

# Helena Township Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 7:00pm  
8751 Helena Road, Alden, Michigan 49612

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Supervisor, 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

**Members Absent:** Tony Smedra

**Conflict of Interest:** No Conflicts

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

**Approval of Minutes:** July 10, 2025; Motion by C. Rice, seconded by J. Schilling. Minutes approved.

**Public Comment:** None

## **Treasurer's Report June 2025**

\$ 14,332.90 – receipts  
\$ 42,376.74 – disbursements  
\$810,565.59 – bank balance

Motion by B. Bartz to approve June 2025 Treasurer's report, seconded by J. Schilling. Unanimous approval of Treasurer's report.

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

- Service calls for Helena Township continue to rise in 2025; with 155 YTD.
- Processes and procedures have been put in place with MIOSHA Rule 7422 regarding fire truck tire inspection and replacement.

**Sherriff's Report:** Overview of the activities from Antrim County Sheriff Kevin Hoch.

- Kevin was accompanied by (1) Officer Bradley and K9 dog – Zeek, (2) Detective Sargent Michael, and (3) new deputy Mitchell. An overview of ongoing efforts and new technology being used to ensure the safety of Helena Township residents was presented.

**Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) Report:** No report

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

**Communications:** Representing the Alden Farmers Market, Danielle inquired about having some sort signage at both ends of Alden. These would be up from June to September each year. Jim Schilling and Jim Gurr will be working with Danielle.

**Guest Speaker:** Marilyn Barber Coszewski provided an update on the Helena Township Cemetery signage work.

- The two signs with graphics will be erected August 27 – 29, 2025.
- Marilyn will work with Oryana regarding the Consumers Energy account for lighting.
- Marilyn noted that additional funds/donations are needed for the colored glass portion of the project.
- A dedication ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the cemetery; to include a pastor, the Boy Scouts, and an Honor Guard.
- A small gathering at the Helena Township Community Center will take place after the ceremony.

**Committee Reports:** Terry VanAlstine shared:

- COA engineering drafting displays the new footprint.
- The bill is in the House for Antrim County to have its own district court system. This will be financially advantageous for Antrim County and resident.
- Terry presented two new American flags that were flown over Lansing to Butch Peebles.

**Zoning:** Bob Logee presented the busy July 2025 zoning activities.

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

- The playground area will be re-configured to include the new donated equipment in the existing footprint. Damaged and/or broken equipment will be removed.
- Barry Snyder presented a plan and related costs to eliminate the recent vandalism occurring in the public bathrooms. This includes commercial time set locks and new doors.
  - Motion to approve costs by J. Schilling and seconded by B. Bartz. Unanimously approved.

**Planning Commission:** Jim Gurr presented:

- There will be a public hearing on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm regarding Ordinance – Chapter 5 – Supplemental Regulations, Section 5.02 – Supplemental Waterfront, Lake, Stream, Flood Plain and Wetlands Regulations, Section 5.02.01 – Private Waterfront Access (Vacant) to modify the language.

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

- Tar/Spray and Seal will begin in two weeks.

**New Business:**

- The individual causing vandalism to Helena Township Community Center onsite dumpsters has been caught.
- The Beech tree by Thayer Lake entrance will be removed.

**Old Business:**

- J. Schilling has advised the flashing speed limit signs will be installed prior to September.

**Announcements:** Classic Sport/Muscle Car Auto Show on Saturday, August 23, 2025 in Alden Tennis Park area.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion to Pay Bills:** Motion to pay bills by J. Schilling and seconded by B. Bartz. Unanimous approval to pay bills.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by B. Bartz and seconded by J. Schilling. Unanimous approval and meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

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