

CLEON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
DATE February 18, 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, Abe Canfield-Trustee, Todd Humphrey-Trustee

GUESTS and /or VISITORS: Jim Franke and Evelyn Hawkins
Cleon Fire Department: Mark Griner, Dave Saunders, and Ruth Griner

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SET / AMEND THE AGENDA: Motion by Todd Humphrey, **seconded by** Abe Canfield to set the agenda. AIF

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 21, 2026 Board Meeting

TREASURERS REPORT *See attached*

BUDGET AMENDMENT/PAYMENT OF BILLS *See attached*

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

A. TRUSTEES

Todd Humphrey: Nothing to present

Abe Canfield: Nothing to present

B. TREASURER: We brought in our annual swamp tax at \$9294 which is because we are the 2nd largest swamp area in our township behind Springdale in Manistee Co.

C. CLERK: MTA has sent out their Principals of Governance contract for us to sign and display in our new hall. The board needs to sign their corresponding line if we all agree.

D. SUPERVISOR: Update from Fred-USDA received our final request for pay app #11. They have several questions that need to be addressed. Jamie is completing the punch list and then we can call for a temporary final inspection.

E. ZONING: Nothing to report

F: PLANNING: Meeting went over master plan changes and talks about data center issues coming to townships. Next meeting March 4th 2026

G: MCRC: Keith Moore was appointed to the new manager position starting 3/1/26 Graders are out working on the secondary roads. Patching is being done on highways then primary roads next. Tree and debris cleanup going on. Weight restrictions were just

put back into place on Feb 17. They are continuing to work on drainage issues and opening more. All the repairs and such needed from winter are being addressed as well. **H: FIRE DEPARTMENT:** See attached report. Also new apps for revenue sharing are due 3/3/25. We will ask for the same as last round. We continue to realize many unplanned fire department expenses. We need truck repairs (\$15K) or invest in newer model but run into more problems with electronics (\$30K+). We desperately need new SCBA units. We need at least 6 @ \$9k each. We need to revisit the cost recovery ordinance and our billing system. Amy has been in contact with Fire Recovery USA to see if that billing system would work for us. More research is needed. We currently still do not have any NERIS compliance information sheets completed. Patty is working on the issues but may need some extra help. Mark will be retiring within 2 years and with that we will need to start looking into someone to fill the chief position. Internally as assistant chief, Dave Saunders has said he would step in and is willing to get the required training and qualifications to come. Also, Luke Maddox our current Lieutenant has shown interest as well. He would be willing to do the training necessary as well. Dave wants to stress that we need to bring the department back into compliance. If we take the route of truck repair on the existing fire truck it still will have to pass the DOT and pump tests.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Board Member Action Plan Items:** all action plan items completed or in process of completion.
2. **Township Hall Plans:** Plumbing permit was approved temporarily. Waiting on EGLE to send letter on exceptions. Work on the ceiling has been done. Fire doors need to be painted and replaced. Plumbers hooked up the washer/dryer. Floor work to come soon. We need to coordinate with IT, Anavon to do a walk through of where everything will be placed. The address sign was hung but has the wrong address on it that needs to be changed. The sink had to be lowered 2in to meet ADA compliance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of payment for new hall:** Change order and pay app was sent to USDA. **Motion by** Linda Cudney, **supported by** Todd Humphrey to allow the pay app #11 for \$125,500 AIF. **Motion by** Linda Cudney, **supported by** Amy Herrst to allow the change order to be processed in the amount of \$74595.30. AIF
2. **ORV update:** **Motion by** Todd Humphrey, **supported by** Abe Canfield to allow the allow travel of ORVs on the borderline roads of the township. (Springdale, Lindy, 13 Mile and Harlan roads) ORVs will now only be excluded on M-115 and Valencourt Rd.
3. **Budget Workshop Dates:** Feb 17 @ 6pm General/Cemetery/Road; Feb 24 @ 6pm Fire/Debt.
PUBLIC HEARING For Proposed Budgets- General, Fire, Cemetery, Road, and Bond Funds will take place at Cleon Township Hall on Wednesday March 18, 2026 @6:45pm.

CORRESPONDENCE: *See attached*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Evelyn Hawkins: What ORV roads are currently open?

ADJOURNMENT: @ 7:58pm **Motion** by Todd Humphrey, **supported by** Abe Canfield
AIF

Next Board Meeting scheduled for March 18, 2026 at 7 PM

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Minutes taken by Amy Herrst -Cleon Township Clerk

BOARD MEMBER ACTION PLAN:

Joe: Will communicate with Fred Campbell/Jamie Milarch about the status of the new construction and the completion date.

Linda: Will be the liaison between USDA and the township board.