

*Eaton Rapids Township  
Eaton County, State of Michigan  
2512 S. Canal Rd.  
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827*

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*Board Members:*

*Scott Wilson-Supervisor, Janice Heck-Treasurer, Diane Vogel-Clerk,  
Amanda Brown-Trustee, Steve Benkovsky-Trustee*

*Fire Department:*

*Rob Herig-Fire Chief, Brad Wilbur-Asst. Fire Chief*

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**Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 8, 2025  
6:30 pm**

1. Supervisor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:33
2. All present joined him in the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Wilson   X   Heck   X   Vogel   X   Brown   X   Benkovsky   X
4. Clerk Vogel moved to approve the meeting agenda. Treasurer Heck seconded. Motion carried
5. Scott moved to approve the minutes (April regular board meeting) Trustee Benkovsky seconded. Motion carried
6. Wilson went over the April Sheriff's Report; There were 52 incidents reported for the month
7. Fire Department Report: Chief Herrig reported that there were 64 runs for the month and briefly highlighted some details from the report.
8. Brief Public Comment -3 Minutes (General Public, County Representatives, Etc) Ron Goodenoe expressed concern that the flag at the fire department had been at half staff for three weeks. This is mandated through the state. Commissioner Kieth Barber shared some of the preliminary plans now that the millage has been defeated. There may still be talks with Delta Township about road control as they pay to contract for extra service. However, Barber shared that the county had still paid \$1.5 Million per year for this in the past. There is opposition to a deal with Delta, including from Barber. - The Sheriff wanted to end Animal Control in 30 days, but Barber pointed out that funding for Animal Control is already covered through September. – County now considering whether to try for some sort of millage in November.
9. New Business

Capital Area Community Services - Jessica Dexter from CACS gave a brief presentation on her ideas for how we could work together with her organization to offer services and information to our township residents: Budget Advocacy, Head Start, Senior Services, Veterans Services, Weatherization. We plan to have public sessions on each area here in the Board Room or Conference room to get this information and help to our folks. Janice will work with her on scheduling.

Deputy Clerk Authorization to sign checks: Needed in case of emergency. Vogel moved to have the deputy clerk authorized through the bank to sign checks. Benkovsky seconded. Motion carried.

Building usage/rental; Now that the building is complete, it's time to consider how to use it. We have had several inquiries about renting for things such as showers and retirement parties. Most thought this would be good. Vogel reported that she had spoken with our PAR insurance rep who was not at all keen on the idea and brought up topics such as: Who will be in charge of this venture? There will be a calendar to keep, forms to create and have filled out, deposits and fees to collect, follow up if any damage. If you are all busy now, who gets to take this on? What about the wear and tear on the new facility? Food and drink spills, little

fingerprints and on and on. The Board agreed to table the topic while further investigation and consideration takes place.

Late Fire Department Invoices: Wilson brought up that there is a break down in the accounting system between the Fire Department and the Clerk's office. Needs to be better communication and a system to avoid late invoices (chronic) and duplicate payments. Chief Herig agrees and welcomes suggestions to work the bugs out. Vogel suggested that they need to have a set time to compare notes.

June Date for Technology update. Regular Meeting or special Meeting? We will be discussing two of the three companies who gave bids. This will be at a special Board Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00.

10. Unfinished Business

11. Board Reports

- Supervisor-Wilson Reported that the parking lot is under construction. Some of the radiuses were changed, so final price may differ some.
- Assessor- Roxand, Kalamo and others are charging \$.50 a parcel for parcel information. Scott moved to adopt this practice with Vogel seconding. Motion passed.
- Treasurer-Heck-All settled with county \$417,560.20 Cash available. \$562,735. Estimated earnings.
- Clerk- Vogel- Reported that her first election had been conducted and all went okay. Was thankful for an experienced crew of dedicated workers who made it happen. Vogel moved to accept revenues of \$3095.41 for the month of April, 2025. Wilson seconded. Motion carried. Vogel moved to accept expenditures of \$43,510.87 for the month of April, 2025. Benkovsky seconded. Motion carried.
- Trustee -Brown – Asked about putting out flags in cemeteries before Memorial Day. Vogel said she is working with a service group from town and is waiting on communication with contact. Brown also brought information on a June 10 training seminar in Jackson about the earned sick time pay. We need this information as it is hard to imagine how to use it with the fire department. In the afternoon of that day, training on cemetery management is being offered. Wilson moved to send Amanda and Diane to this seminar. Heck seconded; motion carried.
- Trustee- Benkovsky- Submitting a letter to the Grant Organization stating that the township will pay for project and be reimbursed by grant.

12. Brief Public Comment -3 Minutes (General Public, County Representatives, Etc)

- There was a question about how our cemetery management is being handled now. (Clerk is taking care of those duties.) Also about how the firemen are being paid. Their system was described.
- Mayor Colestock asked the township to consider to go together for zoning, as it is likely we are going to lose the County Zoning Commission. Also, the City of Eaton Rapids will consider helping the township with road patrol since millage failed to pass.
- Supervisor Wilson brought to the Board's attention the fact that Robert Giffen (who received severe dog bite injuries some weeks ago) has incurred over \$900. in costs not covered by his insurance. The township will pay Giffen and then put in a claim with the homeowner's insurance.

13. Correspondence: None

14. Adjournment: Supervisor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:08

Respectfully submitted, Diane Vogel, Clerk.

**Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Thursday June 12, 2025**