

## Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, May 11, 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, Trustee Richard Hults and Trustee Matt Soper.

**Also Present:** Attorney Morgan, Commissioner Hefferan, Chief Williamson, Sheriff Hoch, Village President Stephenson, Dam Operator Leslie Meyers and 2 signed in as audience.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comments:** None.
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Hults/Jensen** to approve the agenda as presented.  
**MOTION APPROVED.**
4. **Consent Agenda:**
  - A. April 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.
  - B. Treasurer's Report.
  - C. Paying of the Bills.

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

5. **Sheriff/Commission Report:** Sheriff Hoch gave monthly incident report, updating that the deputy candidates have passed licensing and they now have a full staff. The County will be using the LEAP system which will help enforcement officers to recognize autistic individuals when there is interaction. Community Mental Health has a grant opportunity to help provide an officer that will specialize with mental health issues and individuals. Sheriff Hoch mentioned the ongoing scams that continue in the area that are fraudulently taking large sums of money. Commissioner Hefferan mentioned leadership changes in the building code department, and Meadowbrook. Ballot language was approved for the 911 millage and the recycle bins contract is due this year. Construction on the Safety Building could begin this fall or next Spring.
6. **Spillway Repair and Lake Level Control.** Leslie Meyers from the County has communicated with Grand Traverse County for support on the proposed Special Assessment District of the Whitewater Township residents that is affected by the spillway. Dividing the SAD of the Bellaire Dam repair, and the lower waterway spillway, which only will include funding for lake level control. This project area is roughly 24 feet by 80 feet. The smaller repair of the Elk Rapids Spillway on Dexter Street will not include any other structural renovations. Cost estimates are needed and have slowed the process. Leaders from Milton Township, the Village of Elk Rapids, and the Township of Elk Rapids with Antrim County are in the process of agreeing to a memorandum of understanding that will assist the analysis of repair cost so that Antrim County and Grand Traverse County can move forward on setting the Special Assessment Districts of the lower waterway. Antrim County will provide \$50,000 toward the analysis and each other entity will contribute \$22,633.33 toward the total cost. This amount will be applied to each district's portion of the SAD that they will be responsible for once the special district is set. No entity is exempt from the Special Assessment District that has access to the water, and more weight will be put on the larger users. Moving forward now might make the 2027 winter tax roll. Properties that are affected are in the range of 6,000 and rough cost estimates are up to \$8,000,000. With those rough estimates per portion would be around \$1,000-\$1,500. Meyers wants to assure property owners that the length of the assessment will be determined at a later date. Amos commented that the report of the status of the spillway is it needs to be repaired within 2 years and this was

confirmed by Village President Stephenson. Lake Level Order needs to include the additional rivers and lakes of Torch River Torch Lake, Clam River and Clam Lake and rivers connecting to Bellaire.

**MOTION/S: Amos/Soper:** To move forward to approve \$22,633.33 for the Memorandum of Understanding between Antrim County, the Village of Elk Rapids, Elk Rapids Township and Milton Township to fund an Alternatives Analysis Study for Rehabilitation of the Elk Rapids Spillway. Roll Call Vote: Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband, and Hults all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

7. **Ambulance Department:** MMR April report was presented by Chief Williamson.
8. **Fire Department:** Chief Williamson reported on mask fit testing, and Fire Board budget revisions. Chief mentioned he would like to participate in the LEAP program the Sheriff outlined as they also deal with individuals that may require additional training. Pay frequency for training will need to be changed to monthly. Drone training has been taking place. Fire Station Building will be getting some maintenance and repairs in the future months.
9. **Elk Rapids District Library Annual Report:** Pam Williams presented Annual Report of the Elk Rapids/Milton Township Library District with impressive statistics on showing the additional space is warranted. 2026 plans were outlined and diagrams of the new space were presented. Construction will begin in June and should be about 10 months. Phase I is fully funded. Updated floor plans were presented, which included community space that will be available for taxpayers' use.
10. **Milton Township Sewer Update:** Jensen mentioned the letter from Milton Township was sent out and Milton has given the property owners until August 31 to become compliant with their sewer ordinance. Jensen mentioned that we need to update our resolution to include the increase of fees that will occur when owners are not connected within the state mandated time frame.
11. **Grand Traverse Road Commission:** Supervisor Amos has been working with Grand Traverse County Road Commission to repair Townline Road as a partner. Each county is responsible for half of the road. **MOTION/S:** To approve up to \$55,000 on Townline Road improvements with Grand Traverse County Road Commission. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, and Soper all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**
12. **Cemetery Update:** Amos mentioned that the Cemetery Committee will meet on May 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss future items such as ground leveling and decorative fencing. Over 500 Veteran Flags will be placed over the memorial weekend. Rotary has planned their EPIC Day of Service to clean headstones in the Maple Grove Cemetery for May 16<sup>th</sup>. The new water main is functioning and many new additional water spickets are placed throughout the property.
13. **Attorney Report:** Tax Tribunal with Huntington Bank is ongoing with values
14. **Township Board Announcements and Correspondence.** Delinquent personal property taxes are still being collected, building landscaping and lighting will be addressed when we have some estimates from Trustee Hults.

**Adjourned: 10:39 am**

---

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