TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

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

REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2026, 7:00 PM

Meeting held at Thornapple EMS, 128 High St., Middleville, MI 49333

Minutes

1. INVOCATION

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT:
Commissioners Getty and Smelker, Chief Bill Richardson, Sheriff Dar Leaf
Other Guests: 20

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Bouchard to approve the printed agenda as presented.**
Motion Supported:	Rairigh
Motion Status	**Approved** by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

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

6. AUGUST CLERK'S REPORT - AP Approval.

The printed report was given to each Board member.

7. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: (Please limit comments to 3 minutes)
None

8. CORRESPONDENCE: None
Mr. Schaefer noted that Hometown Hero Award celebration is Oct. 8 at Creekside Growers honoring Jerry Welsh.

9. COUNTY REPORT:
Commissioners Getty and Smelker reported the following activity at the Commissioners Meeting:

- Approved childcare fund plan and budget.
- Accepted a grant for the Animal shelter.
- Adopted security policies.
- Approved special assessments for Canterbury Lake and Crystal Lake projects.
- Appointed Deputy Medical examiners for Barry County.
- Approved entering into contract negotiations with Granger Construction Services for the jail project.
- Updated the Board on the residents at Tyden Loft - the 2nd and 3rd floor residents can return home now after the Ricin scare.

10. PLANNING AND ZONING - ENFORCEMENT REPORT
Catherine Getty gave each Board member a copy of her report.

11. RESERVED TIME: Promotion of Fire Marshall and Life Saving Awards
Fire Fighter Brad Bender has been promoted to the position of Fire Marshall, and Supervisor Schaefer swore him in.

Life Saving Awards were presented to: Paige Frazer, Andrea Pingle, Tia Spannagel, Cas Vugteveen, Royal Shilton, Jason Preslar.

These TTES employees received this award for their life-saving work at the Rock the Country event. The four women were not on duty but attending the event when they performed CPR on a man in cardiac arrest. Royal Shilton and Jason Preslar arrived with the ambulance and transported the man to the hospital.
Chief Richardson stated that Thornapple EMS has very good numbers for successful CPR, and stated the importance of doing CPR early after the onset of cardiac arrest.

Sheriff Dar Leaf read a letter of thanks from the wife of the man saved by their efforts at Rock the Country music festival. Sheriff Leaf handed out a Certificate of Appreciation from the Barry County Sheriff's office to Paige Frazer, Andrea Pingle, Tia Spannagel and Cas Vugteveen. He thanked them for their good service.

12. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Chief's Run Report Summary:

- 314 calls for service. 24 paid-on-call responses. Out-the-door time was 32 seconds.
- August response time in the Township and Village was 7 min. 13 seconds; outside of the township was 11 min. 1 second.
- 8 structure fires, 2 Motor Vehicle accidents.
- Update on the HVAC: Bids are back and are higher than was anticipated. The group will meet and bring a proposal to the next Board meeting.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

14. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Township Hall Use.
Background: The DDA has asked to use our Township Hall for Christmas on the River events. The Hall will be returned to the original state by volunteers.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Schaefer to approve the use of the Township Hall on December 3rd and 5th by the DDA.**
Motion Supported:	Bouchard
Motion Status	**Approved** by voice vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Resolution 08-2026.
Background: This is a resolution stating that the Thornapple Township Board of Trustees formally opposes House Bills 5529 through 5532, as well as House Bills 5581 through 5585, along with related proposed legislation that preempts or limits local zoning and land use authority.

Motion Stated:	**Motion bySchaefer to approve Resolution 08-2026.**
Motion Supported:	Rairigh
Motion Status	**Approved** by roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

C. Code Enforcement Officer
Background: Zoning Administrator Catherine Getty expressed the need for a Code Enforcement Officer for Thornapple Township. Brad Williams previously served as the Township's Code Enforcement officer for several years.

Motion Stated	**Motion by Schaefer to hire former Code Enforcement Officer, Brad Williams, at a rate of $27/hour for a maximum of 25 hours per month, not to exceed $675/month or $8,100/year, contingent on the approval of the Personnel and Compensation Committee.**
Motion Supported:	Rairigh
Motion Status	**Approved** by roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Medenblik)
- No report.

B. Cemetery (Medenblik, DeMaagd, Frye)
- It has been busy.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer)
- Fall Fest will be going on Oct. 10 that will include a DJ, dollar hot dogs, sodas, and root beer floats, as well as other activities.
- Middleville DDA - the rotary clock is illuminated and keeping good time.

D. Elections (Medenblik, Bouchard, Schaefer)
- Getting ready for November elections.

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

F. Finance (Bouchard, Medenblik, Rairigh)
- Today was the last day for summer tax collection. It went smoothly today.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer)
- Catherine Getty reports that there will be a meeting Sept. 17.

H. Personnel and Compensation (Medenblik, Rairigh, Schaefer)
- Making headway with MERS (insurance). There will be training so employees are familiar with the new system.

I. Property and Public Utilities (Stanton, DeMaagd, Frye)
- No report.

J. Roads and Highways (Frye, DeMaagd, Stanton)
- No report.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Frye, Stanton, Schaefer)
- The regular operator has been out of the country and Mr. Schaefer has been filling in.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Don Haney, Kaiser Rd. Thank you to all of the Board and the first responders in the room for their service. Mr. Haney noted the upcoming process of the Village moving to a city and asked the Township to take into consideration the collection of taxes and budgeting concerns for the future of Thornapple Township. He also stated that his daughter has opened a daycare center on M-37 by the new McDonalds.

17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

David Stanton (Trustee) - Nothing.
Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) - Congratulations to all of those recognized today for their life saving efforts, especially the "Fab Four" honored tonight.
Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) - Thankful and proud of the Emergency Services personnel.
Richard Frye (Trustee) - Nothing new.
Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) - Thank you to the four women who stepped up and offered life saving support.
Kathy Medenblik (Clerk) - Thank you to all of the EMS personnel for their good work.
Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) - We have a great team of EMS people.

18. ADJOURNMENT: TIME: 7:37 P.M.

Motion Stated:	**Motion by Frye to adjourn at 7:37 P.M.**

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

Signed Township Clerk
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Dykgraaf, Recording Secretary