

Helena Township Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00pm
8751 Helena Road, Alden, Michigan 49612

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Catherine Rice at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: All in room stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Catherine Rice, Jim Schilling, Butch Bartz and Tony Smedra

Members Absent: Butch Peeples

Conflict of Interest: No Conflicts

Approval of Agenda: Motion by J. Schilling, seconded by T. Smedra. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes: March 13, 2025; Motion by T. Smedra, seconded by J. Schilling. Minutes approved.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's Report March 2025

\$ 9,234.86 – receipts

\$ 32,630.23 – disbursements

\$ 32,630.23 – presentation of bills

Motion by B. Bartz to approve February 2025 Treasurer's report, seconded by J. Schilling. Treasurer's report approved.

Fire Chief Report: Review of the South Torch Lake Fire & Rescue report from Chief Paul Fabiano.

- The Fire Department and TAA have successfully placed a staffed ambulance at the Helena Township Fire Building. In the near future 24 hour coverage will be achieved.
- Helena Township Community Dinner is planned at the Fire Station on Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 from 5-6pm.

Sherriff's Report: Review of highlighted activities from George Lasater.

- Five new deputies are expected in mid to late May 2025.

Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) Report: Review of highlighted activities from Mike Lee.

- Mike Lee advised the two new ambulances are waiting for licensing from the State of Michigan.

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

Communications: None

Committee Reports: Terry VanAlstine shared the expected plans for an August 2025 vote regarding the new Public Safety Center bond.

Zoning: Bob Logee advised 2 permits were issued, and 1 land division occurred in March 2025.

Parks & Recreation: Steve Dell reviewed the following:

- The Capital Improvement project will meet the May 1st date.
- At Alden Park a bid was received to resurface the tennis courts, to be reviewed for approval.
- At Depot Park the spring planting of native plants will occur.
- At Alden Safe Harbor an additional sidewalk will be installed for safety.

Planning Commission: Jim Gurr reviewed the following:

- Updates to Ordinance 5.02.02 and definitions have been updated with attorney input, and will be presented to the Helena Township Board for review/approval on May 8th, 2025.
- The Planning Commission will be holding a HTPC and ZBA training session on May 1st.

Roads: Butch Bartz reviewed the following:

- No date has been set for the three roads scheduled for tar and chip.
- No date has been set for the two roads to have gravel.

New Business:

- Jim Schilling established that the vacant home on Franklin is in very poor condition and has become a safety issue. Jim will follow-up with Butch Peebles on communications to the owner(s) regarding unsafe status and remediation plans.

Old Business:

- Jim Schilling and Butch Bartz will lead installation effort of flashing speed limit signs in Alden.
- Tim Stone and Jim Schilling will lead installation efforts for a pedestrian bridge over Spencer Creek.

Announcements:

- None

Public Comment: One inquiry about the updated ordinance.

Motion to Pay Bills: B. Bartz motioned to pay bills, seconded by T. Smedra. Unanimous approval to pay bills.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fay M. VandenBerg, Helena Township Board Recording Secretary