

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

MANISTEE COUNTY CHAPTER

April 23, 2025 Minutes

Roll Call:	Arcadia	0	Bear Lake	0	Brown	1
	Cleon	1	Dickson	2	Filer	1
	Manistee	1	Maple Grove	6	Marilla	0
	Norman	1	Onekama	1	Pleasanton	0
	Springdale	1	Stronach	1		

Meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Tom Stege, Chairperson

Welcome and roll call. Quorum present.

Election of Officers:

Motion and supported to keep the same officers for another year: president, Tom Stege; vice president, Penny Nelson; secretary, Carol Merrill, Secretary; treasurer, Linda Cudney. All in Favor.

Approval of minutes from October 23, 2024, Motion by Linda Cudney 2nd by Penny Nelson.. All in favor

Treasurer Report: Beginning balance of \$551.57. 10 Townships have paid dues. Ending balance of \$851.57. Motioned and supported to accept the Treasurers report as presented.

Guests:

Shayne Machen: reported on updates from the County Commissioners meeting. Only 4 foreclosures this year and none were principal residences; District #10 Health Department is happy to report there have been no cuts so far, plus a nurse is split between Bear Lake and Brethren Schools. There were 3 new appointments to Central Wellness. No headlee rollback this year. Opioid funds were awarded to Manistee County Child Advocacy Center, Central Wellness and District 10 Health Department.

Brian Gutowski, Manistee County Sheriff, reported they have a staff shortage and down to 4 deputies on the road. They will be sending 2 or 3 to the Academy in the fall and they will get paid to go to the training. Shop with a cop was a success with helping out 26 families at Christmas. A big thank you to Meijer's for their participation. There were no major ice issues this winter. The jail held 565 persons in 2024, the most before was 517. The Sheriffs Department also received some opioid funds. Upcoming event is "Kids Safety Day", held at MMHS.

Brad Kluczynski, Manistee County Road Commission Manager, reported 187 inches of snow this winter, which put a dent in the budget, after many years of low amounts of snow. The Road Commission ran out of salt. The Road Commission is purchasing better equipment to fix the roads, and are purchasing ten new trucks. They are going to try out a new product this summer which will turn the gravel on gravel roads harder and approximately 3 inches deep. Approximate cost is \$10,000.00 a mile. There is also a liquid de-icer for roads

which will reduce the use of salt on the roads. The Road Commission has done Asset Management on all the roads in Manistee County and will be glad to bring each Township up to date on the condition of their roads. Governor Whitmer is promoting road funding as a priority, with no cost sharing. There is also funding for Platted subdivisions. Manistee County will use a share of their money for Big Four Road, as it is in such disrepair.

Karla Smith-Kasten, Bay Area Recycling for Charities, stated 2023-2024 recycling was 999,940 pounds of recyclables. PCA will have no cardboard trailers until June. Karla is trying to see if GFL can enlist some more dumpsters to help out during the time. A grant has been applied for to build a recycling center, at the corner of Nine Mile Road and US-31, which 5 Acres will be leased from the Manistee County Road Commission. Should find out if it was awarded, in June, then the survey, and feasibility study, etc can begin. BARC was awarded a grant to build a machine to separate different components of a mattress.

Katie Gruenberg, from Manistee County Planning Department stated the Manistee County Planning Department is working on a County wide ORV Ordinance. They are looking at the Lake County Ordinance. County Planning is also updating the County Recreation Plan, as in December 2026 the current plan will expire. They want to have the new plan in place. The aerial imaging will be done soon, after the snow and before the leaves come on. This is a partnership with Manistee, Benzie and Leelanau County.

Nikki Koons, Dolly Parton Reading Rainbow Program: Nikki presented the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, through Five Cap that is dedicated to inspire a love for reading for children from birth to age five. If interested in helping out financially or advocate for it, contact Five Cap.

Julie Stec, Dial A Ride: Julie invited all to Dial A Rides 50th Anniversary Open House on May 21, 2025 from Noon to 4:00 PM. This is a Thank you for Manistee County for all their support. Dan, the new operations manager also stated he is open to any suggestions to server people better, to get ahold of him at Dial A Ride

Additional Topics: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Each Township present gave bits and pieces about what is happening in their Township.

The next meeting will be on May 28, 2025 at Maple Grove Township. Appetizers at 6:00 PM. Dinner served at 6:30.

Public Comment: None

Motion to adjourn and supported to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Linda Cudney, Treasurer