HATTON TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING 8/18/2026 – MINUTES

Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance,

Board Members Roll Call, Hileman; Y; Farrell; Y, Rogalski; Y, Humphrey; Y, McClain; Y, Let the record show that all board members were present. 3 guests were in attendance

Public Comment on Agenda: No public comments on agenda

Accept or amend Agenda; Farrell wants to amend agenda under new business to add future road projects. Hileman wants another amendment to add screening to Data Center and solar/wind farm to zoning to new business on 8/18/26 agenda. Motion made by Farrell and supported by Rogalski to approve agenda with amendments made; motion carried.

Accept or amend previous month's minutes: Minutes for the Regular Monthly Board meeting of 7/21/26 provided to the Board in advance and made available to the Public. **Motion by Farrell; supported by Rogalski to approve the 7/21/26 meeting minutes; motion caried.**

Treasurer's Report
Beginning Balance: $155,827.83
Revenue: $3,068.51
Expenditure: $33,699.82
Ending Balance: $125,196.52

- No CDs are coming up for maturity currently.
- Treasurer Humphrey stated that Mercantile Bank and Isabella Bank will reinvest CD interest back into the CDs instead of sending checks to the township.
- The Board discussed possibly moving CD funds into a money market account when they mature, as it may earn more interest than a CD. Humphrey will review this option with each bank and report back at the regular September meeting.

Fire fund: Previous Balance: $28,236.49
Transfer Fire Fund millage money from General Ledger to Fire Fund: $ $27,065.52
Interest: $
Current balance: $55,302.01

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

Reports by County Officials: Clare County Commissioner, Jack Kleinhardt

- The County Commissioners will sign the 2026–2027 budget at the August 19, 2026, meeting. The budget looks very good.
- There is a lot of population growth in the county. Lots of building permits, land divisions in Sheridan Township. A good share of the new growth in Sheridan Township is Amish.
- Every time a property sells it is taxed on the value it was sold for, and it also affects property about the same size.

- Kleinhardt attended the Michigan Association of Counties meeting in Roscommon County on August 17, 2026. A State of Michigan representative said next year's state budget may be reduced by $1 billion to $2 billion and advised against spending revenue funds because those funds may be cut. Federal funding to the states is also being reduced.
- Only 20 percent of the counties in Michigan have county-wide zoning.

Reports by County Officials: Clare County Road Commissioner, Bill Simpson
Bill Simpson was absent.

- Hileman stated that Simpson told him the Clare County Road Commission purchased the Warner Petroleum property and building south of Mannsiding Road on Clare Avenue. The Commission may sell or lease part of the land and building. The property includes gravel pits, providing room for expansion and possible direct access from a road other than Mannsiding Road. Several people have already contacted CCRC about buying or leasing the building.

Report on Zoning and Blight: Zoning and Blight Administrator, Terry Acton

- Hatton Township's attorney and Acton were in court today for a blight hearing against Kevin Brandt. Brandt is cooperating, has demolished one condemned trailer, hauled away two piles of debris, and had a dumpster scheduled for the end of the week to finish cleaning up the property. The other trailer in question is on Charles Stone's property. Acton verified that Michigan blight law and the township ordinance allow the township to condemn property, abandoned vehicles, and other trash if the blight has not been cleaned for five years or longer. The trailer on Stone's property does not have electricity or sewage. Hatton Township will work with Charles Stone to have the property cleaned up.
- Some of the residents on Timberlane that had blight issues are beginning to clean up some of their mess.

Cemetery and Hall Report: Shaun Smith
Shaun Smith was absent

Other Officials:
No other officials are present

Motion to pay the bills- $ $19,652.84
Motion by Farrell; supported by Rogalski to approve the August bills; motion carried.

Budget Adjustments
101-101-964 Refunds/unallocated budgeted $200.00 current balance –($1,219.00)

We received money from the State for Law Enforcement grant. 75% was supposed to go to County Treasurer for Sheriff Dept. We had to write a check to the County Treasurer for reimbursement.

Farrell made a motion to approve the budget adjustment as stated above; Rogalski supported; motion carried.

Correspondence: Sheriff and Fire Department reports for July 2026 were received; July 26 bills totaling - $33,699.82 have been mailed; L-4029 from Clare Public Schools and Mid-Michigan College; 229

Registered Hatton Voters cast their ballot for August 4 election; 92 of the 229 cast ballots were Absentee Ballots.

- McClain stated that just over 200 residents countywide participated in the nine days of early voting held at the County Building for the August 4, 2026, State Primary election. Voter turnout is expected to be higher for the November election.

Training or Other Meetings attended by Board Members:

McClain attended monthly County Clerk's meeting

Old Business:

- Scrap tire recycling grant date will take place sometime in early Spring (April or May 2027). Advertising could be done through Facebook, possibly a newsletter. Do not allow people outside of the township to participate. Will table until September meeting.
- Employee Handbook-McClain handed out 3 different versions of sample handbooks to each board member to review before next meeting.

New Business:

- The annual propane contract from Duggan's Propane was received. This year's keep-full price will not exceed $1.999 per gallon, compared with $1.995 per gallon last year. The tank currently has 55% propane remaining. Hileman and Rogalski left the meeting to check the tank level.
  Farrell made a motion supported by Rogalski to sign the 2026-2027 contract with Duggan's Propane on the keep full option; motion carried.

- The township received its liability insurance renewal from Michigan Underwriters Insurance, effective September 25, 2026. The annual premium has increased by $2,000 over the past two years, from $6,123.00 in 2023 to $7,789.00 in 2025 and $8,287.00 for the renewal. McClain contacted other townships in the county and found that several use The Hartleb Agency in Kalamazoo, which offers lower premiums for the same or better coverage. The agency writes policies through two municipal general liability insurance companies. Motion by Farrell, supported by Rogalski, to authorize Clerk McClain to investigate other companies that provide general liability insurance for municipalities and report back at the September meeting; motion carried.
- Trustee Farrell would like to obtain a quote from the Clare County Road Commission for possible asphalt work on Mannsiding Road to Coolidge Road. Hileman suggested that Arthur Road, from Harrison Avenue to Bass Lake Road, needs additional ditching and improved drainage. Farrell said Arthur Road may need work like what was done on Cornwell Road north of Mannsiding Road. Farrell also asked whether the Road Commission would allow him to cut trees on Arthur Road himself to help reduce costs. Hileman and Farrell will meet with the Clare County Road Commission.
- The township needs to review zoning provisions with the attorney to determine requirements for fencing or screening around solar, wind, or data center developments and proceed with the moratorium signed in June 2026.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment of Meeting:

- Motion by McClain supported by Humphrey to adjourn meeting at 9:06 pm; motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Community Food Bank Drive-Saturday, September 12, 10:00 am to 11:30 am at Clare County Fairgrounds - Volunteers always appreciated.
- Next regular monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7:30 pm
- Township Election Commission will meet at 7:00 pm on September 15 to appoint election inspectors for the November 3, 2026, State General Election.
- Public Accuracy Ballot testing for November 3, 2026, State General Election will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 3:30 pm at the township hall.

Prepared: 8/18/2026 – Not approved: Clerk Linda McClain