MILTON TOWNSHIP

MILTON TOWNSHIP, ANTRIM COUNTY
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Milton Township Board of Trustees, at a special meeting on March 23, 2026, at 9 AM, made a motion to adopt amendment #ZO 2025-06 to the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance. This amendment adds to section ***117.222, Definitions,*** to add **Vacation Rental**, section ***117.317, Dwelling Unit Rentals*** to add language regarding the minimum length of stay. This amendment shall become effective 8 days after this publication.

At a regular meeting on April 20, 2026, at 9 AM the Milton Township Board of Trustees, made a motion to adopt amendment #ZO 2026-02 to the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance. This amendment adds to **Section 117.1602, Special Land Use Procedures** to note that an introduction to the planning commission is required prior to scheduling a public hearing. This amendment shall become effective 8 days after this publication.

At a regular meeting on May 18, 2026, at 9 AM, made a motion to adopt amendment #ZO 2026-03 to the Milton Township Zoning Ordinance. This amendment places a temporary moratorium on the submittal of a special use application for a planned residential development in the A-Agricultural District per **Section 117.1616(B.)(17.).** This amendment shall become effective 8 days after this publication.

These amendments may be viewed on the Township Website miltontownship.org at the Township Hall at 7023 Cherry Ave, Kewadin, MI 49648 by appointment.

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
DRAFT MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MAY 8, 2026
12:00 PM
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss the agenda item listed below.

Present: Cook, J. Schultz, Graves, M. Merchant
Absent: J. Merchant
Audience: 1

Meeting called to order at 12:06 PM

Approval of the Agenda-Schultz/Graves to approve agenda as is. 2 Contracts: 1yr or 2yr at the same cost.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Motion Cook/Graves to approve the contract with Lawns Unlimited LLC for a 2 year fixed contract not to exceed $41,025.00 per year without the prior written authorization by TLT Supervisor. **Passes 3-0**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

BOARD COMMENT: Graves thanks Lawns Unlimited LLC for putting together a bid for review and appreciates the quality of work they do.

Motion to Adjourn by Cook/M. Merchant at 12:25 AM

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
DRAFT MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MAY 12, 2026
9:00 AM
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss the agenda item listed below.

Present: Cook, J. Merchant, M.Merchant
Absent: **Graves, Schultz**
Audience: 1

Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Motion by Cook/J. Merchant to approve proposed Road Millage Renewal (wording for August ballot):

1 Mill Renewal Road Millage Proposal
This proposal provides funds for construction and maintenance of Torch Lake Township public roads for a period of six years. This proposal will replace a previously levied millage passed by the electorate in 2022 which expires in 2026.

Shall the limitation of the ad valorem taxes which may be levied by the Township of Torch Lake, in Antrim County, Michigan be established at 1 mil (1 dollar per $1,000 of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, 2027 through 2032 inclusive, for road construction and maintenance and shall the Township levy such millage for these purposes. If approved and levied in its entirety, this millage would raise an estimated $412,650.00 for the township annually.

Roll Call Vote: Cook-yes, J. Merchant-yes, M. Merchant-yes

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

BOARD COMMENT: none.

Motion to Adjourn by Cook/M. Merchant at 9:05 AM

Have a Take Note? Call 264-6670 or editor@elkrapidsnews.com

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
DRAFT MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2026
9:00 AM
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss the agenda item listed below.

Present: Cook, J. Merchant, M.Merchant
Absent: Graves, Schultz
Audience: 3

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Motion by Cook/J. Merchant to approve Resolution 2026-09 for proposed Road Millage Renewal and Increase (wording for August ballot):

1 Mill Renewal and Increase to Road Millage
This proposal provides funds for construction and maintenance of Torch Lake Township public roads for a period of six years. This proposal will renew and increase (offset the Headlee rollbacks) the previously levied millage (1 mill) passed by the electorate in 2022 which expires in 2026.

Shall the expiring previous voted increase in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Torch Lake Township, of 1 mills (1$ per $1,000 of taxable value), reduced to .9682 Mills ($0.9682 per $1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed and increased up to the original voted 1 mills ($1 per $1,000 of taxable value) and levied for six (6) years, 2027 through 2032 inclusive, for road construction and maintenance, raising an estimated $412,650.00 in the first year the millage is levied

Roll Call Vote: Cook-yes, J. Merchant-yes, M. Merchant-yes

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

BOARD COMMENT: Cook thanks the board for meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Cook/M. Merchant at 9:10 AM

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
APPROVED-NO CHANGES 3-0
MINUTES OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Cook, Schultz, M. Merchant, J. Merchant
Absent: Graves
Audience: 12

A. REPEATING AGENDA:
1. Meeting called to order by Cook at 7:00 pm. Pledge recited.
2. Prior meeting minutes were approved
3. Correspondence and Announcements: Clerk reads several correspondence letters in favor of the Nakwema Trail.
4. Approval of Agenda Content: Cook requests addition of #5 to New Business and removal of #2 from New Business. Motion by Cook/M. Merchant to accept agenda as presented with changes. Passes 4-0.
5. Citizen Comment: none

B. CONSENT AGENDA: Schultz requests to pull Ambulance Report to specify that the new ambulance is almost in service but that the cameras are not yet ready. Cook/Schultz to accept ambulance report as presented. Passes 4-0 All others accepted by consent.

C. SPECIAL REPORTS
1. Cook gives summary of the Loughrey Plan that was presented at last PC meeting and comments on the review status of the Master Plan.
2. FOIA Update-none
3. Financial Overview-General fund unfavorable to budget. See specific details online.

D. BOARD ACTION
NO OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
1. **Motion** by Schultz/Cook to approve contract with Mike Bertram, Ambulance director, with an annual compensation of $22,500.00. **Passes 4-0**
2. **Motion** to approve Lawns Unlimited Contract-Removed from discussion until March 2026 Board Meeting
3. **Motion** Cook/Schultz on approval of Day Park and Nature Preserve cleaning contract with Above and Beyond Cleaning. **Passes 4-0.**
4. **Motion** by Cook/M. Merchant to approve Ordinance 2026-01 regarding Short Term Rental Definition as presented. **Passes 4-0.**
5. **Motion** by Schultz/Cook to approve the hiring of Ben Horvath as firefighter probationary for Torch Lake Township Fire Department effective February 18, 2026 at the rate of $16.05.

E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION
1. Board makes final review of FYR 2026-2027 TLT Budget.

F. AGENDA FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY
1. Board discusses ADA requirements for the Township Website. Michael Strange will be updating the website, bringing it to compliance.

G. CITIZEN COMMENT: Several township residents spoke in favor of the Nakwema trail. Jarris Rubingh gave the Antrim County Commissioner's report.

H. BOARD COMMENT: Schultz thanks the crowd for their attendance and support. Cook reminds everyone that the board has no say in whether the Nakwema Trail comes to our township, when construction will begin, or what side of the road it will be on.

I. ADJOURNMENT: 8:05 PM

J. FUTURE MEETING AND HEARINGS:
1. ZBA meeting, February 18, 2026-6:00 PM
2. PC meeting, March 16, 2026-7:00 PM
3. TLT Annual meeting of the Electors and Budget Meeting, March 10, 2026-6:00 PM
4. TLT Board Meeting, March 17, 2026-8:00 PM
5. ZBA meeting, March 18, 2026-7:00 PM

Mary Merchant, Township Clerk

ELK RAPIDS TOWNSHIP

ELK RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MAY 11, 2026

SYNOPSIS
The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St., Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amos at 9:00 am. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy

Present: Supervisor D. Amos, Clerk D. Husband, Treasurer K, Jensen, Trustee R.Hults and Trustee M.Soper.
Also Present: Attorney Morgan, Commissioner Hefferan, Chief Williamson, Sheriff Hoch, Village President Stephenson, Dam Operator Leslie Meyers and 2 signed in as audience.

Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: MOTION/S: Hults/Jensen to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION APPROVED.**

CONSENT AGENDA:
MOTION/S: Soper/Jensen to approve all the items on the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Hults, Soper, Jensen, Amos, and Husband all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

SHERIFF/COMMISSION REPORT: Sheriff Hoch gave monthly incident report, updating that the deputy candidates have passed licensing and they now have a full staff. The County will be using the LEAP system which will help enforcement officers to recognize autistic individuals when there is interaction. Community Mental Health has a grant opportunity to help provide an officer that will specialize with mental health issues and individuals. Sheriff Hoch mentioned the ongoing scams that continue in the area that are fraudulently taking large sums of money. Commissioner Hefferan mentioned leadership changes in the building code department, and Meadowbrook. Ballot language was approved for the 911 millage and the recycle bins contract is due this year. Construction on the Safety Building could begin this fall or next Spring.

Spillway Repair and Lake Level Control. Leslie Meyers from the County has communicated with Grand Traverse County for support on the proposed Special Assessment District of the Whitewater Township residents that is affected by the spillway. Dividing the SAD of the Bellaire Dam repair, and the lower waterway spillway, which only will include funding for lake level control. This project area is roughly 24 feet by 80 feet. The smaller repair of the Elk Rapids Spillway on Dexter Street will not include any other structural renovations. Cost estimates are needed and have slowed the process. Leaders from Milton Township, the Village of Elk Rapids, and the Township of Elk Rapids with Antrim County are in the process of a agreeing to a memorandum of understanding that will assist the analysis of repair cost so that Antrim County and Grand Traverse County can move forward on setting the Special Assessment Districts of the lower waterway. Antrim County will provide $50,000 toward the analysis and each other entity will contribute $22,633.33 toward the total cost. This amount will be applied to each district's portion of the SAD that they will be responsible for once the special district is set. No entity is exempt from the Special Assessment District that has access to the water, and more weight will be put on the larger users. Moving forward now might could make the 2027 winter tax roll. Properties that are affected are in the range of 6,000 and rough cost estimates are up to $8,000,000. With those rough estimates per portion would be around $1,000-$1,500. Meyers wants to assure property owners that the length of the assessment will be determined at a later date. Amos commented that the report of the status of the spillway is it needs to be repaired within 2 years and this was confirmed by Village President Stephenson. Lake Level Order needs to include the additional rivers and lakes of Torch River Torch Lake, Clam River and Clam Lake and rivers connecting to Bellaire.

MOTION/S: Amos/Soper: To move forward to approve $22,633.33 for the Memorandum of Understanding between Antrim County, the Village of Elk Rapids, Elk Rapids Township and Milton Township to fund an Alternatives Analysis Study for Rehabilitation of the Elk Rapids Spillway. Roll Call Vote: Soper, Jensen, Amos, Husband, and Hults all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT: MMR April report was presented by Chief Williamson.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Williamson reported on mask fit testing, and Fire Board budget revisions. Chief mentioned he would like to participate in the LEAP program the Sheriff outlined as they also deal with individuals that may require additional training. Pay frequency for training will need to be changed to monthly. Drone training has been taking place. Fire Station Building will be getting some maintenance and repairs in the future months.

ELK RAPIDS DISTRICT LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT: Pam Williams presented Annual Report of the Elk Rapids/Milton Township Library District with impressive statistics on showing the additional space is warranted. 2026 plans were outlined and diagrams of the new space were presented. Construction will begin in June and should be about 10 months. Phase I is fully funded. Updated floor plans were presented, which included community space that will be available for taxpayers' use.

MILTON TOWNSHIP SEWER UPDATE: Jensen mentioned the letter from Milton Township was sent out and Milton has given the property owners until August 31 to become compliant with their sewer ordinance. Jensen mentioned that we need to update our resolution to include the increase of fees that will occur when owners are not connected within the state mandated time frame.

GRAND TRAVERSE ROAD COMMISSION: Supervisor Amos has been working with Grand Traverse County Road Commission to repair Townline Road as a partner. Each county is responsible for half of the road. **MOTION/S:** To approve up to $55,000 on Townline Road improvements with Grand Traverse County Road Commission. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Amos, Husband, Hults, and Soper all voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

CEMETERY UPDATE: Amos mentioned that the Cemetery Committee will meet on May 14th to discuss future items such as ground leveling and decorative fencing. Over 500 Veteran Flags will be placed over the memorial weekend. Rotary has planned their EPIC Day of Service to clean headstones in the Maple Grove Cemetery for May 16th. The new water main is functioning and many new additional water spickets are placed throughout the property.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Tax Tribunal with Huntington Bank is ongoing with values

TOWNSHIP BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE. Delinquent personal property taxes are still being collected, building landscaping and lighting will be addressed when we have some estimates from Trustee Hults.

Adjourned: 10:39 am

Debbie Husband Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333
Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting

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TAKENOTE

Elk Rapids Garden Club Garden Walk

The Elk Rapids Garden Club will hold its biennial garden walk featuring seven gardens around the community on July 14, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets $15, $20 day of walk. Further information and tickets at *www.elkrapidsgardenclub.com*

Elk Rapids Young Life Pickleball Fundraiser

Elk Rapids Young Life is hosting a Pickleball Tournament, May 30, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m. at Milton Township Park, Kewadin. Registration is $35 including T-shirt; limited to 60 players. Refreshments available. Register at *https://elkrapids.younglife.org/* For questions call 513-235-5211.

HELENA TOWNSHIP

HELENA TOWNSHIP — ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Helena Township (Antrim County) is accepting applications for a part-time Zoning Administrator to succeed the retiring administrator. Duties include administering the Township Zoning Ordinance, issuing permits, conducting site inspections, investigating violations, and supporting the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Working knowledge of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (PA 110 of 2006) required. Michigan Citizen Planner certification or willingness to complete preferred. Prior municipal experience a plus.

Submit letter of interest and résumé to the Helena Township Clerk, 8751 Helena Road, Alden, MI 49612, or clerk@helenatownship.com. Open until filled. EOE.

VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS

VILLAGE OF ELK RAPIDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Elk Rapids Village Council will hold a public hearing and second reading at their regular meeting **Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026** at the Governmental Center, 315 Bridge St, at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider and receive community input on:

Zoning Ordinance 2026-17, regarding Short-Term Rental Licensing

The proposed ordinances can be found on the Village's website at elkrapids.org in the "June 2nd Village Council Packet" posted by end of day May 29, 2026.

Community members are invited to attend this hearing to speak either pro or con on these matters. Written comments can be direction to the Village of Elk Rapids, 315 Bridge St, PO Box 398, Elk Rapids, MI 49629.

ELK RAPIDS SCHOOLS

BID REQUEST: BUSES FOR SALE

Elk Rapids Schools is accepting sealed bids for three school buses. These buses start and run, but are no longer able to pass the school transportation safety inspection of the Michigan State Police.

If you wish to view these buses, you may do so between the hours of 9:00 am and noon from May 26-June 2. Please contact ERS Transportation Supervisor, Karen Sniegowski, at 231-264-9321 to schedule an appointment and to ensure appropriate staff is available to assist.

Sealed bids will be accepted at Elk Rapids Schools Central Office, attention Bryan McKenna, Superintendent. Bids are due by 2:00 pm on Friday, June 5th. Bids must list which bus/buses you are bidding on and an offering price for each bus you are bidding on. Please also include your name, phone number, and address with your bid. Elk Rapids Schools may accept or reject any bid.

Bus Bid Pack #1:

Year	Make	Model	Fuel Type	Fleet Number	Vin #	Mileage
2014	International	CE-77	Diesel	13A	4DRBUAAP7EB43619	166,304

Bus Bid Pack #2:

Year	Make	Model	Fuel Type	Fleet Number	Vin #	Mileage
2014	International	CE-77	Diesel	13B	4DRBUAAP3EB343620	197,954

Bus Bid Pack #3:

Year	Make	Model	Fuel Type	Fleet Number	Vin #	Mileage
2015	International	CE-77	Diesel	15B	4DRBUSKP6FB683981	197,954