

Bengal Township Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

7:00 PM – 8:52 PM

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Bengal Township Board of Trustees was called to order at **7:00 PM** by **Supervisor McDonald**.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: Supervisor McDonald; Clerk Bassette; Treasurer Solomon; Trustee Sillman; Trustee Tipper

Absent: None

Community in attendance: Deputy Treasurer Schultheiss; Deputy Stahlik, Clinton County Police; Armbrustmacher

A quorum was declared present.

4. Additions to the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with amendments, including adding Road Commission contracts and an EMS discussion under New Business.

Motion by: Treasurer Solomon

Second by: Trustee Tipper

Decision: Motion carried.  (All)

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the **February 13, 2026** regular meeting. A small typographical correction was made.

Motion by: Treasurer Solomon

Second by: Trustee Sillman

Decision: Motion carried.  (All)

6. Public Comment

a. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

b. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

7. Reports

a. Township Assessor Report

No report was presented.

b. Planning Commission Report

Discussion was held regarding a potential reduction of minimum frontage requirements for 5-acre parcels from **330/660 feet to 250 feet**, including impacts to the **4:1 depth-to-width ratio**. Legal guidance is being sought regarding zoning implications for **data centers**. No action was taken.

c. Library Report

No report was presented.

d. Commissioner Report

No report was presented.

e. St. Johns Fire Chief Report

No report was presented.

f. Clinton County Road Commission Report

No separate report was presented.

g. Sheriff Report

The Sheriff's report reflected generally low activity within the township. Vandalism concerns were noted at a property on **Dexter Trail**.

h. Delegate Report

No report was presented.

i. Clinton Transit Report

No report was presented.

j. Clinton Area Ambulance

Supervisor McDonald discussed the financial instability of ambulance service providers, with cost increases attributed to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement shortfalls. Options included a **special assessment** and a potential **½-mill EMS millage**. No action was taken.

Action Item: Supervisor to consult with township attorney and report back with options.

k. Treasurer's Report

Discussion:

- Treasurer Solomon reported that the **General Fund balance increased** during the reporting period.
- The **savings account balance increased**, including interest earnings.
- **No unusual or irregular financial activity** was identified.

Per the Treasurer's report dated **03/01/26** (activity through **February 28, 2026**):

- **General Checking:** Beginning balance **\$9,901.77**; Ending balance **\$4,719.94**
- **Money Market Savings:** Beginning balance **\$323,125.49**; Ending balance **\$325,566.78**

Motion: To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion by: Trustee Tipper

Second by: Trustee Sillman

Decision: Motion carried.  (All)

l. Clerk's Report

The Clerk confirmed township records were consistent with the Treasurer's report.

Discussion: Clerk Bassette discussed insurance provider grant opportunities, including the annual **\$5,000 safety/insurance-related grant** and potential use of funds for **AED (defibrillator) equipment**. Clerk Bassette to begin working on application for fall, Trustee Sillman will check pricing for AED equipment.

Motion: To approve the Clerk's Report.

Motion by: Trustee Sillman

Second by: Trustee Tipper

Decision: Motion carried.  (All)

8. Payment of Current Bills

Assessor billing discrepancies identified.

Check #4546 (KCI): Voided 

Check #4547: Tabled pending clarification (Holley reimbursement) 

Board of Review compensation approved **\$260 each** for Dan Rademacher, Ron Armbrustmacher, and Brandy Solomon. Clerk Bassette to issue checks after meeting.

Motion: To approve payment of bills totaling **\$7,749.41**, with noted exceptions.

Motion by: Clerk Bassette

Second by: Trustee Sillman

Decision: Motion carried.  (All)

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business

a. Budget Discussion

Supervisor McDonald discussed budget items including property tax millages, state revenue sharing, interest income, election reimbursements, salaries and benefits, website costs, building maintenance, cemetery care, utilities, training, and insurance expenditures. No formal budget action was taken.

b. Holley Assessing Contract

Supervisor McDonald discussed the Holley Assessing contract and related billing items. No action was taken.

c. Urinal Removal

Supervisor McDonald discussed possible urinal removal. **Trustee Sillman** will look into the matter. No action was taken.

d. Township Officer Salary Resolutions

Salary resolutions were presented in accordance with **Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL)** requirements: Supervisor: **\$13,500**, Clerk: **\$16,500**, Treasurer (base): **\$2,700**, Deputy Treasurer: **\$13,300**, Trustee: \$2,700.

Motion: To approve the township officer salary resolutions as presented.

Motion by: Clerk Bassette

Second by: Trustee Sillman

Roll-Call Vote: Supervisor McDonald – **Approved**, Clerk Bassette – **Approved**, Treasurer Solomon – **Approved**, Trustee Sillman – **Approved**, Trustee Tipper – **Approved**.

Decision: Motion carried by roll-call vote. 

f. Clinton County Road Commission Contracts

Contracts reviewed included gravel, chip seal, and maintenance projects on the following roads:

- **Centerline Rd — Gravel / Regravel Projects**
 - Francis Rd to Lowell Rd — **1.00 mile**
 - Lowell Rd to Grove Rd — **1.00 mile**
 - Grove Rd to Airport Rd — **1.01 miles**
 - Dexter Trail Rd to Forest Hill Rd — **1.26 miles**
 - Forest Hill Rd to Francis Rd — **1.00 mile**
- **Parks Rd — Chip Seal Projects**
 - Wacousta Rd to Forest Hill Rd — **1.01 miles**
 - Forest Hill Rd to Francis Rd — **1.01 miles**
- **Lowell Rd — Chip Seal Project**
 - M-21 to Walker Rd — **1.01 miles**
- **Various local roads — Spot gravel application — mileage not specified**
- **Various local roads — Overband crack fill — mileage not specified**
- **Multiple township roads — Chloride application program — 49.52 total miles**

Motion: To approve and authorize execution of all Road Commission contracts as presented.

Motion by: Supervisor McDonald

Second by: Trustee Sillman

Decision: Motion carried.  (All)

11. Board Comments

Trustee Tipper provided comments regarding **PA 233 (renewable energy zoning)**. Oral arguments are scheduled for **April 15, 2026**.

12. Motion of Excused Absence

No motions of excused absence were presented.

13. Adjournment @ 8:52 PM.

Clerk Certification

I certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete record of the Bengal Township Board of Trustees meeting held on **March 11, 2026**.

Clerk Bassette

Date: 04/07/26

Prepared from talk to text/notes and organized to align with the official meeting agenda and township audit requirements.