

Bergland Township Board Meeting

October 16, 2025 6:30 pm

906-575-3522

Pledge of Allegiance let by Township Clerk, Lori Schmidt.

Meeting called to order 6:32 pm by Jack Otlewis.

Roll Call: John Berglund, Trustee; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor; Lori Schmidt, Clerk; Jerald Wuorenmaa, Trustee; and Jim Bucknell, Attorney.

Agenda Approval: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

Public Comments: FinnTown was discussed. Discussion included neighbors lot lines.

Reports:

Treasurer: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report.

Utility Superintendent: not present.

Planning Commission: Planning Commission report was presented. The next meeting will be on November 20, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

Fire Chief: Working on truck maintenance.

Supervisor: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor provided an update. Two weeks ago, a sewer break had to be repaired. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor noted some inconsistencies with bills from different contractors. The lagoons were discharged and audited by EGLE. Ash, Center and Pine streets are now scheduled to be rebuilt in 2026. Jack Bergman was in town and discussed various grants that may be available.

September 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes and Warrants: A motion to approve the minutes and October warrants were made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

New Business:

Ontonagon County Road Commission – Contract review and approval: The Ontonagon County Road Commission has a contract to sign for the completion of 3 roads to be rebuilt in 2026.

Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee motioned execute the contract. Sue Barnaby, Treasurer, seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Campground – Discuss rates for 2026 – Seasonal Option: Estimates discussed for a seasonal rate. Discussion is tabled until the November meeting.

FinnTown Update: Discussion occurred during the Public Comments.

Assessor – Resident questions, FinnTown costs: The audience are questioning property taxes. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor has requested the Assessor to attend this meeting as well as the previous meeting. There has not been any response to the requests.

Appointment of Planning Commission Member; Posting for Zoning Board of Appeals Member: Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee made a motion to appoint Fred Pawlowski for the Planning Commission vacancy. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried. Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee will post the opening for the Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy.

Scheduling a special joint meeting with the Planning Commission for overview of draft Zoning Ordinance: Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee made a motion to hold a special joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals on November 20, 2025 at 4:00 pm. A second by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion approved.

Laptop for Clerk: Need for an additional computer. Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee made a motion to approve. A second was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. All in favor; motion carried.

Old Business:

Side Setbacks change from 10 ft to 5 ft on Lake property: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion to adopt the recommended amendment to Section 20.605 of the Zoning Ordinance: Waters Edge Setback. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. A roll call vote was called: Jack Otlewis – yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer – yes; Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee – yes; John Berglund, Trustee – no; and Lori Schmidt, Clerk – yes. Motion carried.

Polaris Station: The lease ended in August of 2025. A vote on a new land use agreement was tabled and will be discussed at the November meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourned: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee. A motion to second the motion was made by John Berglund, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.