

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ODESSA TOWNSHIP BOARD HELD AT THE ODESSA TOWNSHIP BLDG ON 09-14-2026.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Secor. Present: Rohrbacher, Barrone, Williams and Baron. Absent: None.

Visitors – Fire Chief Chad Perkins, Mike Rohrbacher, Patti Caudill, Paul and Melissa Mason, Myra Kauffman, Mike McCartney, Carmen Kopen, Karen Duling, Kris Foodle – MDOT, Alexis Louth – MDOT, Stan Dykstra, Robert Peters, Shelly Cole, Heather Melchert – ICRD, Blaine Lowitz – ICRD, Carrie Johnson, Carolyn Mayhew, Ben DeJong, Jack Cook, Doug Suntken – Lakewood Wastewater, Jane Phillips, Barry Hoven, Colleen Whorley, Branden Strong, Tristan Strong, Lori Shearer, Brett Meers, Greg Deatsman, Kyle & Stephanie Erickson, Paul Reissmann, Angela Carpenter, Phil Hesche – Ionia Co Commissioner, Wayne Baldock, Diane and Todd Meredith, Jack Shattuck – Ionia Co. Commissioner, Sharlene Goodemoot, Karen and Mark Rogers, Steve and Jana McCaul, Wes Meyers, Sharon Lehman, Dan & Victoria Simon, Susan Meyers, Patti Caudill, Rick Olsen and Gavin Decker.

Motion by Rohrbacher, support by Barrone to approve the agenda. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Motion by Secor, support by Barrone to approve the August 3, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Motion by Secor, support by Rohrbacher to approve the August 25, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes as amended. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Motion by Rohrbacher, support by Baron to approve the August 31, 2026 Special meeting Minutes as submitted. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Public Comment – Heard from Lori Shearer, she is candidate for 8th Circuit Court Judge position. She gave an overview of her qualifications for the judge position.

Ionia County Road Department Director of Operations Heather Melchert and Road Supervisor Blaine Lowetz and from MDOT Kris Foondle and Alexis Louth. MDOT has regulatory authority over public crossings in this state, MDOT's Office of Rail conducted a Diagnostic Study Team Review of the Maier Drive railroad crossing. They talked about 2 options for this crossing – Being close the crossing or install lights and gates. Ionia County Road Department has the final say what will happen at this crossing if lights and gates are installed the road department will be responsible for maintenance at a cost of approximately \$1,000.00 per year. MDOT will also provide a cash incentive if the crossing is closed. The following visitors asked questions:

Fire Chief Perkins.

Shelly Cole – 2724 Huddle Road, Lake Odessa

Doug Stunken - Superintendent of Lakewood Wastewater Authority.

Gavin Decker

Carmen Kopen – 1040 McArthur Street, Lake Odessa

Jana McCaul – 1375 Becker Road, Lake Odessa

Stan Dykstra, - 826 Lakeview Drive, Lake Odessa.

Barry Hoven – 1511 Tupper Lake Street, Lake Odessa.

Victoria Simon – 14034 Maier Road, Lake Odessa.

The following had public comment:

Karen Duling – 2556 Huddle Road, Lake Odessa, opposed to closing the crossing, she has concerns on emergency response times and there are federal and state grants.

Stan Dykstra – 826 Lakeview Drive, Lake Odessa, had questions on the authority of Jordan Lake Board and the Lakewood Wastewater Authority.

Robert Peters – 14122 Maier Drive, Lake Odessa, did not want crossing closed.

Shelly Cole – 2724 Huddle Road, Lake Odessa, opposed to closing crossing, it will take time to go around.

Paul Mason – 4887 Clinton Trail, Lake Odessa, comments on Right to Farm, MDARD and Ordinance #24.

Myra Kauffman – 14773 Willowbrook Drive, Lake Odessa, she will be holding a meet and greet for two candidates, Rachel Gross and Anthony Pennock. On September 20th, 4:30 at the Main Floor.

Jack Cook, 650 Jordan Lake Street, Lake Odessa, opposes the crossing closing.

Doug Suntken, Superintendent of Lakewood Wastewater, they use this crossing many times a day, easy access to equipment, opposes closing of crossing.

Brandon Strong – republican candidate for 78th District of House of Representative.

Greg Deatsman – 14098 Maier Drive, Lake Odessa, he is against closing the crossing, it is also access for golf carts.

Jana McCaul – 14375 Becker Road, Lake Odessa and Sharon Lehman – 1829 W. Tupper Lake Road, Lake Odessa. they presented a petition with 101 signatures, most concerned about emergency services, the impact of Huddle and Becker Roads, makes Jordan Lake Ave and Huddle Road a dangerous intersection, Haddix crossing is poor and impassible during the winter months, closing the crossing is not an option for our community.

Todd Meredith – 14218 Becker Road, Lake Odessa, concerns on emergency services access, using Maier Road crossing is the shortest route.

Carmen Kopen – 1040 McArthur Street, Lake Odessa, CSX is causing the shrinking and disconnect of the village, extreme inconvenience, elimination of an alternate route, increased emergency response times and should remain open.

Director of Operation Heather Melchart, Ionia County Road Department – I took notes, not one comment to close the crossing.

Beth Barrone – 1338 Johnson Street, Lake Odessa, commented on railroad crossing.

The Board reviewed the 2026 - 2027 Budget.

Motion by Williams, support by Baron to do a one-sided entry of \$20,000.00 to the Attorney Professional and Contractual line item and to move \$20,000.00 from Equipment/Facilities Capital Outlay line item to Equipment/Facilities Professional and

Contractual line item. Ayes all. Motion carried.

AUGUST BILLS

Gary Secor	\$1,039.99	Canon - Copier Maintenance	\$66.17
Lisa Williams	\$1,562.12	Consumer Energy - Cem Gas/Electric	\$73.03
Sharon Rohrbacher	\$1,662.04	Consumer Energy - Twp Gas/Electric	\$347.61
Brad Barrone	\$360.16	Elan Financial - Website,Phone,ADA,Email	\$1,778.52
Allan Baron	\$343.59	Elan Financial - Website,Phone,ADA,Email	\$310.32
Abbigial Huisman - Custodian	\$70.92	Fahey Schultz - Legal Services	\$7,814.00
Abbigial Huisman - Custodian	\$0.00	Klein Assessing - Assessor Payment	\$3,415.64
Connie Jordan -		View Newspaper - Notice, Minutes	\$385.00
Connie Jordan - Deputy Treasurer	\$70.48		\$14,190.29
Dawn Deardorff - Election Wage	\$218.04		
Vonda Mattson - Election Wage	\$112.50		
Tom Millard - Election Wage	\$176.25		
Terri Catt - Election Wage	\$127.50		
Robbie Mutschler - Election Wage	\$284.75		
Patrick Sinke - Election Wage	\$127.50		
Nancy Miller - Election Wage	\$144.50		
Mike Rodriguez - Election Wage	\$151.25		
Judy Rodriguez - Election Wage	\$243.75		
Jani Millard - Election Wage	\$196.25		
Jerry Tomandl - Election Wage	\$112.50		
Roseann Sinke - Election Wage	\$112.50		
Doris Vierzen - Election Wage	\$112.50		
FICA & Fed W/H for August	\$50.20		
FICA & Fed W/H for August	\$1,415.90		
State W/H	\$0.00		
	\$8,695.19		

September Bills

Carl's - Ice Cream	\$21.38	Lisa Williams QuickBooks Charge	\$185.50
Consumer Energy - Twp Gas/Electric	\$243.62	Mark Woodman - Cem Plumbing Repairs	\$1,055.00
Consumer Energy - Cem Gas/Electric	\$110.51	PE Office - Phones	\$189.00
Crystal Flash - Cem Fuel	\$989.01	S&T Restoration - Cem Maintenance	\$7,500.00
Fahey Schultz - Legal Services	\$5,521.00	Siegfried Crandall Auditing Services	\$750.00
GNS - VIPRE Renewal	\$201.60	Summit Fire -Twp Extinguisher Inspection	\$256.30
Granger - Cem & Twp Trash Pickup	\$118.82	Summit Cem Extinguisher Inspection	\$163.50
Hastings Ace - Twp & Cem Supplies	\$47.33	USPS - Treasurer Po Box Payment	\$158.00
Jeff & Lisa Elenbaas - Burials	\$750.00	View Newspaper - Minutes	\$112.00
John Hancock - Pension	\$1,705.75	Williams Architects - Architect Services	\$14,730.96
Klein Assessing - Assessor Payment	\$3,415.64		\$25,100.26
	\$13,124.66		

Fire Department August Bills

Consumer Energy	\$509.04	Odessa Twp - Payroll Reimbursement	\$2,153.00
Elan Financial - Phone Email	\$31.12	Verizon - Mobile Internet	\$40.04
Elan Financial - Phone Email, Supp	\$44.73	Wex Bank - Fuel	\$173.08
Odessa Twp-Payroll Reimbursement	\$11,715.55		\$2,366.12
	\$12,300.44		

September Bills

Chrouch Comm - Radio Programming	\$655.00	MTA - Book	\$26.35
Consumer Energy	\$416.81	Odessa Twp - Payroll Reimbursement	\$8,244.39
Golden West - Rechargeable Lights	\$687.73	Satra - Harness & Safety Rope	\$620.00
Hastings Ace - Strap	\$0.99	T-Mobile - Mobile Internet	\$10.60
John Hancock - Pension	\$1,200.00	Verizon - Mobile Internet	\$40.04
MTA - Training	\$350.00		\$8,941.38
	\$3,310.53		

Fire Department Payroll**August Payroll**

Will Fyan	\$1,004.34	Brad Dubuque	\$239.62
Kyle Root	\$560.08	Ethan Perkins	\$332.13
Royal Shilton	\$432.20	Wade Piercefield	\$149.77
Jacob DeBruyne	\$778.80	Chris Tobin	\$0.00
Craig Winslow	\$33.25	Tyler Gregg	\$359.44
John Thomas	\$119.82	Wyatt Perkins	\$958.53
Eric Possehn	\$0.00	Blake Perkins	\$269.58
Brad Perkins	\$1,045.29	Travis Scarborough	\$779.76
Marcie Root	\$482.06	Gary Jackson	\$253.74
Chad Perkins	\$1,649.45		
Chad Perkins	\$1,649.45	Union Bank FICA & Fed W/H	\$1,880.10
	\$7,754.74	Union Bank FICA & Fed W/H	\$429.00
		State W/H	\$0.00
			\$5,651.67

Motion by Secor, support by Barone that the township accepts items in the August audit and approves payment for the September 14, 2026 bills as submitted. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – the 101 accounts are running ahead of last year by \$33,264.54 and the General Fund accounts for about \$-7,211.65 of that. See report for further information.

Motion by Rohrbacher, support by Secor to refund \$160.00 to Ron-Mar Farms for the balance of the lease, for the field located east of the Township Office, in preparation for breaking ground for the fire station in the Spring of 2027. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Commission on Aging will come next month to explain contract.

Cemetery Property Manager Report – was not present. Rohrbacher stated that there are

eighteen foundations that will be poured for the fall.

Fire Chief Report – August total runs 25, village – 16, township – 6, mutual aid – 3, Medical – 18, Fire other – 4, motor vehicle accident – 3, Hazmat – 0, RFT Call out - 0 and total runs as of 8-31-2026 is 353. Two firefighters finished EMT School.

Board/Committee Reports

- a. Jordan Lake Improvement Board meeting – minutes presented.
- b. Lakewood Wastewater Authority.
- c. Library Board. – minutes presented.
- d. Web page Report – Barrone presented Website report.

Action Items

- a. L4029 – 2026 Tax Request Approval – Motion by Rohrbacher, support by Williams to approve the L4029 Tax Request form for 2026. Ayes all. Motion carried.
- b. Landscape Flood Lights – Williams explained that she can no longer find halogen bulbs and we need to change to LED lights.

Motion by Williams, support by Baron to approve the estimate of \$1,300.00 to replace sign flood lights to LED. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Motion by Williams, support by Barrone to decrease Township Offices Part Time Wages line item by \$800.00 and to increase Township Offices Repairs and Maintenance Equipment line item by \$800.00. Ayes all. Motion carried.
- c. Land Transfer – Motion by Secor, support by Baron to accept the Resolution to convey property from Odessa Township to current land owner of real property. Roll call vote: Secor – yes, Williams, Rohrbacher – yes, Barrone – yes and Baron – yes. Motion carried.
- d. Williams Architects Contract – Motion by Secor, support by Barrone to accept Williams Architect Contract. Roll call: Secor - yes, Williams – yes, Rohrbacher – yes, Barrone – yes and Baron – yes. Motion carried.
- e. Horizon Building Group Contract – Motion by Secor, support by Baron to accept the Horizon Building Group Contract. Roll call vote: Secor – yes, Williams – yes, Rohrbacher - yes, - Barrone – yes and Baron – yes. Motion carried.

- f. Fire Station Design – Motion by Secor, support by Baron to move to design level, and for Williams Architects and Horizon Building Group to work together. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Information/Discussion Items

- a. Maier Drive Railroad Crossing /Road Closing – Secor stated that the railroad crossing comments provided valuable information to the Ionia County Road Department.

Supervisor Report – no comment.

Public Comment – Carmen Kopen – had more comments on the Maier Road Railroad crossing and the Village apartment complex TIF.

Board comments – Rohrbacher would like to see Heather Melchert back in November on any decisions made by the road department. Williams also mentioned that the township needs to start the process to find someone to snowplow the parking lot.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

APPROVED USAV. Williams Submitted USAV. Williams