

January 6, 2026 Oliver Township meeting minutes.

Tom Ziel open the meeting at approximately 7 PM with the pledge of allegiance. Members and guests present; Tom Ziel, Adam Herford, Patrick Myers from Next Era Corporation, Angie Guza, Steve Vaughan, Ryan Upthegrove, Mike Roberts, Jim Seley, Kevin, McKenzie, Gary Sweeney and Bob Ross.

Motion by Adam Herford and seconded by Bob Ross to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Motion to approve last months minutes and the checks written by Gary Sweeney and seconded by Adam Herford. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

Total balance in all accounts is \$764,913.95.

Fire Chief's report:

Fire Chief Seley wanted to get a pay raise for the firefighters from \$40 to \$50 per run and training meetings. Motion by Bob Ross and seconded by Adam Herford to set pay rate at \$50. Motion passed. Pay raise becomes effective at the beginning of the new fiscal year in April.

Fire Department received \$12,000 in donations at the end of 2025 and they would apply those donations to the air compressor for the air packs. Last month the township agreed to pay \$15,500 towards the compressor, now it will be considerably less cost to the township.

The Fire Department officers had to be approved for the year. Alex Jobes as Lieutenant, Ryan Upthegrove as Captain and Chad Seley as Assistant Chief. Motion to approve officers of the fire department by Bob Ross and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

After much discussion about MABAS, it was agreed to join the mutual aid group. MABAS stands for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, a cooperative system in Michigan for fire and rescue agencies to share resources during large scale emergencies, ensuring rapid, coordinated responses. Motion by Bob Ross, and seconded by Gary Sweeney to join the group. Motion passed.

At the recent Streeter hay farm fire near Bay Port, 8 tankers were coordinated and provided by MABAS.

Fire runs:

December 9, PI Accident, Richardson and Krohn Roads.

December 9, 2 car PI, Farver and Pigeon Roads.

December 14, assist Kinde on house fire near Campbell and Pennebog intersection.

December 21, assist Owndale barn and trailer home fire on Sebewaing Road.

January 1, shed fire, Pigeon Road (Old Hewitt farm near Co-op grain terminal)

January 5, assist Caseville with house fire.

January 6, wire down on Jesse Street in Elkton.

Jim Seley reported that the fire department bought a \$200 battery operated chainsaw that uses the same batteries as existing equipment. The chainsaw was purchased with donation money.

Motion by Gary Sweeney and seconded by Adam Herford to appoint Jim Seley Fire Chief for the 2026 calendar year. Motion passed.

Tom Ziel reported that Winsor Township would like to share another mile of road repaving on Gagetown Road (Oliver's West boarder) this year. Other miles in Oliver Township to be determined later.

Patrick Meyers from Next Era Corporation, said that he would like to visit the planning commission meeting next Thursday.

Township Assessor, Angie Guza spoke about poverty guidelines on property tax relief. A formula was set up a few years ago and we did not have to change anything to keep it current. Board agreed to leave formula the same.

Commissioner Steve Vaughan spoke about several county and local issues. One issue was County finances and difficulties making the budget work.

Motion by Kevin McKenzie, and seconded by Gary Sweeney to pay the bills as presented. Motion passed.

Motion by Bob Ross, and seconded by Gary Sweeney to adjourn. Motion passed.

Minutes by Bob Ross, Township clerk.