



LIVONIA TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
HELD AT THE LIVONIA TOWN HALL
August 24, 2026

Supervisors present: Spencer, Kluge Jr., Kukowski, Hiller.

Staff present: Clerk/Treasurer Fiedler, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Jewett, Maintenance Superintendent Kelly, Parks and Cemetery Superintendent Aubart

Others present: William Tessmer from Widseth.

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance: the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Approve Regular Meeting Agenda: Spencer/Kluge Jr. unanimous to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda.

1.3 Approve Consent Agenda: Spencer/Hiller unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda Items A) July 27, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes B) July 27, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes.

1.4 Fire Report: Chief Maloney presented June calls for service: 10 medical assists, 1 gas leak, 2 motor vehicle personal injury accident, 1 carbon monoxide, 2 fire alarm, 1 person in distress (lift assist), 2 grass fire, 1 outside rubbish fire, 2 residential house fire (1-Zimmerman, 1-Baldwin). Total calls for the month, Livonia-7, Zimmerman-10, Orrock-1, Stanford-2, Mutual Aid-2 total-22. The hose testing was completed on all trucks with all passing. Coming up on September 12 is the dance open house, would love to see people there. Applications are coming in for firefighters.

1.5 Sheriff's Report: July calls for service there were 0 burglaries reported and 0 thefts.

Incident	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Total Calls	226	215	230	233	242	243	244
Motor Vehicle Accident		1	8	9	10	9	8
Medical		14	14	15	14	28	25
Traffic Stop	92	85	80	68	73	55	73
Security Check		13	17	21	19	8	11
Extra Patrol	22	26	15	25	35	19	24

1.6 Event Center: Coordinator Hunnicutt stated she has 2 new weddings for this year, and 3 new weddings booked into 2028. Every weekend is booked for next month with 3 weddings and the fire department dance. The construction has been hard to access the building. Supervisor Hiller recommended Hunnicutt get a schedule to Superintendent Kelly with a list of dates that he can share at the weekly meetings that the building needs to be accessible. She is still working on the operation manual, things are going well and looking good for next year and into 2028.

1.7 Engineering Updates – Engineer Tessmer: The Woodlands project has some disagreement with the subcontractor who did the dirt work and grass on pricing, the primary contractor has also been made aware. We still have the retainage for the project, still a few issues with trees, some spots that need raking and a drainage issue. Hanson sent an invoice totaling \$79,459.76 for the wear course and planned quantities for seeding, Kukowski/Hiller unanimous to approve payment. The overall project was overbudget due to tree removal, having to add back more class 5 and going a little more north than anticipated. Supervisor Hiller asked about the contractor overall, Engineer Tessmer stated he thought they did good with the paving itself, were understanding of the project, had all equipment they needed, knew how to get the result we wanted, and most of the complaints came from their subcontractors. Wrapped up on 98th, 266th & 268th they sent an invoice totaling \$152,523.03 which was about \$12,000 under budget for the project, Kukowski/Kluge Jr. unanimous to approve payment. The contractor for Aspen Heights is thinking of a September start date now. For 2027 road projects we were thinking of Acorn Ridge and Deer Haven and to price it as one project to get better pricing. Discussion about 112th St going into Elk River and the weight limit, how that could impact other roads and heavy truck traffic. Supervisor Hiller asked Tessmer to stay on top of the LRIP grant that we would like to apply for 253rd so we know when to make changes from last year. Supervisor Kukowski spoke with Craig from Widseth about MS4 requirements and how they could help us with some of the required areas on for the application.



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1.8 Planning Commission Report: Supervisor Spencer attended and for the July meeting the following were recommended for approval: a request for an Interim Use Permit for a business selling vehicles, boats and farm implements in Big Lake Township. A request for a Residential Preliminary & Final Simple plat in Palmer Township and a request to Rezone from General Rural to Shoreland Residential in Orrock Township. For the August meeting the following were recommended for approval: a request for an Interim Use Permit for a Solar Farm in Clear Lake Township, and a request for an Interim Use Permit for Occasional Special Event-Haunted Trail in Orrock Township.

REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

2.1 Ady's Acres Final Plat Approval-30-00006-2000: Paul Christensen was present to request final standard plat of Adys Acres, consisting of 5 lots. Subdivide ONLY a 12-acre portion of the parcel on the SE border into 5 lots. No beyond lots for sale. Remainder of parcel to remain undisturbed. He had nothing new to present. Engineer Tessmer stated that the latest version of the plat meets all the requirements. Supervisor Kukowski stated that the road looks good, she didn't see the survey comments but that would come from the county. Kukowski/Hiller unanimous to approve the plat. He stated that he needed the comments by the 15th of September for the county meeting.

2.2 14180 256th Ave-2nd Driveway request 30-00418-0255: Tom Marchessault was present to ask the board for a 2nd driveway to access the ADU structure on his property. He built the unit towards the back of his property and right now access is off his current driveway. His concern is the emergency services won't know where to go if it is addressed off 256th Ave. Discussion about emergency services and the 911 signs, there was questions if the county would give him an address off 142nd St. Supervisor Hiller suggested to table the decision to see if the county would be agreeable to change the address of the ADU and report back to the board at the next month's meeting.

2.3 Lovitz-30-00403-0434 Variance: Kenneth Lovitz was present to ask for 3 variances, 1 pertaining to a deck he wants to build and 2 pertaining to an existing unpermitted shed that was built too close to the lot line. He is requesting a 24-foot variance to the rear lot line to allow an existing unpermitted building to remain on the property also requesting a 6.7-foot variance to allow an existing unpermitted shed to remain 3.3 feet from side lot line. These require an "after the fact" variance findings.

- a) Did the applicant act in good faith? Yes-he didn't build the shed it was built by the previous owner.
- b) Did the applicant attempt to comply with the ordinance? Yes-he is here today doing what he should be doing to be able to keep the shed.
- c) Did the applicant make a substantial investment? Yes-he bought the property and would like to keep the shed.
- d) Was the construction completed? Yes-prior to him taking ownership of the property.
- e) Are there similar structures in the area? Yes-other people have sheds on their property.
- f) Is the county's benefits outweighed by the applicant's burden if the applicant were required to comply with the ordinance? No-there is no purpose to tear the shed down.

Hiller/Kukowski unanimous to recommend approval of both variances that pertain to the shed.

For the building of the deck, he is requesting a 15-foot variance to the rear setback to construct a deck. The required setback to the rear property line is 25 feet. The Finding of Facts considerations for the Variance were asked and answered as follows:

- 1) Is the variance in harmony with the intent of the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance? Yes-the size of the lot constrains what he can do.
- 2) Without the variance, is the property owner deprived of a reasonable use of the property? Yes-other people have decks; he would like to be able to open the door to let his animals out on the deck. He has a deck door but no deck, so a door that goes to nowhere.



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3) Is the practical difficulty due to circumstances unique to this property? Yes-where the house sits on the lot and the lot size constraints.

4) Were the circumstances causing the practical difficulty created by someone or something other than the landowner? No-the lot size constraints and where the house sits on lot.

5) Will the issuance of the variance maintain the essential character of the locality? Yes

6) Does the practical difficulty involve more than economic considerations? No-nothing to do with economics, it's the footprint he must work with.

Kukowski/Kluge Jr. unanimous to recommend approval of the variance for the deck. Supervisor Hiller added that he would like Mr. Lovitz to find his survey stakes and would like to have the deck 10' off the property line, if possible, to minimize the impact on the neighboring property.

2.4 Brad Schumacher-potential tax increase: County Commissioner Schumacher was present to talk about the potential tax increase from the county perspective. He discussed state cost shifts and federal cost shifts and how those numbers impact the budget. Talked about the budget and levy history itself, health and human services, the tax rate, where the tax dollars go and the open houses to discuss the levy coming up. Supervisor Kluge Jr. stated that he thinks the county needs to itemize the budget and find ways to make cuts. The county needs to take care of us or people will start to leave. This is only the county portion; the schools may add another increase and soon we could be at 12% and that is not ok. Supervisor Hiller also shares frustration with the raise, if the City of Zimmerman increases their levy 5% and a potential 9% for the county, that could be an increase of 14% to the residents. The township levy is increasing by 0.40% so we know that cutting down budgets can be done. Schumacher stated that they pass mandates at the legislature and they aren't sending as much money to the county to cover the mandates.

3. Open Forum: No one present.

4.1 Clerk/Treasurer Report: Clerk/Treasurer Fiedler, items of interest last month included: Primary election went well, will have to have a few more judges for precinct 2 for the general election in November. Road construction was an issue at Precinct 1 & 3 in the morning.

4.2 Approve payment of claims: Kluge Jr./Kukowski unanimous to approve payment of claims and payroll totaling \$272,675.89 and transfer \$267,000.00 to cover check numbers 22883 through 22926 and August EFT #304-308 for Federal, State, PERA withholding tax, CenterPoint.

4.3 Road Report: Kelly provided the following report July 20, 2026 – August 16, 2026:

Attached 9-1-1 signs and brackets on 140th St removed existing posts.

Supervisor Kukowski would like to add if there are road orders and speed studies to the road database for the township roads.

Vehicles:

Truck 36: Ready to sell, Kluge Jr/Kukowski motion to sell for no less than \$27,000 at next Hiller auction, Roll Call Vote-Kukowski-yes, Jr-yes, Spencer-yes, Hiller-abstain motion passed.

Truck 41: Rear seal is leaking, needs to be repaired.

John Deere Tractor: Ready to mow.

Ford Tractor: Ready to mow.

Road Maintenance

Throughout township: Fahrner completed striping.

Aspen Heights: Omann Contracting was awarded contract, will reach out on start date.



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266th, 268th & 98th St: Astech was awarded contract, all work is done.

Minimum Maintenance Road: Ongoing grading, keeping an eye on traffic flow.

Lake Fremont Shoreline: Hauled 6 loads of class 5.

Tree cutting: due to high winds, throughout township.

Woodlands: fixed busted asphalt curbing.

Lake Fremont Restoration: paperwork says \$26,000 but thought it was \$50,000 will contact about difference. Supposed to get drawings from engineers on designs.

Station 1: Kevin and Chris attended roundabout meeting last Wednesday 8-12.

Station 2: Holding tank relief valve has been replaced. Appears to be working.

4.4 Park and Cemetery Report: Aubart provided the following report: Reporting Period June 25, 2026 – August 21, 2026.

Parks Maintenance: Supervisor Kluge Jr. asked Chris about Sugar bush burn, will coordinate a future date.

North Point: Mowed grass and watering trees continued.

Sugar Bush Preserve: Cleaned trails and mowed grass. Used brush mower and went through hiking trail. Had some trees that had fallen. Cut up fallen trees/branches and removed from trail. Checked current pricing for future archery range. Got pricing on excavating the area, class 5 for pad for future building, safety fence on sides, black dirt, grass seed and targets. There are different size targets, was thinking 7 targets total. Discussion about target sizes, covering for the targets, costs for targets, and who would use the range. Hiller/Kukowski unanimous to approve up to \$18,000 to be spent to get the archery range up and going without lights or a structure.

Cemetery Maintenance:

Livonia Township Cemetery: Mowed grass and watered crabapple trees. Have had a few calls about purchasing cemetery lots from people who are not residents of the township. Our bylaws need to be updated, after some discussion this was tabled to later date.

Other Duties:

Hot tar on various roads, road grading, ditch mowing, relocating 911 address signs onto mailboxes swing away on 140th St and help set up and take down of primary election equipment.

4.5 Supervisor or Committee Reports: **Kluge Jr.:** Nothing. **Hass:** Absent. **Hiller:** reached out to ready-mix companies and they will not send out larger than 8 yards on a 7-ton road. This year we did 3.5 miles of road; carry that over the next 10 years we are hoping to complete 35 miles of road. This plan will help the township get into good shape with roads for the future. **Kukowski:** resident contacted her about 3 sprinkler heads that were damaged in the right of way during the road project on 98th St. She is requesting \$60 to fix them. Kukowski/Hiller motion to spend \$60 to fix them with Kluge Jr. opposed. **Spencer:** attended the Town Law Review and it was very informative. Also attended Couri & Ruppe Legal Seminar which has many good topics. Attended the organized garbage collection meeting in Zimmerman.

OTHER BUSINESS:

5.1 Articles on Facebook page: Supervisor Kukowski has found some articles in the Township Insider magazine that she would like to put on our Facebook page. She has gotten permission to use them, to get more information out to the residents. Supervisor Hiller recommended that she run them by the admins of the Facebook page first.

Spencer/Kluge Jr. unanimous to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Approved this 28th day of September 2026.

Chairman or Vice Chairman

Clerk/Treasurer or Deputy Clerk/Treasurer