

Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, April 13, 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 Deb Husband, Treasurer Kelly Jensen, and Trustee Richard Hults. Matt Soper is absent.

Also Present: Attorney Morgan, Commissioner Hefferan, Chief Williamson, Village President Stephenson, and 1 member signed in as audience.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comments:** None.
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Jensen/Hults** to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION APPROVED.
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. March 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
 - B. March 9, 2026 Budget Public Hearing Minutes.
 - C. Treasurer's Report.
 - D. Paying of the Bills.

MOTION/S: Hults/Husband to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Hults, Jensen, Amos, and Husband all voting Yes, 0 No. Soper is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

5. **Sheriff/Commission Report:** B. Hefferan presented the Board with taxable value report from the County, and safety center update. The Commissioner reported that the SAD districts for the repair of the dams are still underway, discussion from Amos to possibly separate the two to move forward with the Elk Rapids spillway repair was presented. Tom Stephenson presented the status of the Village monitoring the integrity of the spillway. The severe rain encountered the last few days has created storm drain issues that the Village has been pumping lift stations to avoid any issues. Amos presented concerns to the Commissioner to pursue options to move forward to get the repair of the spillway underway. 70% of the people affected by the lower SAD live in Antrim County. Townships could apply for funding for Flock cameras from the Sheriff's Department.
6. **Ambulance Department:** MMR February report was presented by Chief Williamson.
7. **Fire Department:** Chief Williamson reported he is working on his drone license. The notice for public road access was published, and he has had communications with property owners regarding their responsibilities. Harbor Days Committee has applied for the fireworks permit. The Fire Department supported a Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics. The new Training Officer has been busy and generator maintenance has been performed.
8. **Great Lakes Energy Ordinance 2026-1. MOTION/S: Husband/Jensen.** To approve the franchise ordinance as presented for a period of ten years of Great Lakes Energy. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults all voting Yes, 0 No Soper is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**
9. **Cemetery Update:** Water main bids were received and presented by Brad Muma of Performance Engineering. 4 Bids were received. Muma suggested that the Board consider the lowest bid by Matt's Underground in the amount of \$48,250.00 for the main installation. They have done work in the Township previously. The system is to be completed by Memorial Day. Amos wanted to recognize Tim Brugger of Michigan Pipe & Valve that has made a generous donation of the main pipe for the project valued at \$9,000. Also, Carl Stuer has provided approximately \$7,220 in services at no charge to help the Township out with the project. **MOTION/S: Amos/Husband.** To move forward and award the bid

to Matt's Underground for installation of water main according to bid specifications. Roll Call Vote: Amos, Husband, Hults, and Jensen, all voting Yes, 0 No Soper is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.** Discussion was held concerning the future of incorporating GIS into the cemetery records for a digital permanent visual record.

- 10. Insurance Policy Update:** Treasurer Jensen reported that the policy had a 5% increase, drone coverage was added to the Fire Policy, and Herth building was removed last fall. Township will be invoicing the Village for the shared expense per the Government Shared Building agreement.
- 11. Zoning Administrator:** Creston Scheel announced that he is stepping away from the position but his business partner, his father, Jonathan Scheel will be fulfilling his contract as written. Jonathon Scheel has over 25 years of experience and is familiar with many of the existing situations. Larry Nix will still be available for consultation when needed. The senior Scheel will be maintaining the same days and hours as Creston. Jonathan Scheel addressed the Board and expressed he feels comfortable stepping into the role.
- 12. Attorney Report:** Thad Morgan updated the Board on the Milton Township sewer compliance issue. After 5 years the Elk Rapids Township would like to notify the residents of the situation but expect Milton Township for enforcement as stated in the signed agreement. If the Milton Township Attorney does not respond and send the notice, Elk Rapids Township will send their notice. Morgan feels the ownness is on Milton Township and the Elk Rapids Township is not responsible for the noncompliance. Burnette Foods has been planning on bringing a sewer line back into the Village from a Township property after waste remediation to become property of the Township. Discussion of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village should be drawn up to designate the trunk as Township infrastructure. Morgan brought mention of several house bills in the works. Tax Tribunal matter of Huntington Bank is still pending. State Land Division Act update is to promote land division from 4 splits to 10 splits per acre. It will be fully effective in March 2027. Zoning and Planning suggesting informing any affected landowner of this.
- 13. Township Board Announcements and Correspondence.** None.

Adjourned: 10:36 am

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