

Fredonia Township Board Regular Meeting
November 17, 2025 6:30 PM
Fredonia Township Hall
8803 17 Mile Rd, Marshall, MI 49068

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS present: ☒ Terry Day, Supervisor ☒ Meg Bosserd, Clerk ☒ Kyler Speaker, Treasurer
☒ Cathy Combs, Trustee ☒ John Miller, Trustee

STAFF present ☒ Phil Damon, Fire Chief ☒ Jacob Washburn, Deputy Supervisor/FD Training Officer
☒ Doug Damon, Sexton ☒ George Crandall, Twp. Planning Committee
☒ Terry Travis, Code Enforcement Officer

CALL TO ORDER: Terry Day called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by all.

T. Day stated that he and C. Combs met with Dave Glotzbach, Fredonia Township's Risk Control Representative assigned to our Par Plan insurance account, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. The Township will be getting a detailed report from D. Glotzbach, but an immediate change is Board Members are not allowed to use any electronic device during the meeting. This is a violation of the Open Meeting Act as members could potentially communicate via text or email. Hefty fines have been issued. This applies to all committees.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: T. Day added 2026 Road Contract under New Business. He also added I Am Responding, a new app for the Fredonia Township Fire Department under New Business. J. Miller added Telecommunications Tower under New Business.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE: Matt Saxton, 6th District Calhoun County Board Commissioner, stated that their Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget is this Thursday, November 20, 2025. If there are no changes, the budget will be passed the first meeting in December. The State budget passed with local roads getting an increase from \$16 million to approximately \$22 million. The gas tax changed to where it all goes towards roads. K. Speaker clarified that the local roads in the township do not receive that money. M. Saxton said that Policy 509 needs to be looked at and there needs to be discussion ensuring work gets done on the worst roads. Act 51 requires a 50% match from local agencies. T. Day said there needs to be more communication between County Commission and Township Road Committee so we can give our input. M. Saxton said to let him know if we are not getting feedback. In 2026, there will no longer be sales tax on fuel sales, but there will be a per-gallon increase to the gas tax for road funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON AGENDA: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Township received the Sunlight Award from the Michigan Fair Elections Institute. M. Bosserd read, "This certificate is proudly presented to Margaret Bosserd, Fredonia Township, as a Responsive Advocate in recognition of your outstanding dedication and exemplary service for helping to remove redundancies from your local voter registration files. Your commitment to transparency and efficiency strengthens public trust in the republic's democratic process and upholds the highest standards of civic duty." M. Bosserd recognized C. Combs and Laura Miller for their work in earning this award.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: Public Hearing: October 20, 2025
Regular Board Meeting: October 20, 2025

J. Miller made a motion and K. Speaker supported to approve the minutes as printed for the October 20, 2025, Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously. K. Speaker made a motion and C. Combs supported to approve the minutes as printed for the October 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED AS READ

FINANCIAL REPORT: K. Speaker provided reports to review for the month of October. All summer taxes have been distributed to all entities including Fredonia Township. There will be proposed budget adjustments, as previously mentioned. There is an approximate \$6,100 loss in state revenue sharing. We could see a bigger decrease next year depending on the economy. We have earned interest income on other funds. K. Speaker will have those numbers at the next Regular Board Meeting. Money was found in the budget for budget adjustments.

FILE FOR AUDIT

READING OF THE BILLS by M. Bosserd

M. Bosserd provided a complete check register for the Board to review dated October 21, 2025 - November 17, 2025, totaling \$12,613.83 from the General Fund and \$6,022.20 from the Tax Account. The annual payment to BS&A for service and support was made. Drains at Large was paid and the annual payment to Emergency Networking for reporting calls was made. K. Speaker made payments to taxing authorities. C. Combs made a motion and K. Speaker supported to approve the check register as presented.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": Cathy Combs, Meg Bosserd, Terry Day, Kyler Speaker, John Miller

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the check register approved.

APPROVED AS READ

REPORTS:

FIRE: Chief Damon provided a report and stated there were 6 fire and 6 medical calls for the month of October 2025. Training this month: SCBA training and hooking up to hydrants and pump training. Continuing Ed: Adult and Pediatric behavioral emergencies. Activities: Thank you to all who participated with the Fredonia Fire Department at the annual Lyon Lake Trunk or Treat. Personnel: Chief Damon wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

CEMETERY: German Lutheran Cemetery mapping has been completed as accurately as possible. If anyone has further confirmed information, please notify the cemetery sexton. There were two burials this past month and 7 burial sites sold. D. Damon was in an office today and was told again how beautiful the township cemeteries looked.

ROADS: The last road meeting was on Tuesday, November 9, 2025 where the rolling 5-year plan and 2026 project were approved. The next meeting will be February 4, 2026.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Nothing new to report. There has been no progress at 380 Lyon Lake Road. T. Day and Terry Travis will discuss before the next Regular Board Meeting.

PLANNING: The last meeting was on November 12, 2025. G. Crandall reported that they received a conditional use application for a telecommunications tower. The next meeting will be on December 10, 2025.

ZONING: None.

PARKS & RECREATION: Ben Lark said there is nothing new to report. He will be looking where to spend our dollars towards the Jenney Woods project. M. Bosserd will get back to B. Lark as far as what amount of the parks millage allocation needs to be spent and when.

OLD BUSINESS:

***Cremation Burial Rate:** M. Bosserd made a motion and K. Speaker supported to take cremation burial rate from the table. Motion approved unanimously.

Sexton D. Damon gathered rate information from other townships of similar size. He found that some diggers were getting \$250 per dig. These individuals are also responsible for the paperwork. Some diggers are also the township sexton. Currently, D. Damon handles the burial permit and gives a copy and payment to Clerk M. Bosserd. D. Damon also covers the graves after burial due to the schedule of the current digger. Fredonia Township's digging rate is \$100 per dig. The township charges \$300 per cremation. K. Speaker made a motion and M. Bosserd supported to increase the cremation burial dig rate to \$150 per dig.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": John Miller, Kyler Speaker, Terry Day, Meg Bosserd

"Nay": Cathy Combs

The Supervisor declared the motion approved.

***Fire Extrication Equipment:** M. Bosserd made a motion and J. Miller supported to take fire extrication equipment from the table. Motion approved unanimously. Fire Chief P. Damon provided Board Members with a 5-year budget plan for the Fire Department right before the beginning of the meeting. Board Members agreed they would like more time to review before making a decision on fire extrication equipment. The quote given is good through the year.

M. Bosserd made a motion and C. Combs supported to table fire extrication equipment.

***Short-Term Rental Policy Program Meeting Update:** Supervisor Terry Day, Planning Commission Chair George Crandall, and Planning Commission Secretary Jill Settineri attended the Short-Term Rental Policy Seminar on October 28, 2025, put on by MSU Extension. J. Settineri said that this is still very much a local issue. Two to three years ago, courts sided with homeowners and now it seems to be going the other way. G. Crandall said this does not change anything Fredonia Township is planning. T. Day said the shift may be because the Township's lawyers have a different strategy now. This has not been a quick fix, as Michigan State has spent seven years with this issue. G. Crandall said some municipalities allowed short-term rentals and now they're trying not to allow them. T. Day said some Townships are allowing rentals but only for one to two days. He said it was a good meeting and reaffirms what we're doing.

NEW BUSINESS:

***Calhoun County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA):** M. Bosserd read from materials sent via email from Jen Bomba, Community Development Director of Calhoun County. "The county is asking you to consider joining the Calhoun County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA), a countywide initiative designed to support redevelopment and housing efforts across our communities." BRA "supports redevelopment of contaminated, blighted, or obsolete properties." The belief was that this initiative didn't apply to Fredonia Township. However, there was a 2023 amendment establishing that a housing development is now an eligible activity. M. Bosserd read from the materials, this is "not mandatory, could opt-in by project, but supporting the creation now will relieve some administrative burden in the future and show support." M. Bosserd said that we could join later if we wanted to, so this does not need to be a rushed decision. C. Combs said she had the same takeaway. K. Speaker said it would not be fair to future boards if forced into something based on us joining now with no project in mind. T. Day said when reading the resolution, the Township might be giving some control to the county. It makes sense to get the BRA presentation when it applies to us. K. Speaker made a motion and J. Miller supported not to proceed and opt out of the Calhoun County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

***Budget Adjustments:** K. Speaker presented a list (attached) of budget adjustments to the Board. Due to the new State budget, Fredonia Township will see a reduction of \$6,084 in constitutional revenue sharing. K. Speaker and M. Bosserd went through this year's budget and found savings in certain categories. M. Bosserd confirmed with the County that elections will be held in August and November next year. There could be a special election in May, but that would not include Early Voting. The \$581 balance was allocated into the Elections Salaries/Wages line changing the proposed revised number from \$1,000 to \$1,581. C. Combs made a motion and K. Speaker supported to approve the budget adjustments.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": Cathy Combs, Meg Bosserd, Terry Day, Kyler Speaker, John Miller

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the budget adjustments approved.

***Lyon Lake Weeds SAD Fund:** K. Speaker reached out to the Township Attorney for direction on how to pay out the remaining balance of the Lyon Lake Weeds SAD Fund to the Lyon Lake Improvement Board. The Township Attorney stated that the Township should issue a check to the Lyon Lake Improvement Board to be allocated for the treatment of weeds. K. Speaker made a motion and J. Miller supported to issue a check to the Lyon Lake Improvement Board for \$662.67 to be used for weed treatments and to close out the Lyon Lake Weeds SAD Account.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": John Miller, Kyler Speaker, Terry Day, Meg Bosserd, Cathy Combs

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the motion approved.

***Planning Vice Chair Position:** There is currently not a Vice-Chair position on the Planning Commission. It is only the Chairman and Secretary. G. Crandall said it would be a good position to have in case the Chair cannot make a meeting and it would make the transition smoother when the Chairman resigns.

The Chair and Secretary get paid \$40 per meeting. Should the Vice-Chair position get approved, it would pay the same rate of \$40 per meeting. C. Combs stated that there needs to be a job description with expectations. T. Day made a motion and J. Miller supported to create the Planning Vice-Chair position at a rate of \$40 per meeting.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": John Miller, Kyler Speaker, Terry Day, Meg Bosserd, Cathy Combs

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the Planning Vice-Chair position approved.

When G. Crandall asked Jen Bomba, she said all of the Townships have Vice-Chairs. Planning is at the highest risk at the Township level.

***Township Plumbing:** M. Bosserd has been trying to get plumbing quotes for the installation of shut-off valves and replacement of nipples on toilets. In June of 2025, Jeannine Speaker, the Township's maintenance, discovered a leak in the women's bathroom. It had started to leak in the basement. T. Day and J. Miller came to the Township to discover there is only one shut-off valve for the entire building. Hunter Prell was called and did a stop-gap repair as to not further interrupt our renters and to not charge us the weekend rate. On June 25, 2025, Hunter Prell did a full repair. Since then, M. Bosserd has had Hunter Prell and GLGC come to the township to discuss the installation of more shut-off valves and to fix the remaining two toilets. M. Bosserd followed up multiple times with both companies to get quotes. Hunter Prell came back to the Township on November 7, 2025 and discussed their plan with T. Day. They submitted a quote for \$2,834.00 for the purchase and installation of (27) ball valves and removal and replacement of (2) galvanized nipples on (2) toilet supplies. This does not include repairs to the wall if access is needed to replace fittings in the wall. As of tonight, M. Bosserd has still not received a quote from GLGC. Hunter Prell's quote is good until November 20, 2025. K. Speaker made a motion and C. Combs supported to move forward with Hunter Prell's quote of \$2,834.00.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": Cathy Combs, Meg Bosserd, Terry Day, Kyler Speaker, John Miller

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the motion to move forward with Hunter Prell approved.

***2026 Road Contract:** The proposed project is for maintenance type of work. The Road Committee is trying to keep expenses down so 12 Mile Road can be done in 2027. C. Combs made a motion and K. Speaker supported to approve the chip seal project on 15 ½ Mile Road from G Dr. S to J Dr. S for our 2026 road project.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": John Miller, Kyler Speaker, Terry Day, Meg Bosserd, Cathy Combs

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the 2026 Road Contract approved. T. Day will sign the contract and get it to the County. It is due on December 15, 2025.

***I Am Responding:** On behalf of the Fredonia Fire Department, J. Washburn sent an email to the Board on November 15, 2025 explaining the new app, I Am Responding. The Fire Department currently uses the Active 911 application to receive call details. "Due to new advancements, the 911 Dispatch Center has requested that all county departments transition to a new application, I Am Responding." P. Damon explained that firefighters use Active 911 on their cell phones. They are able to put in their status, whether they are delayed, not available, etc. This app is backed by PageGate, which is going by the wayside. This is why the 911 Dispatch Center is moving to I Am Responding. More information will be relayed to cell phones with details such as medical information, etc. The SOS feature will responders to pinpoint resident's location. The I Am Responding App costs \$680.40 annually. The Firefighters Association paid for the Active 911 app. This would be a new cost for the Township. M. Bosserd made a motion and K. Speaker supported to move forward with the I Am Responding app at \$680.40 annually.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": John Miller, Kyler Speaker, Terry Day, Meg Bosserd, Cathy Combs

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the motion to move forward with I Am Responding approved.

***Addition to Agenda – Budget Adjustment for I Am Responding App:** K. Speaker made a motion and C. Combs supported to move \$803 from Ambulance/Dispatch Service (101-325-803) to Fire Professional Contract (101-336-802).

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": Cathy Combs, Meg Bosserd, Terry Day, Kyler Speaker, John Miller

"Nay": None

The Supervisor declared the budget adjustment approved.

***Telecommunications Tower:** J. Miller discussed the proposal for a telecommunications tower presented to the Planning Commission at the November 10, 2025 meeting by Royce Low.

G. Crandall shared maps at the meeting of current Verizon coverage and potential coverage if a new tower is placed. The requested location is at 15 ½ Mile Rd. and J Dr. South.

Current zoning requires proof that additional equipment cannot be accommodated on existing towers. R. Low did not believe this was applicable to this scenario, however, it is a required condition in our current zoning. G. Crandall said trust but verify. J. Miller said it was a good presentation. The Planning Commission is going to hire a third party to verify the legitimacy of what was presented. The intention is to get better coverage to Lyon Lake. It was said that it will work with the M60 tower. K. Speaker made a motion and C. Combs supported to approve the continuation of looking into a telecommunications tower and finding a professional to verify information. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for any new issues):

*Resident questioned a property on 17 Mile Road renting out a barn as a venue. G. Crandall said this would require a conditional use permit. An official complaint will be filed and this will be looked into.

*Resident suggested Parks and Rec money be used to build a flight pad to deter the building of wind turbines. B. Lark explained that is not an approved use of Park funds.

*Martin LaFayette said that the assessment roll for weeds was sent by the Lyon Lake Improvement Board about three weeks ago. K. Speaker confirmed it will be included on the winter tax bills.

BOARD COMMENT (TIME LIMIT-3 MINUTES PER ISSUE PER PERSON):

*C. Combs suggested getting the furnace checked as the hall was cold.

*M. Bosserd wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

*J. Miller said it was a good meeting. He appreciates the information from the Fire Department and thinks it should work with the same equipment as other Fire Departments.

*K. Speaker appreciates the Fire Department getting a 5-year plan to us. We will need to review it to approve.

*T. Day said thank you to everyone for coming and wished them a happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Minutes prepared by M. Bosserd

Meg Bosserd, Township Clerk *Meg Bosserd*

Date: 12/14/25

Terry Day, Township Supervisor *Terry R. Day*

Date: 12/23/25