

Helena Township Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 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, Oryana Leffew, Catherine Rice, Jim Schilling, Butch Bartz

Conflict of Interest: No Conflicts

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

Approval of Minutes: August 09, 2025; Motion by J. Schilling, seconded by B. Bartz. Minutes approved.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's Report August 2025

\$ 29,622.70 – receipts
\$ 83,297.80 – disbursements
\$759,867.69 – bank balance

C. Rice mentioned Michigan State township revenue sharing was approximately \$17,000.00. 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 compared to 2024.
- Processes, procedures and training is taking place related to the new bullet proof helmets and vests.
- The Fire Department Blood Drive information can be found on Facebook.
- Open house is scheduled on October 4th, from 11am to 2pm at the fire house.

Sherriff's Report: No report

Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) Report: Review of the TAA from Mike Robinson.

- The TAA is fully staffed with thirty-five (35) full-time and part-time employees.
- There are three ambulances in use, and one back-up when needed.

Reports are linked with the minutes on the township website www.helenatownship.com

Communications:

- Butch Peebles accepted an American flag from Rain Wanstreet. This was flown over Afghanistan; it will be mounted in the gymnasium of Helena Township Community Center. Along with the flag was a certificate of authentication.
- Marilyn Barber Coszewski provided an update on the Helena Township Cemetery signage work.
 - Two signs with graphics and flag pole*/new flag have been erected. (*the new flag pole was donated)
 - A dedication ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 13th at 11am at the cemetery; to include a pastor, the Boy Scouts, and the American Legion.

Committee Reports: Terry VanAlstine shared that District Court efforts continue with the probate judge.

Zoning: Bob Logee presented the August 2025 zoning activities. An extension permit was requested and approved for the spa north of the tennis courts.

Parks & Recreation: Jim Gurr reported that work has begun on the 2026-2030 Parks and Recreation five year plan. A resolution was read; C. Rice motioned and Oryana seconded. Roll call vote: Bartz-Y, Schilling-Y, Bartz-Y, Schilling-Y, Peebles-Y, Rice-Y, Leffew-Y. Resolution was passed.

Planning Commission: Jim Gurr confirmed there will be a public hearing on Thursday, October 2nd 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 may be delayed into spring of 2026 due to product issues at the vendors. Culvert repairs will also be moved to spring due to working in water.

New Business:

- The Au Sable Institute would like to do additional planting at Alden Depot next spring. Native plants are being donated by Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.
- The Beech tree by Thayer Lake entrance has been removed.

Old Business: None

Announcements: Alden Cemetery memorial on Saturday, September 13th at 11:00am.

Public Comment: None

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

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

Approved

Minutes approved at Helena Township Board Meeting – 10-9-2025