OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2025

The Otsego Lake Township meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM by Supervisor Matelski. **There were 33 guests.**

Also present: Interim Fire Chief Tony Rooker, Deputy Supervisor Randy Stults, County Commissioners Jason Clement, Christi Sorter and Henry Mason.

Roll call: Board Members Present: D Matelski; J Bergel; M Brown; D Pallarito; J Brown

Board Members Absent:

Conflicts of Interest: Bergel stated he had a conflict of interest about the resolution for county commissioner.

Additions to Agenda:

Approval of Agenda: Jerry Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Brief Public Comment on agenda items: Henry Mason gave comment of his support of Commissioner Jason Clement; Christ Sorter gave comment opposing the resolution requesting Commissioner Clements resignation.

County Commissioner: Jason Clement: Gave update for the county. The recently hired county administrator has started working; new lighting at the airport and new budget season for the county.

Resolution #2025-10 Requesting the Resignation of County Commissioner for District 5: Trustee Bergel stated he had a conflict of interest and stepped out of the meeting. Resolution read by the clerk. Denise Pallarito made a motion to adopt the resolution; second by Jerry Brown.
Rollcall Vote: D Matelski: No; J Brown: Yes; D Pallarito: Yes; M Brown: Yes: J Bergel: No Vote
Resolution declared adopted.

Heart Lake SA: John Langsdorf: Mr. Langsdorf provided a handout with information on creating a special assessment district for Heart Lake front property owners at $140.00 per parcel. A list of 81 parcels that would be included were provided and a petition for the township to create a Special Assessment District for Eurasian Watermilfoil and Spongy Moth Control along with draft budget and information from Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control. Jeff Bergel made a motion for the Township Board to move forward to support the special assessment district for Heart Lake for the treatment of milfoil weeds and sponge moth for the December 2026 winter tax cycle: second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Policy #2025-10 Public Use of Township Facilities: After discussion with our township attorney, we have a policy for all township properties, Policy #2025-10 Public Use of Township Facilities will include **all** property in the township, ie: Township Hall, Fire Hall, both buildings; parks, trail head and property at 27/Passenheim. The policy specifies only Township Board members and employees are allowed on township fire department property. Mary Brown made a motion to adopt the policy as presented; second by Jerry Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Matelski gave his update. The BBQ pits at the park have been cleaned at the park and the signs are all put up.

Meeting Minutes: Presented by Mary Brown for October 16, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes and Special Meeting minutes for October 30, 2025. A correction was made in the regular minutes. A motion was made by Denise Pallarito to approve all the meeting minutes with corrections to 10/16 minutes; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Clerk's Report: Presented by Mary Brown**:** Township Bills for the period October 17, 2025, to November 20, 2025; with a total of $90,844.92. Motion made by Denise Pallarito to pay the township bills with a total as presented; seconded by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Additional bills were received after report done totaling $2,810,24. Jerry Brown made a motion to pay additional bills as presented; second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Clerk requested permission to go to third year institute with MAMC in Mt. Pleasant in March for a total of $1,406.45 (class & lodging). Jerry Brown made a motion to allow the clerk to attend the class; second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Mary thanked Tony Rooker for doing such a good job keeping communication between the FD and Twp., also the last payroll had no mistakes!

Update on Ad-Hoc Committee: There was a meeting on November 10th about zoning. Thom Marquardt asked that the township all put together a list of our top enforcement issues and email it to him or Christine. He would like the information as soon as possible. The next Ad-Hoc meeting is on December 16th at 3:00 pm at the courthouse in room 100.

FEMA: I have signed and submitted all paperwork required by FEMA as of today. Hopefully we will get some of the expenses from the ice storm back.

Treasurer's Report presented by Jerry Brown**.** Motion made by Denise Pallarito to accept the Treasurer's report for October 31, 2025; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: We received a letter for summer tax collection for Crawford Schools. We received an award letter from Par Plan, we were awarded the $5,000.00 grant for lighting at trail head parking lot. Must have project completed before May 6, 2026 or we will lose the money.

FIRE & EMS REPORT: The Fire Chief gave his report: A total of 20 calls, 12 missed EMS calls, 1 Mutual Aid call. Gave report on November training. The Santa parade will be on December 8th and 9th, requesting permission to participate again this year and include fire department members, including their family. Denise Pallarito made a motion to allow the Fire Department to do the Santa Parade again this year and include their families to participate; second by Mary Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Motion made by Denise Pallarito to allow the Fire Department to also participate in the Gaylord Santa Parade in December with their families; second by Jerry Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Board Approval of new FD Members: No new members

TRUSTEES REPORT:

Denise Pallarito:

Trustee Pallarito reported that the Hilltop Restaurant, which is owned by locals that live in our township, has fresh food (sandwiches, pasties etc.) available in a vending machine. Wreathes Across America will be placing wreathes at our cemeteries on December 13th starting at noon at Fairview Cemetery. There will be a short program than volunteers will head out to all the cemeteries to place the wreathes. If anyone is interested, they could use volunteers. They should be at our cemetery around 1:00 pm. The cemetery and the parks look great, all closed for the winter.

Planning Commission:

Denise has done the required quarterly reporting for the MSHDA grant. They are working on the Master Plan.

Jeff Bergel:

The boxes are out for Toys for Tots, donate if you can.

Iron Belle Trail Update: Christine Boyak-Wohlfeil said that Wade Trim is going to be publishing for bids on the building for the trail head project. No update from the DNR on the lighting.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment on non-agenda items: None

Board Comments: Denise, Dave & Jeff made board comments

Meeting adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown, Clerk

Minutes approved at Board Meeting on December 18, 2025