

# Helena Township Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 08, 2025 at 7:00pm  
8751 Helena Road, Alden, Michigan 49612

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Butch Peeples at 7:00pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All in room stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Butch Peeples, Catherine Rice, Jim Schilling, Butch Bartz and Tony Smedra

**Conflict of Interest:** No Conflicts

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by B. Bartz, seconded by J. Schilling. Agenda approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** April 10, 2025; Motion by J. Schilling, seconded by B. Bartz. Minutes approved.

**Public Comment:** None

## **Treasurer's Report April 2025**

- \$ 136,644.62 – receipts
- \$ 39,858.04 – disbursements
- \$ 39,858.04 – presentation of bills

Motion by T. Smedra to approve April 2025 Treasurer's report , seconded by B. Bartz. Treasurer's report approved.

**Fire Chief Report:** Review of the South Torch Lake Fire & Rescue report from Chief Paul Fabiano.

- The Fire Department and TAA have successfully placed a 24/7 staffed ambulance at the Helena Township Fire Building.
- New personal protective equipment has replaced expired equipment.
- The fire department is completing Rapid Task Force (RTF) training in conjunction with the Sheriff department.

**Sheriff's Report:** Review of highlighted activities from Sheriff Kevin Hoch.

- The sheriff's department has identified increased drug activity/use in the county.
- A second K-9 dog has been trained and donated to the sheriff's department.
- A recreational and marine deputy will be on the water, and camera(s) installed to monitor activity ensuring water safety protocols.

**Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) Report:** None

All reports are linked with the minutes on the township website [www.helenatownship.com](http://www.helenatownship.com)

**Communications:** Cleanup day has been confirmed as Saturday June 14, 2025 from 8am-12noon. Additional information will be posted on the Helena Township website.

**Committee Reports:** Terry VanAlstine shared:

- On-going septic issue is being resolved within the township impacted.
- Coordination by the Drain Commissioner with other agencies will be investigating options for Bellaire dam repair.

**Zoning:** Bob Logee advised with summer approaching there was additional zoning activity.

**Parks & Recreation:** Steve Dell reviewed the following:

- At Alden Park a bid was received to resurface the tennis courts, and grants are being investigated to defray some of the costs.
- In coordination with the AuSable Institute, the Restoration Ecology for Young Students (REYS), Rapids City Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be planting native plants at Depot Park. One thousand native plants have been donated by Grand Traverse Regional Community foundation who will also provide all planning, labor and funding.
- At Alden Safe Harbor an additional sidewalk has been donated, to be installed for safety.

**Planning Commission:** Jim Gurr reviewed the following:

- There are on-going efforts to complete updates to Ordinance 5.02.02 and definitions.
- The Planning Commission and ZBA completed compliance training on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Roads:** Butch Bartz reviewed the following:

- Roads improvement expenses have been approved for selected roadways to be tar & chip, as well as identified gravel roads for repairs.
- Motion to approve the road budget repairs by C. Rice, and seconded by T. Smedra. Motion approved.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:**

- B. Logee has contacted the family involved with the vacant home on Franklin that has become a safety issue. Remediation plans are being made.

**Announcements:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to Pay Bills:** Motion to pay bills by T. Smedra, seconded by B. Bartz. Motion approved.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Fay M. VandenBerg, Helena Township Board Recording Secretary