

# Mastodon Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, February 10, 2026

---

*A regular meeting of the Mastodon Township Board was called to order at 5:30pm by Supervisor Chad Skinner.*

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**PRESENT BY ROLL CALL:** Mike Bjork, Karen Mallon, Chad Skinner, Stacey Watters, Dave Smith.

**Department members present:** Dan Kurtz, Andy Fleming and Stu Creel and Tammy Hendrickson.

**Public in attendance:** Mike Webb, Mary Taylor, Zach Hautala, Sherie Courchaine.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Bjork to approve agenda as with the correction of the next meeting date to be changed to March 10, 2026. Support: Smith. Call to vote: All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Smith to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Support: Skinner. Call to vote: All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REVIEW:** Bjork reported to the Board that he reviewed payables for General Fund checks 32850-32852, and payroll for checks numbers 32809-32818, and direct deposits DD1334-1345. Invoices presented for approval included invoices 14314 – 14352 in the amount of \$14,273.36. Motion by Smith to approve payables, invoices and payroll as submitted. Support: Bjork. Call to vote. All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Written and submitted.

**Clerk:** Written and submitted. Clerk advised the Board that she has spoken to DNR representatives regarding the fence and bathhouse at Stager Lake. The DNR will not look into this matter until after the snow melts late Spring. At this time they are not concerned about the fence as Mallon stated she requested that Kurtz put reflective tape on the fence for safety issues. The DNR's concern is that the Bathhouse has been built on State property and the State will be looking at a possible land rental agreement. Mallon advised that neither the fence nor the bathhouse in on the trail.

**Supervisor:** Reported that he is reviewing the policy manual and would like to review spending authority. Requested changes to the policy. Regarding Bids and Quotes: To meet the State's recommended threshold, bids are required for expenditures from \$25,000 and up; quotes are required for expenditures from \$5,000 to \$24,999.99, and expenditures under \$5,000, require no quotes. The Supervisor is authorized to approve expenditures that are emergent in nature up to \$10,000.00 without prior Board approval. Department heads are authorized to approve expenditures up to \$3,000.00 without Board approval provided that the department's budget supports the expenditure. The Supervisor will present an amended policy for the Board's final approval.

**Road Commission Report:** Smith reported that the Road Commission will complete phases 6-9 on County Road 424 in 2027. Gravel for road work has been bidded out, and work to be done on Upper Dam Road has also been bidded out. TransCanda will begin work on the pipeline in 2026. Fiber optics work will continue in the county and focus will be on the Village of Alpha and Mastodon Township. The Road Commission addressed public concerns regarding snow plowing. The Road Commission will consider weekend plowing. Weight limits on roads will be in effect soon. The Road Commission will be rewriting weight limits (for example, a 5 ton load will be a full weight – vehicle, trailer and load). Ag exemptions will be included.

**Assessor:** Written and submitted.

**Fire Chief:** Written and submitted.

**Zoning Administrator:** Written report submitted.

**Planning Commission:** Bjork reported that there are two open positions on the Planning Commission. He advised that Sherie Courchaine was appointed Chair and Ashlee Kinsley will remain as Secretary. He reported that the Planning Commission asked Karen Mallon to be the recording secretary. He further advised that the Master Plan will be an update and not a full rewrite. The Planning Commission is requesting assistance from a consultant to help with amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance that has been approved by the Board is the 2018 version. The Planning Commission will extract text amendment requests and suggestions that were identified in 2022, 2023 and 2025 and move

forward with the proper procedures required by the Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act. Once amendments have been identified, public hearings will be scheduled.

Mallon asked ZA Creel for a copy of the minutes he identified in his report to the Board that demonstrated that in 2022 the Board approved text amendments to the 2018 Zoning Ordinance as the Clerk's Office does not have minutes that reflect a motion that specifies what text amendments were made. ZA advised that he did not have a different copy than what the Clerk's Office has.

**Recreational Committee:** Sherie Courchaine presented report to Board. She advised that the committee met on January 20, 2026 and is looking at projects for 2026 to present budgetary figures to the Board. She has presented information regarding Stager Lake Beach improvements and the naming of an Alpha Park. Both of which will be discussed during New Business.

**Village of Alpha:** No report submitted.

**Maintenance:** Written and submitted

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Zach Hautala presented information from the Iron County ECA which includes the annual report. He advised that the municipalities in the country have received nearly \$3.6 million in grant funding for parks, trails, and sewers. He will email the annual report. He advised that the Business After Hours gathering is a great network.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Mastodon Road Millage Discussion:** Mallon advised the Board that the Road Millage is a renewal millage. However, if the Board so inclined to raise the road millage, then this would be considered a new millage, and the township would have to hold public hearings regarding this millage. Time is short as all millages for the August 2026 ballot need to be at the County Clerk's office in April 2026. After discussion regarding raising the taxes, it was decided that the road millage will not be raised.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Stager Lake Beach Maintenance:** Request to make beach improvements is presented. The project requires a permit from EGLE because of the nesting loons at Stager Lake. Additional funding was requested to purchase beach sand to increase the beach area. After discussion and input from Kurtz, the Board approved funding for the EGLE permit application. The funding for sand will be discussed at a future date.
- **Alpha Park Name:** The Recreation Committee presented three options for naming of the park in Alpha that encompasses the basketball court. After discussion, the Board selected Triangle Park as the name for this Alpha Park.

**Other Business:**

- **Electric Sign:** Kurtz presented information regarding an electric sign for placement at the township hall which would be used to make announcements to the public regarding Township activities. Kurtz will contact CJ Graphics for information on purchasing an electronic sign. Once he receives a quote, he will present it to the Board.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Comments:** None

**Details of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Adjournment:** Motion by Bjork to adjourn the meeting at 6:25pm. Support: Skinner. Call to vote: All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

*I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the draft minutes of the February 10, 2026, Regular Board meeting. Signed herein by the Mastodon Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 47<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.*



\_\_\_\_\_, Karen Mallon, Clerk