3pm. Supervisor Amos suggested trying to make the first day to allow time if further information needed. County Road Commission will be working on Townline Road maintenance and also Cairn Highway this spring. Mr. Morgan will be finishing up the drone Certificate of Authorization. Trustee Hults reported the library plans are close for proposals. Planning Commission meeting today that will be attended by Trustee Soper, agenda includes naming roads at the Townline Storage project.

Adjourned: 10:15 am.

Debbie Husband Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333
Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting