

HATTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**04/21/2026 – MINUTES**

Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Hileman; Y; Guiette; Y, Farrell; Y, Humphrey; Y; McClain; Y;
Guests: 11 guests

Public Comment on Agenda: No public comments on agenda

Accept or amend Agenda; Motion by Farrell supported by Guiette to approve the agenda as given; motion carried.

Accept or amend previous month's minutes: Minutes for the Regular Monthly Board meeting of 3/17/26 provided to the Board in advance and made available to the Public. **Motion by Farrell; supported by Guiette to approve the 3/17/26 meeting minutes; motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance: \$151,161.71

Revenue: \$23,259.49

Expenditure: \$27,319.80

Ending Balance: \$147,101.40

Motion by Farrell; supported by Guiette to approve the Treasurer's report as given; motion carried.

Fire fund: Previous Balance: \$28,118.80

Interest: \$29.86

Current balance: \$28,148.66

- 4 CD's coming up for maturity at Isabella Bank different dates, before May meeting. They are currently 12 months at 3.50%-current rate is 3.00% for 12 months. The totals of the CD's are: 1) \$57,193.11, 2) \$23,191.37, 3) \$109,654.88, 4) \$30,008.96
Clerk McClain suggested that we allow Treasurer Humphrey to contact Members First Credit Union to see what their current CD rate is and higher than 3.00% negotiate with Isabella Bank to match that same percentage rate.

Motion by Farrell; seconded by Guiette to allow Humphrey to check on percentage rate at MFCU and negotiate with Isabella Bank for higher interest rate. If Isabella Bank does not negotiate with higher interest rate, we will approve the Treasurer to move to Members First Credit Union.

Reports by County Officials: Clare County Commissioner, Jack Kleinhardt

- At the last County Commissioners' meeting, the Equalization Director reported a 19% increase in farmland value, largely due to two major sales at \$11,200 and \$10,000 per acre. All property values across Clare County have risen.
- Kleinhardt went to Roscommon to the Northern Michigan Association of Counties-About 20 counties were represented. A very lively discussion about the previous proposal to inspect all septic tanks. It is back and will be looked at again after the November 2026 election. There is a proposal to take the inspection control from Health Department to EGLE.

- Many of the people pushing the septic tank inspection is from Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapid areas.
- Talk about the data centers was discussed heavily at the Northern Michigan Association of Counties. They use lots of fresh water to cool and lots of electricity. Most counties don't want them in their area. Kleinhardt has heard of 14-18 new data centers wanting to come in to Michigan.
- A guest from Arthur Township shared that she has been visiting various townships to learn about their positions on data centers. She mentioned recently reading about Amazon settling a lawsuit for \$20.5 million due to one of their data centers in Oregon leaking nitrate pollutants into the groundwater of an agricultural area. They did not take it to court; instead, they settled the matter. Approximately 160 people were affected.

Reports by County Officials: Clare County Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson

- Lots of flooding in the county due to the recent hard rains and snow melting. Western part of the county was hit the hardest with some roads still having water over the road. We had 14 inches of rain in the past couple of weeks.
- CCRC will be working until 6:30 pm, the week of April 20, to get more of the roads repaired and bladed.
- 9 EGLE sites still need inspection
- CCRC received first gas tax increase check in April.
- Simpson got to tour the new CCRC building and is very impressed with how it looks. They will be an emergency shelter wants building opens. The projected date to open will be late summer. There will be a public open house.
- The old building will come down due to structural issues.
- The payments for new building will be made due to cuts in not purchasing new equipment and gas tax. It is not from road work.
- They have saved 2 million dollars from CCRC workers doing most of the excavation work.
- Audit had been completed and went well.
- Frost laws are off
- A guest asked why Timberlane East is much drier than the muddy West. Simpson advised submitting a ticket with photos on the CCRC website so that CCRC was aware of the issue and could look into their inquiry.

Planning and Zoning Administration and Blight: Zoning and Blight Administrator, Terry Acton

Terry Acton was absent.

- Hileman stated that Acton received an inquiry from someone who would not identify themselves or who they represented with interest in solar fields in the township. We do have it in our zoning. Governor Whitmer has enacted P233 which allows companies to build solar fields by overriding zoning.
- Hileman stated that Acton was working diligently on several blight complaints, mostly on Timberlane Rd. It is a lengthy process to go through the courts and all the necessary steps before results are seen.

Cemetery and Hall Report: Jeff Smith:

Jeff Smith was absent.

Other Elected Officials:

Tracy Ruell Republican candidate for 100th District State Representative. Lifelong Michigander from the Big Rapids area.

3rd generation dairy farmer.

Spoke about data centers, utility costs, state budget

Spends time in Lansing

Motion to pay the bills-Totaling \$7,166.93, Motion by Guiette; supported by Farrell to pay the April bills; motion carried.

Budget adjustments:

101-266-829 Atty Fees Other-Budgeted \$1,500-current balance (-\$50.00)

101-215-741 Clerk operating supplies and equipment-budgeted \$1,000-current balance (-\$8.57)

Motion by Farrell and supported by Guiette to approve the above budget adjustments-motion carried

Correspondence: Sheriff and Fire Department reports for March 2026 were received; March 2026 bills totaling \$27,319.80 have been mailed; County-wide emergency siren questionnaire emailed; Early Voting Plan with County emailed; Par-Plan insurance audit with Clerk; Clerk applied for EGLE Scrap Tire Grant; Signed contract received from CCRC for the upcoming Adams Rd west of Clare Avenue road project in conjunction with Grant Township received.

Training and other meetings attended by board members:

McClain-Par Plan insurance bi-yearly audit 3/25/26

Hileman-MTA meeting 4/7/26

Old Business:

- Apcom yearly maintenance contract for township generator for \$250 annual
Motion by Farrell and Guiette to approve the yearly maintenance contract with Apcom motion carried.
- Quotes for power washing township hall, fences and sign. Hall, fences and sign have never been power washed in over 15 years.
Conlays Power Washing-\$500
Michigan Power Washing Pros-\$349

Several of our guests recommended using Conlays, as they had experience using them with their own business needs.

Motion by Humphrey, supported by Guiette to hire Conlays to do the power washing at the hall. Motion carried.

- Clerk McClain contacted Steve Keysor from Keysor Builders to come and inspect the township hall roof since he was the original contractor who installed the roof. Keysor reported that none of the shingles were lifted but looks like a lot of granules have come off. It would be \$14,000 to have new roof installed with 30-year-old shingles. Board decided to hold off on doing anything at this time with the roof.
- Waiting to hear back from the EGLE Scrap Tire Grant whether township will be approved for grant. If we get the grant, we will be looking for volunteers, people that do scrap collection have been recommended as they can get rims and other materials to take to scrap facility.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Clerk McClain gave a report on the Par Plan Insurance audit and some of the recommendations that they provided that the township should consider:
 1. Data Center referendum/ordinance from keeping centers coming in
 2. Employee Handbook recommended HR Muni (free service) should be tailored to each township. McClain will check with HR Muni to get that process started.
 3. Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, up to date fire extinguishers, and AED inspection- Clerk McClain will check with Harrison Fire Department about the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors through the program that they have.
- Looking for anyone who might have an interested in being an Election Inspectors-Paid position.
- Need to have a Planning Commission meeting to review our zoning and master plan on solar and data center. Could do a Moratorium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A guest from Arthur Township stated that all townships should get Foster Swift to represent them to fight against energy companies. Constitution might be violated with P233 and is being challenged. Solar fields and data centers affect many people. This is not an individual property owner's decision. An informational meeting on zoning and data centers will be held at 7:00 pm on April 30 at K of C Hall in Gladwin. A huge tornado came through Indiana and took out many solar fields. Cracked the panels and have glass shards strung over many miles. DTE has not been forthcoming with most people. Different people show up at different township meetings and do not state what company they are associated with but are there to scope out the townships.
- A guest stated that we try to keep battery production facility out of the township should we be approached.
- A guest stated that there are at least 20 other blight issues on Timberlane.
- A guest spoke about data center, 300,000 gallons of water, where does the water go, electricity uses 100 megawatts a day. Guest is pro-solar.
- A guest spoke about not using zoning to be able to tell residents what they can and can't do with their own private property.
- A guest who has been running a well service since 1952 commented that he is against data centers and solar farms. Even though his company could make lots of money for drilling wells and maintaining wells for data centers, he is very much against them. Since he has seen what data centers and other companies like that have done too wells.

Adjournment of Meeting:

- Motion by Guiette supported by Farrell to adjourn meeting at 9:20 pm; motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- **Clare County Food Distribution May 2, 2026, 10:00 am to 11:30 am at Clare County Fairgrounds.**
- **May regular board meeting, May 19, 2026, at 7:30 pm**
- **Preliminary budget preparation meeting for 2026-27-Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:30 pm**

~~Prepared: 4/21/2026~~ — Not approved: Clerk Linda McClain

Approved: 5/19/2026: unanimously by board at regular meeting