

Mastodon Township Regular Board Meeting: Draft Minutes July 14, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Skinner at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chad Skinner, Dave Smith, Mike Bjork and Karen Mallon.

Board Members Absent: Stacey Watters

Township Employees Present: Dan Kurtz, Tammy Hendrickson, Andy Flemming, Stu Creel

Public Attendees: Katy Krook, Nancy Scarff, Susan Nesmith, Linda Paine

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Bjork supported by Skinner to approve the agenda as presented. Call to vote. All ayes, motion carried.

Approval of June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Mallon and support by Skinner to approve the June 9, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes with the spelling correction to be made to the spelling of Stagger Lake under Recreational Committee Report and to Dan Kurtz's name on page 3 under Maintenance Report. Call to vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable and Payroll Review: Bjork reviewed accounts payable and payroll. Motion by Skinner to approve accounts payable checks 33081-33105 in the amount of \$18,426.06 from General Fund, checks 1409-1410 in the amount of \$8,194.84 from Road Account, and check 1180 in the amount of \$33.57, invoices 14585 through 14626 from General Fund in the amount of \$13,811.09, and Invoice 14627 from the Water Account in the amount of \$35.17, and invoice 14628 from the Road Account in the amount of \$374.50, and to approve payroll checks 33072 to 33080 and direct deposits 1398-1413 in the amount of \$17,265.26. Support by Smith. Call to vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reports

Treasurer Report: Written and submitted

Clerk Report: Written and submitted. Mallon advised all that Early Voting will begin on July 25, 2026 for the State Primary Election. She further advised that the Election Commission met on June 22, 2026, and Election Inspectors for the Primary Election were duly appointed. The Public Accuracy Test for the primary election tabulators will be held on July 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the township hall.

Supervisor Report: Supervisor reported that Spring Clean Up Day was a success. Over 155 tires were collected. Met with Clerk and ZA regarding Land Division procedure. Clerk will produce a checklist for the process involved in land divisions to ensure all requests are done in a timely manner.

Road Commission Report: Smith reported he was unable to attend the June 2026 Road Commission meeting. Smith reported on the July 2026 meeting. Road Commission has ordered two new trucks. RC is working on emissions exemption status for plow trucks. Road crack filling is continuing; however, no roads in Mastodon Township will have cracks filled. There are 5 culverts that will be replaced on CR 424. New employees have been hired. The bridge at Idlewild Road is closed. FEMA funding is expected for the April 2026 flood. President Trump approved Michigan Disaster funding for the Spring floods. Fiber optic work continues in the county. Road Commission reported that they are behind in mowing along the road side, and there is no set schedule for the grass cutting. Graveling has not yet been done.

Smith asked if the Township could fix its own roads. Mallon questioned whether the Township could "legally" do that. Skinner advised that the Township cannot fix its own roads. Mallon stated she would like Smith to continue to ride the township roads, Bjork stated he agreed with that as it would "keep the Road Commission on its toes."

Skinner advised Smith that he would like to be let known immediately if any township road needs immediate attention.

Assessor's Report: Written and submitted. Hendrickson wondered how BS&A Cloud would interface with the Village of Alpha for tax purposes. Hendrickson will meet with Watters to discuss further.

Fire Chief's Report: Written and submitted. Fleming advised that the FD missed the deadline for the FEMA grant. They will apply next year. The DNR grant has been submitted.

Planning Commission Report: Bjork was not present at the June 20, 2026 PC Work Session nor at the July 1, 2026 meeting. Chair Courchaine presented Planning Commission report. The June 20 PC Work Session was attended by Courchaine and Kinsey. The two continued review of the Zoning Ordinance to incorporate updates presented in 2022 through 2025. At the July 1, 2026 Regular Planning Commission meeting, STRs were discussed. Two options are available to the Township. The PC would like direction from the Board and requests to meet at a Work Session to discuss how the Board envisions STRs in the Township. Mallon advised that the township's attorney has suggested that this is very advisable. The Board and Planning Commission will meet at 5:00 pm on August 11, 2026 prior to the Regular Board meeting at 5:30 pm on that same day.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Written and submitted.

Recreation Committee Report: No report; no meeting.

Village of Alpha Report: No report submitted

Maintenance Report: Written and submitted. Appreciation from Smith was given to Dan Kurtz for all the work he did to make the Alpha parks ready for the 4th of July celebration. Kurtz reported that brining is not completed. He needs a few more loads of chloride, and then he will be done. Spraying the chloride is working much better.

Public Comment Agenda Items – None

Unfinished Business

Thrasher Building Update: Mallon had presented in the Clerk's report that she spoke with Parcell of the IC Building Department regarding the Thrasher Building. No permit is required if the building has less than two sides. If the building has three or more sides a permit will be required, but he will not charge us for the permit. He stated the Township must have a zoning permit to ensure that setbacks from the road are met. Parcell further advised that no engineering work is required. Parcell stated that Kurtz who has a residential license is well qualified to build. He stated that commercial builders are not required to have a license. MTA and township insurance agent both advised that no special requirements are needed for volunteer work other than the volunteers signing a waiver. Kurtz will design a building and present it to the Board for approval at the August 11, 2026 meeting.

Logging Discussion – Mastodon Township Property 198 Acres: Discussion regarding bids received for forest management. Motion by Mallon to use UP Forest Resources to assist Mastodon Township with managing the 198 acres owned by the Township on Woodlot Road. Support: Smith. Roll call vote: Bjork – yes; Mallon – yes; Smith – yes; Skinner – yes. Motion passed. Smith will advise Terry Reed of UP Forest Resources.

Park Usage Application: Discussion held on Park Usage Application that was provided to the Township by Insurance company, Par Plan. Skinner will work on the form.

Jacob's Lawsuits (x2): Mallon updated Board regarding the two Jacobs lawsuits. Attorney Lynch has indicated that the Paul and Paula lawsuit settlement was agreed to, but he has not seen the signed form. He will update the Board once he has the signed settlement form. Lorraine Jacobs portion of the Perry and Denise Jacobs lawsuit has been entered for a dismissal. Attorney Lynch indicates that his firm served Lorraine with lawsuit documents in

error. Attorney Ryan will update the Board on the action that Perry and Denise Jacobs take to be in compliance with the ZBA decision.

New Business

Buck Lake Electrical Quotes: Kurtz received quotes for electric installation at Buck Lake Park. Motion by Smith to hire Goriesky Electric in the amount of \$3200.00. Support: Bjork. Call to vote: All ayes. Motion passed. Kurtz to notify Goriesky.

Buck Lake Special Assessment District: Bjork advised the Board that he wants the Buck Lake Special Assessment back on the agenda because the motion failed at the June public hearing, and he believes that the resolution is still valid and needs to be acted upon. Bjork did not present the motion to adopt the resolution to the board at this time. Mallon advised the Board that she will contact the Township Attorneys for proper procedure to follow in this matter.

Other Business: None

Public Comment

Jason Rusch – a Stager Lake property owner spoke to the Board regarding a parking situation that occurred at Stager Lake Park on the 4th of July. He stated he contacted the Sheriff's Office but there was no response. He stated he was concerned about the parking on park property because he was told that the ATV/Snowmobile trail was fenced off due to vehicles on park property and causing damage.

Rick – a Buck Lake Property owner voiced his concerns over the process held regarding the Buck Lake Special Assessment hearing on June 5, 2026. He stated that although costs were high, the resolution could have still been passed so that the process could have continued and costs refined.

Linda Paine – a property owner at Chicagoan Lake stated that a land division her father applied for was not handle correctly by the township. The land division application was approved by the Planning Commission on September 3, 2025. Mrs. Paine expressed her disappointed to the Township that proper procedure was not followed in this case as it has caused concerns to her family in their process to sell the properties because the split was not recorded until sometime in April 2026.

Board Member Comments: None

Details of the Next Meeting: The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Bjork and supported by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Motion carried.

I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the draft minutes of the July 14, 2026, Regular Board meeting. Signed herein by the Mastodon Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 17th day of July 2026.



Karen Mallon, Clerk