

# Helena Township Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:00pm  
8751 Helena Road, Alden, Michigan 49612

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Supervisor Butch Peeples at 7:00pm.

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

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

**Members Absent:** Butch Bartz

**Conflict of Interest:** No Conflicts

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by J. Schilling, seconded by C. Rice. Agenda approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** February 13, 2025; Motion by B. Peeples , seconded by J. Schilling. Minutes approved.

**Public Comment:** Paul Sak advised that Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> is Meadowbrook Fish Day, Registration begins at 8am, and fishing begins at 9am.

## **Treasurer's Report February 2025**

\$317,561.40 – receipts

\$ 70,863.62 – disbursements

\$ 70,863.62 – presentation of bills

Motion by T. Smedra to approve February 2025 Treasurer's report , seconded by B. Peeples. Treasurer's report approved.

**Fire Chief Report:** Reviewed 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. Currently this is 8am to 8pm, with future 24 hour coverage being planned.
- Required annual physicals, and breathing equipment are being fit tested.
- Helena Township Community Dinner is planned at the Fire Station on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 5-6pm.

**Sherriff's Report:** Reviewed highlighted activities from Sheriff Kevin Hoch.

- Excellent deployment and response to situation, resulting in four individuals being arraigned.
- A drug undercover officer is now in place.

**Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) Report:**

- Mike Lee advised the two new ambulances are being fitted with the proper equipment and logos.
- Three new potential hires.

All reports are linked with the minutes on the township website [www.helenatownship.com](http://www.helenatownship.com)

**Communications:** None

**Guest Speaker:** Steve, owner/operator of Little Traverse Bay Ferry provided an overview of ferry service for this non-profit organization.

- Steve is inquiring about the use of Alden Depot for a new ferry service on Torch Lake. His boat is seventy-five (75) feet long, as two decks and will hold one hundred-forty-nine (149) people.
- His boat has been DNR inspected and has an EGLE license.
- It was suggested Steve present this to Parks and Recreation on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.
- Concerns expressed were traffic and parking congestion on township property, and currently there is no commercial business permitted in Alden Safe Harbor.

**Committee:** Terry VanAlstine shared that new courthouse windows are being installed.

**Zoning:** Bob Logee shared no permits were issued in February 2025.

**Parks & Recreation:** Steve Dell reviewed the following:

- The Capital Improvement project will meet the May 1<sup>st</sup> date.
- At Alden Park new toddler playground equipment will be installed, and the tennis court surfaces will be repaired.
- 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:**

- Mike Robinson advised that updates to Ordinance 5.02.02 and definitions has been sent to the attorney for review.
- The Planning Commission will be holding a public meeting on April 3, 2025 for this ordinance update.

**Roads:** No report.

**New Business:**

- Jim Schilling inquired of Sheriff Kevin Hoch if a flashing speed sign could be used in Alden Village to slow traffic speeds. Jim will follow up with Kevin on the appropriate processes and contacts for installation.

- An old boiler is leaking water and either needs repair or replacement. Durkie will be contacted.
- Butch Peeples received an inquiry from two chefs about the possibility of using the Helena Township Community Center kitchen 1-2 nights per week. No appliance use, just counter space needed. Butch will follow-up with the chefs, Health Department and other licensing bodies for compliance.

**Old Business:** None

**Announcements:**

- Butch Peeples confirmed that the “Helena Township Advisory Group” is not affiliated with any Helena township governing body or commission.

**Public Comment:** One inquiry about the updated ordinance.

**Motion to Pay Bills:** C. Rice motioned to pay bills, seconded by T. Smedra. Unanimous approval to pay bills.

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 7:54pm.

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