

Elk Rapids Township Regular Meeting Minutes, September 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: Commissioner Hefferan, T. Morgan, Creston Scheel and 15 audience members signed in.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Public Comments:** L. Shumate gave update on County Materials Management Survey available. D. Richter, T. Kuffner, H. Richter were unfavorable of the Township supporting the trail. K. Knight, J. Derenzy, B. Guntzviller, M. Conrad and T. Stephenson, Village President, voiced their support of the project and its benefits to the community.
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. August 7, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.
 - B. August 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes.
 - C. August 25, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.
 - D. Zoning Report.
 - E. Treasurers Report.
 - F. 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. **Sheriff/Commissioner Report:** Sheriff Hoch acknowledged the deputies for their continued efforts in drug enforcement. Commissioner Hefferan gave quick update on the safety building election for construction not using any new millage.
6. **Ambulance MMR report:** Most calls were within the desired range of response, the ones that were not will be addressed by the new MMR manager.
7. **Fire Department:** Fire Chief Williamson gave update on staff, arrival of new fire truck expected in October, and water rescue training that was completed. Also, a new Knox Box that will be installed at Alden State Bank.
8. **Nakwema Trailway:** Julie Clark, CEO Tart Trails gave presentation on the TAP grant, Phase I that will be from Townline Road to S. Bayshore. The support they are seeking is for the Village's TAP Grant application. This will be a multi-year project to begin the trail that has been proposed since 2019. The path will be in the MDOT road right of way. The Township has no authority on design or placement of the trail. Supervisor Amos expressed to the audience that Township support resolution does not commit any funds to the project. Trail heads would be provided at each end, and the Phase II will be the next leg going from Townline Road south to Maple Bay as that involves Acme Township.

MOTION/S: Amos/Husband: The Elk Rapids Township Board hereby supports the Village of Elk Rapids in its application to the Michigan Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for the phase I of the Elk Rapids to Maple Bay Segment of the Nakwema Trailway project with no financial responsibility bared by the Township. **Roll Call Vote:** Soper Yes, Jensen Yes, Amos Yes, Husband Yes, Hults Yes. **MOTION and RESOLUTION 2025-13 APPROVED**

9. **Old Town Hall Update:** Escrow funds have been deposited. Supervisor Amos and Trustee D. Hults will work together on closing documents. Amos mentioned we accepted the lesser offer to preserve it as a public

use, non-residential community building. **MOTION/S: Jensen/Soper:** To have D. Amos and D. Hults work on the final closing together. **Vote: all voting YES, NO 0. MOTION APPROVED.**

10. **Appointment of Library Board: MOTION/S:** Soper/Jensen. Dick Hults appointed to the Library Board as Township Representative for a 4-year term expiring February 2029. All voting Yes. No 0. **MOTION APPROVED.**

11. **DDA closed session: MOTION/S:** Husband/ Amos. Motion to recess to a closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State or Federal Statute, specifically a written legal opinion by legal counsel regarding the DDA. The matter discussed is exempt from disclosure under Section 12 (1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act. **Roll Call Vote:** Jensen YES, Amos YES, Husband YES, Hults YES, Soper YES. **MOTION APPROVED.**

10:11 a. m. Moved to Close Session.

10:25 a. m. Return to Open Session.

MOTION/S: Jensen/Hults. Return to Open Session. **Roll Call Vote:** Amos YES, Husband YES, Hults YES, Soper YES, Jensen YES. **MOTION APPROVED.**

RESOLUTION 2025-14

MOTION/S: Husband/Soper. Pursuant to paragraph 2.6 of the Tax Increment Sharing Agreement dated August 5, 2025, the Board Supports the appointment of Dick Hults. Hereby be it resolved: We appoint Trustee Dick Hults as the Township Representative as a voting member to the DDA Board of the Village of Elk Rapids. **Roll Call Vote:** Husband YES, Hults YES, Soper YES, Jensen YES Amos YES. Supervisor Amos declared the **RESOLUTION APPROVED.**

2.6 Township Representative on DDA Board. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreement, the Township Board shall approve by resolution a person to serve as the Township representative on the DDA Board (the "Township Representative"). Within 30 days after the Township resolution approving the Township Representative, the Village Board shall by resolution appoint the Township Representative as a voting member to the DDA Board. It is agreed that the Township Representative shall be appointed in his/her capacity and the Township Board may change the Township Representative by resolution of the Township Board and such person shall automatically succeed as the Township Representative appointed by the Village Board. The Township Representative shall be a voting member of the DDA Board for the duration of capture of Township taxes.

Supervisor Amos inquired as to the background of Trustee Hults with his background in the field. J. Mach supported Hults' appointment and hopes the Council will reconsider.

12. **Attorneys Report:** HB 4706 is being discussed to remove State Revenue Sharing from Townships. More discussion with budget talks will need to be monitored.

13. **Township Board Announcements and Correspondence:** North Bayshore is waiting on final test this week. Surplus funds will not be released until all properties in district are in compliance. Husband has attended a Materials Management Meeting to learn about the County and their move to creating areas of recycling other products to eliminate unnecessary items in the land fill. The Village is applying for a grant to create a community facility that surrounding Townships could support through pay per use fees. It could eliminate the need to store items until seasonal pick-up days are provided. Surveys are available on the website. Hults mentioned library will begin design and construction in the spring. Hoping for completion Spring 2027.

Adjourned: 10:35 am

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

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