

August 11, 2026 Oliver Township board meeting minutes.

Supervisor Ziel opened the meeting at approximately 7 PM at the Twp. Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Twp. meeting date was pushed back a week from August 4 because of the election. Members and guest present; Tom Ziel, Robert Ross, Gary Sweeney, Jim Seley, Kevin McKenzie, Adam Herford, Patrick Myers From Next Era Corp., Angie Guza, Lonnie Schulz, Ryan Upthegrove, Maxine and Bob Becker, and John Peyer.

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

Motion by Kevin McKenzie and seconded by Gary Sweeney to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and checks written. Motion passed.

Treasurers report:

Total balance of all accounts is \$1,075,207.41.

Fire Chief report:

Chief Seley reported that there were two new firefighter candidates. Mitch Champagne and Devon Hersha. Jim Seley would like these two approved for duty and eventual training to become full-fledged members of the Fire Department.

Robert Ross made the motion to accept Mitch Champagne and Devon Hersha as firefighter candidates. Seconded by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.

Jim Seley also reported that Ryan Upthegrove's daughter is a senior in high school and has firefighter 1 and 2 training from the Thumb Area Skill Center. She would like to eventually become a member of the Oliver Township Fire Department.

The Twp. board asked Fire Chief Seley to talk to the township insurance agent to find out if we could even put her on the Fire Department being under 18 years of age. The Chief would report back at the next meeting.

There will be a mock disaster drill at the Laker School soccer field September 30, 4-7pm. There was a brief discussion and many details need to be worked out at this time.

Chief Seley said that the rescue truck needed front springs and he had a bill for parts. \$3940.00

Chief Seley reported that the Fire Department would like to buy a new pick-up but did not have all the details at this time. That pick-up possibly would be a crew cab 1 ton with an 8 foot box. But too many details were left undetermined and Adam Herford suggested that the Fire Department find out exactly what they want and get estimates to bring to a township meeting.

Fire runs:

June 29, Tower automotive electrical box fire.

July 2, wires down Elkton and Stein.

July 3, Lift assist McKinley apartments.

July 12 combine Fire Haist and Moore.

July 13, Lakers alarm box on fire.

July 16, wire down in Village of Elkton.

July 23, wheatfield fire, Stein and Maxwell.

July 25, lift assist.

August 1 assist Owendale FD, personal injury.

August 8, assist Bad Axe, fire department.

There was a discussion on the use of gravesites at the Oliver Township cemetery.

Bob & Maxine Becker and John Peyerck were at the township meeting to discuss use of their family plots purchased decades ago. After much discussion, it was agreed to return to the September meeting with more information.

Grant Township agreed to put \$8000 into building up Kilmanagh Road on the 2nd mile east of Elkton Road. Motion by Bob Ross to match their 8000 and seconded by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.

Robert Ross reported that the election went well. Early voting, absentee voting and Tuesday elections were all canvassed and certified by the county just a few days after the election.

Robert Ross also reported that the Planning Commission spoke about the Don Dietzel property (house lot) possibly being sold off the farm land. It does not exactly meet the road frontage requirement but the planning commission said that a 30 foot wide driveway would be OK to sell with the lot, because it's existing.

Patrick Meyers From Next Era corporation said that they would be ready with a possible special use permit application in October.

Robert Ross reported that the retirement system, Bright House, was not accepting our contributions and he spoke with Sara Mallory and Alice Zelesky. They both felt that the township should move on to a new company that is easier to work with. A new company called Acrisure was suggested. Bob Ross will report at next month's meeting.

Motion by Adam Herford and seconded by Gary Sweeney to pay the bills. Motion passed.

Motion by Adam Herford and seconded by Kevin McKenzie to adjourn. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Robert Ross, Township Clerk.