HATTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING 10/20/2026 – MINUTES

Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance,

Board Members Roll Call, Hileman; Y; Rogalski; Y, Humphrey; Y, McClain; Y; Nathanael Farrell; Y. 6 guests were in attendance

Public Comment on Agenda: No public comments on agenda

Accept or amend Agenda; Motion by Farrell; supported by Rogalski to approve the 10/20/26 agenda as presented**.**

Accept or amend previous month's minutes: Minutes for the Regular Monthly Board meeting of 9/15/26 provided to the Board in advance and made available to the Public. **Motion by Rogalski; supported by Humphrey to approve the 9/15/26 meeting minutes; motion caried.**

Treasurer's Report
Beginning Balance: $121,966.76
Revenue: $2,797.76
Expenditure: $26,389.88
Ending Balance: $98,374.64

Fire fund: Previous Balance: $55,372.47
Deposits: $68.27
Current balance: $55,440.74
Next CD will mature in November. McClain explained her findings about moving mature CD's into a Money Market. Banks said that it is best to ask about Money Market at time of maturity of CD's as interest rates fluctuate.

Motion by Farrell supported by Rogalski to approve the Treasurer's report as given; motion carried. Clerk and Treasurer's balances matched.

Other Reports: Tom House:

- House is a representative for Yes for Harrison Kids Committee.
- Non-Homestead property tax proposal failed in August Election for Harrison School.
- 1994 Michigan passed a constitutional amendment titled Proposal A, which changed how schools were funded**. See explanation of Proposal A per Wikipedia**: "Approved by Michigan voters on March 15, 1994, Proposal A amended the state constitution to **reform school finance and property taxation**. It replaced a large portion of local school property taxes with a **state sales tax increase from 4% to 6%** and established a **state education property tax of six mills** on all property. The reform shifted Michigan from one of the most locally controlled school finance systems to one of the most state-controlled, aiming to reduce disparities in per-student spending."
- In 1995 after the passing of Proposal A, the property tax for homestead property was set at 6 mills and that has remained the same and was set at 18 mills for non-homestead, but must now be renewed at 17.4362 mills.
- The current per-student funding allowance is $10,300. If the non-homestead property proposal fails, that allowance would decrease by 25%.
- If the proposal on November 3, 2026, ballot fails, Harrison Community Schools will lose approximately 5.7 million in operating revenue. These cuts will affect some after-school programs, staffing, supplies, transportation to and from schools and to sporting events, students may be required to pay to play sports, utilities, and will make it difficult to retain and attract good quality teachers.

Reports by County Officials: Clare County Commissioner, Jack Kleinhardt

- Kleinhardt said that since ITC held their information sessions at the Doherty Hotel recently concerning the proposed (Copperton Projects) series of energy infrastructure developments planned for mid-Michigan. Citizens are calling him upset about energy infrastructures coming on their agricultural property or near their homes. Kleinhardt said that residents are asked to give feedback up until November 5. Maps of the proposed high voltage transmission lines and feedback form can be found: Copperton Projects - MI Future Grid
- Kleinhardt said that he is against solar farms on agricultural land. Lots of other property that is not suitable for farmland could be used. He said that solar farm developers love farmland since it is already cleared and leveled.
- Hileman stated that due to eminent domain residents more than likely will not have a say whether the high voltage lines are put on their property or not.
- We are in an information age and need places to store all of this data, but wish they would put data centers where it would not affect drinking water, agricultural areas, and away from residential areas.
- Kleinhardt reported that District 1 County Commissioner Marlene Housler resigned to care for her husband, who has health issues.

Report by Clare County Road Commissioner-Bill Simpson:

- Not a lot happening in Lansing right now until after the election.
- The next check for Neighborhood Road fund may not be coming until May 2027
- Adams Road project is almost complete
- New Building is complete-Had ribbon cutting and picnic for employees and retirees.
- Dedicated the road going into the new road commission building after long-time Clare County Commissioner, Dick Haynak who passed away a couple of years ago. He was one of the longest serving Commissioner and well-respected in the community.
- Prepping for snow.
- Salt has not come in yet. They are on the list.
- Beaverton Road project is on hold until spring. Instead of paving 4 miles they will pave 8 miles at the same set rate for black top as this year. The paving will be from Clare Ave to the county line road.

Report by Zoning and Blight Officer-Terry Acton

- Will be in District Court on November 11 at 1:00 pm with an ongoing case that blight officers has been working on for over 2 years.
- Planning Commission needs to meet for a special use permit for Smith Truck Body because it is a different type of business than previously was in building.
- Acton said township zoning was done well and that this situation should never come up again due to not much commercially zoned property in the township.
- Acton left the meeting upset.
- Rogalski moved to revise the zoning, but no board member supported the motion.
- Following a spirited discussion, the Planning Commission's Special Use Permit meeting was scheduled for November 10, 2026, at 7:00 pm, initially to be followed by a special board meeting to review and vote on its recommendations. After reconsidering holding both meetings on the same night, the Board decided to review the Commission's recommendations and vote on the Special Use Permit at its regular meeting on November 17, 2026, at 7:30 pm.

Cemetery and Hall Report: Shaun Smith

Shaun Smith was absent

- McClain stated that Jeff Smith stopped by the hall a few weeks ago and was feeling much better.
- McClain stated that Shaun Smith had been doing some work at the cemetery and just had a double cremation burial for Laura and Melvin Thompson at the Hatton Cemetery on October 15.

Motion to pay the bills- $14,170.77
Motion by Farrell; supported by Humphrey to approve the October bills; motion carried.

Budget Adjustments-No budget adjustments

Correspondence September 2026 reports from the Sheriff and Fire Departments were received, along with the L-4029 form from Mid-Michigan College. September 2026 bills totaled $26,389.88. The third-quarter F-491 tax report and unemployment earnings report were submitted, and the requested FOIA information on Consumers Energy bills was emailed. For the November 3, 2026, election, 153 absentee ballots have been issued to date to Hatton Township voters. 65 ballots returned to date. Hartleb Insurance emailed the township's general liability coverage with EMC, effective September 25, 2026; a paper copy was also mailed and is expected before the October 20, 2026, meeting; insurance declaration pages with coverages from EMC received.

Training or Other Meetings attended by Board Members:

McClain attended monthly County Clerk's meeting 9/24/2026
Hileman attended MTA meeting 10/6/2026

Old Business:

- Consumers Energy bills tripled in August/September. The power surge went down after a pressure switch was changed inside. The hall furnace was inspected, and a fall inspection was done. Filter was changed, energy analysis and 15-minute surge report was done with Consumers Energy. The September/October bill is down closer to normal. McClain will monitor energy usage on the CE website.
- 2026/27 Snowplowing and Salting Contract at township hall 3 bids:
  Conlay's Powerwashing: $80 per snowplowing, $80 per salting
  LaVoy's Snowplowing: $80 per snowplowing, $80 per salting
  Keysor Builders: $50 per snowplowing, $95 per salting
  Motion by Farrell; supported by McClain to award 2026-27 snowplowing and salt contract to Keysor Builders motion carried.
- Board decided to table the Employee Handbook for future meetings
- The moratorium on data centers and solar/wind farms was tabled until next month. The township has until June 2027 to add provisions for these uses to its current zoning. Rogalski asked why the township was addressing these uses rather than special use permit requirements. It was explained that data centers and solar/wind farms were not contemplated when the zoning was being updated.

New Business:

- Special Use Permit for Smith Truck Body was discussed in the Zoning and Blight Report time of meeting: Planning Commission (PC) meets on 11/10/26 at 7:00 pm. Board votes on PC recommendations on 11/17/26 at 7:30 pm meeting.
- The 2027 fire contract with Harrison Fire Department totals $42,748.18, an increase of over $2,000 from 2026. A check payable to the City of Harrison will be issued closer to January 2027 to pay the contract. Farrell moved to approve the contract, with support from McClain. The motion carried.
- Clerk McClain applied and was awarded $5,000 grant from the US Alliance for Election Excellence which can be used to fund election-related needs, including materials and equipment, poll worker recruitment, election communications, emergency planning, and security. Clerk McClain needs approval from the board to move forward to accept this grant opportunity: Farrell made a motion to accept the US Alliance for Election Excellence Grant; supported by Rogalski; motion carried. Reporting for use of funds are due October 1, 2027. McClain would like to use some or all of grant to attract and retain more election inspectors and possibly purchase envelopes for absentee ballot mailings for future elections.
- Possible roads for next year: Arthur Road between Bass Lake and Harrison Ave, Mannsiding from Harrison Ave to Coolidge. Hileman and Farrell will do a ride around with Road Commission soon and make recommendations.

Public Comments:

- David Hutchinson-needed clarification on some of the items that were discussed for his article for Clare County Review. Tabling Employee Handbook, Meeting days and times for special use permit.
- Curtis Smith from Smith Truck Body welcomed the board and planning commission members to visit their business to see what they do.

Adjournment of Meeting:

- Motion by Rogalski, supported by Humphrey to adjourn meeting at 8:52 pm; motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Community Food Bank Drive-Saturday,November 7, 2026, 10:00 am to 11:30 am at Harrison High/Middle School Parking lot - Volunteers always appreciated.
- Planning Commission meeting on November 10, 2026, at 7:00 pm to review Special Use Permit for Smith Truck Body
- Next regular monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 7:30 pm
- Hatton Clerk required 8 hours the weekend before election will be on Saturday, October 31, from 9 am to 5 pm
- County-wide 9 days early voting will be held daily starting 10/24 to 11/1 from 9 am to 5 pm.
- State General Election November 3, 2026, Hall open for election 7 am to 8 pm.

Prepared: 10/20/2026 – Not approved: Clerk Linda McClain