

**CLEON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
DATE APRIL 15, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor, Joe Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.at the Cleon Township Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Joe Carpenter-Supervisor, Amy Herrst-Clerk, Linda Cudney -Treasurer, Todd Humphrey-Trustee, Abe Canfield-Trustee

GUESTS and /or VISITORS: **Jodi Lynch-Manistee County Planning:** Introduction, round #2 of goals and objectives coming for townships to set in the master plan.

Cleon Fire Department: Mark Griner, Dave Saunders, Patty Dixon and Ruth Griner

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SET / AMEND THE AGENDA: Motion by Amy Herrst, supported by Todd Humphrey to set the agenda. AIF

CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion** by Todd Humphrey, **seconded** by Abe Canfield to approve the Consent Agenda. AIF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 18, 2026 Board meeting minutes

TREASURERS REPORT: *See attached*

BUDGET AMENDMENT/PAYMENT OF BILLS: *See attached for bills*

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

A. TRUSTEES

Todd Humphrey: Todd repaired the flag at the Cleon Brethren Cemetery

Abe Canfield: Nothing to report

B. TREASURER: Clean-Up Day is slated for June 6 2026. Tires are the same price this year. Flyer is ready to share. MTA Dinner is set for May 27, 2026 cost is \$21 per person. RSVP to Amy if you are interested in going. Springdale was sent a fire contract for 2026-2027 FY. Flags for cemetery need to be ordered possibly from Amazon if less expensive. Paul Olson needs to visit to assess the building for insurance purposes.

C. CLERK: Thank you to the board for helping move the offices over to the new building. It is great to be in our new facility.

D. SUPERVISOR: Marv Prepejchal was concerned about a down tree on Valencourt Rd. MCRC came and cleared it from the road way but he wanted more to be done. With it being a Natural Beauty Rd, it is up to the property owners to take care of removing it

completely. Amy will try to look up the verbiage in the signed contract with the property owners to confirm this.

E. ZONING: 1 land use permit. She is ending out blight letters to township residents that need to utilize clean-up day.

F: PLANNING: April 1st meeting, went over master plan and child care facilities ordinances. Jeff will request that Networks Northwest come to the next meeting to explain more. Also up and coming will be a dive into special use permits and renewals of those.

G: MRCM: Very busy due to the roads after storms and the recent State of Emergency for Manistee Co. Frost laws release this Friday. 2 new trucks on the Rd now. Part time workers released after 89 days. Tree and debris cleanup going on. Summer projects will be starting up soon.

H: FIRE DEPARTMENT: *See attached report*

Revenue sharing has 18 applications with \$113,659 to award. Apparatus review-possible new truck, see attached. **Motion** by Todd Humphrey, **seconded** by Abe Canfield to allow Mark to negotiate up to \$30K of fire money for the used fire truck, also to include Springdale contribution if any and cashing in the fire CDs to cover. **Roll Call Ayes 5 Nays 0.** Travis is pursuing the fire academy in Benzie County to become certified. Mike Steele will be an asset as a driver of fire trucks. We need to try to target recruitment for fire possibly with the website or through social media. Fire meeting is rescheduled for May 5th @ 5:30 pm. Patty will attend but as of May 1st would like to take a leave of absence for 3 months from the secretary position. Alex or Alan will be asked for interim help.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Board Member Action Plan Items:** all action plan items completed or in process of completion.
- 2. Township Hall Plans:** Temporary occupancy certificate has been issued. We are moved in and the first board meeting took place today, date of April 15th. Still many loose ends to tie up and final occupancy permit to be issued for USDA to release the final payment. Possible change order coming as well.
- 3. 2026 Cemetery mowing contract:** Will be awarded to Milarch's and Amy will contact them to confirm. **Motion** by Abe Canfield, **seconded** by Todd Humphrey to accept Milarch's bid for the 2026 season of mowing. AIF

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Approval of payment for new hall project:** none
- 2. Appointment to Betsie Valley District Library Board:** The board would like to appoint Marlene Robinson to another term on the board. **Motion** by Amy Herrst, **seconded** by Linda Cudney to appoint Marlene Robinson to the BVDL board. AIF
- 3. Presentation of finalized 2025-2026 budget with adjustments**
- 4. Cemetery water hook-up:** as soon as the frost/freeze lifts Joe will turn the water back on. We should also still consider a board clean-up day for the cemetery.

5. HHW Contract Renewal: Motion by Todd Humphrey, **seconded** by Amy Herrst to renew the contract and pay the \$478.35 to the Conservation District. AIF

CORRESPONDENCE: *See Attached*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: **Linda:** What do we consider the percentage done for the new hall? 99% is consensus for insurance purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **Mark:** Will continue to work on all the fire side of things that need to be finished. **Patty:** For NERIS we need a secure fax line to be in place to collect CAD information for the reports. With the fax machine in a locked workroom, it should be secure but Patty will investigate specifics.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion** by Todd Humphrey, **supported by** Amy Herrst **AIF**
TIME: 8:41 PM

Next Board Meeting scheduled for May 20, 2026 at 7 PM
Minutes taken by Amy Herrst -Cleon Township Clerk

BOARD MEMBER ACTION PLAN:

Joe: Will communicate weekly with Jamie Milarch and Fred Campbell about the status of the new construction. He will report back to the board at regular meetings.

Will write a response to the Thompsonville Board and Amy will format it on letterhead and send it.

Will turn the water on in cemetery.

Amy: Will mat and frame the cemetery map.

Will look up Natural Beauty clause.

Will organize fire meeting for May 5th, 2026

Linda: Will continue to be the liaison for the new Fire Station/ Township offices.