TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Eric Schaefer, Supervisor / Laura Bouchard, Treasurer / Kathy Medenblik, Clerk
Curt Campbell, Trustee / Ross DeMaagd, Trustee / David Stanton, Trustee / Sandra Rairigh, Trustee

REGULAR MEETING

April 13, 2026, 7:00 PM
Meeting held at Thornapple Township Hall, 200 E Main St., Middleville, MI 49333

1. INVOCATION

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Roll Call: Present 7 Absent 0	Schaefer Bouchard Campbell	Present Present Present	DeMaagd Stanton Rairigh Medenblik	Present Present Present Present

OTHERS PRESENT:
Catherine Getty, Jon Smelker, Bill Richardson, Collin Chrenka, Steve Shultz, Josh Dross, Janeen Horton
Other Guests: 13

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Bouchard to approve the printed agenda as amended to move the Minutes of the March Board Meeting to Agenda Item D.**
Motion Supported:	Campbell
Motion Status	**Approved** by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Campbell to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.**
Motion Supported:	Stanton
Motion Status	**Approved** by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roll Call:	Stanton DeMaagd	Yes Yes	Campbell Rairigh	Yes Yes	Schaefer Bouchard Medenblik	Yes Yes Yes

6. NOVEMBER CLERK'S REPORT: None

7. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: (Please limit comments to 3 minutes)

- None

8. CORRESPONDENCE: None

9. COUNTY REPORT:

Commissioners Getty and Smelker reported the following activity:
Report on Special March 17 meeting:

- Interviews were held and appointments made to the Mental Health Authority Board, Planning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Report on regular March 24 Board of Commissioners Meeting:

- Approved the Passport Grant for Charleton Park to improve the park, including parking and boat launch access.
- Approved the submission of the Emergency Management Plan.
- Approved the purchase of three police vehicles.
- Authorized the County Administrator to sign the Six Remnant Defendants Opioid Settlement on behalf of Barry County.
- Approved reappointment of Doug Powers and Dan King to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2029.
- Central Dispatch - calls have gone up 50% over the last 10 years.
- Approved submission of a Letter of Intent and application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Stepping Stones Housing project and authorized the County Administrator to sign all necessary documents.

Mr. Schaefer thanked the Commissioners for their report.

10. RESERVED TIME:

1. **Steve Shultz, Bloomingdale Communications (fiber to home internet provider)**

Also present: Josh Dross, Director of Plant Operations; Janeen Horton, Assistant General Manager.
Steve Shultz reported that this is a 50% Loan-50% Grant Project of approximately 6 million dollars to provide fiber to home service around (but not in) Middleville. Environmental and historical approval has been received. Next steps are being set in place. They are planning for 160 (tentative) construction days (not weekends or holidays) with a tentative start date of June 6. The construction contractor is Turnkey Network Solutions, a trusted local contractor. Potential customers will be contacted door-to-door.
Mr. Schultz reports that it is good news that the project is now ready to get underway.

2. **Bill Richardson, Chrenka Promotion**

Collin Chrenka has been promoted to Captain. Chief Richardson states that Collin Chrenka is a valuable fire officer and paramedic. The pinning ceremony was completed by Collin's wife, Melissa.

Mr. Schaefer extends congratulations to Collin Chrenka.

11. Emergency Services Report:

a. Chief's Run Report Summary:

- Today is the first day of taking over EMS services for Caledonia.
- Last month there were 254 calls for service; out-the-door time was 54 seconds.
- Response time in the township was 6 min. 55 seconds; outside of the township was 10 min. 26 seconds.
- 5 structure fires in the last month; 2 motor vehicle accidents.
- Fire School ends in June; EMT School starts in June.

- Rutland Township and Yankee Springs Township will continue with TTES for the next 3 years.
- The CAD system has been integrated into our ambulances.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Handbook

Background: The employee handbook and changes to accrual for employees were approved in 2025. These changes were not formally implemented. This request is to accept the changes to the handbook.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Campbell to approve these changes to the handbook effective April 13, 2026.**
Motion Supported:	Stanton
Motion Status	**Approved** by roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roll Call:	DeMaagd Campbell	Yes Yes	Medenblik Rairigh Schaefer	Yes Yes Yes	Stanton Bouchard	Yes Yes

B. Resolution 06-2026

Background: This resolution identifies bank institutions that can be used by the township, types of deposits and investments based on safety, diversification, liquidity, and return on investment.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Rairigh to approve Resolution 06-2026.**
Motion Supported:	Schaefer
Motion Status	**Approved** by roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roll Call:	Campbell Medenblik	Yes Yes	Rairigh Schaefer	Yes Yes	Stanton Bouchard DeMaagd	Yes Yes Yes

C. Retirement Plan Change

Background: The current 457 Plan adopted by the township is outdated and currently has a fee schedule for the members of 1.88% on the entire plan annually. Implementing a 401a will allow members to defer more funds annually.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Rairigh to approve the updated 457 and adopt a new 401a contingent upon approval of the Personnel and Compensation Committee.**

Motion Supported:	Campbell
Motion Status	**Approved** by roll call vote: 7ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roll Call:	Rairigh Bouchard	Yes Yes	Campbell DeMaagd	Yes Yes	Medenblik Schaefer Stanton	Yes Yes Yes

D. Approval of March 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes.
Background: A correction was made to the date in the header of pages 2-8.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Bouchard to approve the regular Township Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026.**
Motion Supported:	Stanton
Motion Status	**Approved** by voice vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Medenblik)
- The Township is searching for a new Deputy Clerk.

B. Cemetery (Medenblik, DeMaagd, Rairigh)
- Clean up is underway and effort is being made to restore the cemetery to normal.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer)
- Hired Katelyn Brown as Event Coordinator.
- Events include Brian Appel Memorial Bike Rodeo on May 16, 2026; Riverbank Music Series; Heritage Day is July 11, 2026.

D. Elections (Medenblik, Bouchard, Schaefer)
- Preparations are being made for the August election. We are seeking people to work during the election.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh)
- No report.

F. Finance (Bouchard, Medenblik, Rairigh)
- No report.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer)
- Parks & Rec Meeting this Wednesday, new member Kevin Smith.

H. Personnel and Compensation (Medenblik, Campbell, Schaefer)
- The Handbook has been addressed already this evening.

I. Property and Public Utilities (Stanton, DeMaagd, Campbell)
- A meeting is scheduled for later this month.

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Stanton)
- A tour for Board members is scheduled for April 16.
- The new equipment (shoulder puller) is working well.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Stanton, Schaefer)
- A meeting was held and things are going well. Getting ready to do a discharge.

15. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Catherine Getty, Barry County Commissioner, recognized Steve Shultz and the work that has been done for broadband in the county. This work has been going on since 2021. She is thankful for his efforts to provide this service to township residences.

Erik Kuszynski, 3130 Brentwood Lane. He and his wife are new to the neighborhood and came to the meeting to learn more about the Township. Mr. Kuszynski thanked the trustees for their service.

Collin Chrenka, TTES Fire Captain. Collin expressed his appreciation to the Board members for the investment they have made in the Thornapple Fire and Emergency Services. He thanked the Board for their support. He believes the investment has paid off substantially. He has worked for two other fire departments and has never seen the good relationship between the fire department and the Board like the one experienced here. Thank you, it is much appreciated.

Zach Abbott - resident of Caledonia Township, running for State Representative in the 79th district that includes Thornapple Township.

16. POLL OF MEMBERS:

David Stanton (Trustee) - Congratulations to Collin Chrenka on his promotion.
Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) - Congrats to Collin. We have watched your progress from when you started.
Curt Campbell - (Trustee) - Congratulations to Collin and thank you for all you've done.
Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) - We thank the members of our community for supporting the township and TTES by voting positively on millages. Thanks goes both ways.
Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) - Congratulations Collin. Laura is excited about the broadband opportunity for residents.
Kathy Medenblik (Clerk) - Congratulations to Collin. Thanks to the community members who have taken time to attend this meeting. Our goal is to work with the community to make it better.
Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) - Congratulations to Collin. We are lucky to have each of the TTES employees. They all do a phenomenal job. Thanks to Steve Shultz for bringing fiber to our township.

17. ADJOURNMENT: TIME: 7:56 P.M.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Bouchard to adjourn at 7:56 P.M.**

Motion Supported:	Campbell
Motion Status	**Approved** by voice vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Kathy L Medenblik
Signed Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Dykgraaf, Recording Secretary