OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2026

The Otsego Lake Township meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM by Supervisor Matelski. There were 8 guests.

Also present: Fire Chief Tony Rooker; Sheri Rivest, Gaylord Airport Manager.

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

Board Members Absent:

Conflicts of Interest: None

Additions to Agenda: None

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

Brief Public Comment on agenda items: None

Budget Public Hearing: Public Hearing opened at 7:01 p.m. With no public comment, Public Hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comment on Budget: None

County Commissioner: Jason Clement: Absent

Request County Set Back Increase: FYI The Assessor advised we may want to consider putting the county millage rate on a future ballot to increase it back to 1 mill for Township allocated due to Headlee Rollback every year decreasing it.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Matelski gave his update. The insulation has been added to the fire department north building. Bill Rhodes has talked to the Supervisor regarding the gravity rail at the park. There was communication with MTA attorney regarding Fire Department Liaison, stating it is not a law requiring we must have one. No liaison needed moving forward.

MTA Principles of Governance: Motion made by Mary Brown that the board signs the pledge; second by Denise Pallarito. MO**TION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes: Presented by Mary Brown for January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Jerry Brown to approve the January 15th regular and special meeting minutes; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Clerk's Report: Presented by Mary Brown**:** Township Bills for the period January 16, 2026 to February 19, 2026; with a total of $102,872.85 Motion made by Denise Pallarito to pay the township bills with a total as presented; seconded by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.
Clerk Brown requested approval to purchase a second monitor for my computer for up to $314.99 from Cutting Edge, I will check price at Walmart. Motion made by Denise Pallarito to allow the clerk to purchase monitor as presented; second by Jerry Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. The Clerk requested any communications go to work email instead of texting my cell in the event I receive a FOIA request.

Early Voting Agreement: Early Voting Agreement for all Otsego County was signed by all Clerk's changing our early voting site to Bagley Township Hall with a cost of $100.00 per township, per election. BOE sent a letter regarding the expiration of existing election equipment expiring in February 2027. They are requesting funding be in the budget for purchasing any new equipment but are not sure there will be grant funds for buying.

Update on Ad-Hoc Committee: There was a meeting Tuesday with presentations on the Refuge and Kirtland College.

FEMA: Funding should soon be in our account as 3 of 4 projects are showing being processed.

Treasurer's Report presented by Jerry Brown**.** Motion made by Denise Pallarito to accept the Treasurer's report for January 31, 2026; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: One Heart Lake SA petition was received.

FIRE & EMS REPORT: The Fire Chief gave his report: A total of 21 calls, 7 missed EMS calls, no missed fire calls. 0 Mutual Aid calls. Training will be smoke house training at Station 2.

Board Approval of new FD Members: No new members

TRUSTEES REPORT:
Trustee Pallarito reported the officers were voted on last month and will stay the same.
The Master Plan Draft: The board reviewed the draft master plan. Clerk Brown made 3 suggestions: 6-2 and that our Fire Department also has Medical First Responders; 6-4 verify we still have a Waters Business Group; 7-11 remove promoting use of the Township Hall by the public due to high costs for cleaning. The Draft Master Plan will be put on the Township's website on Monday to start the 63-day public review and then will have public hearing. Denise Pallarito made a motion to present the Draft Master Plan with minor revisions for the 63-day review: second by Mary Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.
Planning Commission:
Jeff Bergel:
Provided letter about drones after he received complaint from one of his constituents. Jeff would like to have information on this from Camp Grayling.

Iron Belle Trail Update: Christine was excused, Wade Trim will be receiving a sealed bid from Siwecki Construction for the trail head project. Once the board reviews the bid and approves it, it will then go to the DNR for approval.

Old Business: None

New Business: Denise from the Waters Farmer's Market has painted a beautiful picture and entered a contest for a prize of $1,000.00 from Voices for Food Access. If she wins it she would split all proceeds between the Waters Farmer's Market and the Otsego County Food Pantry. Everyone is encouraged to go on Facebook to vote.

Public Comment on non-agenda items: Al B. advised the railroad crossing on Mancelona Rd at railroad tracks will be repaired this summer per Road Commission.

Board Comments: Mary Brown and Dave Matelski gave board comments

Meeting adjourn meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown, Clerk
Approved at Board Meeting on March 19, 2026