

Bergland Township Board Meeting

December 18, 2025 6:30 pm

906-575-3522

Pledge of Allegiance let by Township Clerk, Lori Schmidt.

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm by Jack Otlewis.

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

Agenda Approval: Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Township Assessor in new business. A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by Lori Schmidt, Clerk. All in favor; motion carried

Public Comments: Discussion regarding the tax bill increase.

Reports:

Treasurer: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer presented an update. There were errors on the tax bills that were in need of revision and there was no response from the Township Assessor. The Ontonagon County Treasurer and the Ontonagon County Equalization Department assisted in correcting the errors. New tax bills were sent out. In the future the Ontonagon County Equalization office to process the tax bills will be on the agenda.

Fire Chief: Brad Huettl, Fire Chief was present to provide an update. There has been a request for information regarding a warm up shelter that are powered by generators. Brad Huettle will work on a line-item budget prepared. Recent fire calls and training updates were provided.

Utility Superintendent: Wally Saubert, Utility Superintendent provided an introduction and update.

Supervisor: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor provided an update. Christmas decorations for the township light poles will be planned for 2026. Board of Review finished up in December and was not productive. Discussion of the utilization of the park and that it will be on the next agenda.

Amended November 20, 2025 Board meeting minutes was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.

November/December Warrants: A motion to approve the warrants was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

New Business:

Township Assessor: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor discussed termination for cause and hiring of new assessor. Jack Otlewis provided an update regarding the current assessor regarding her poor communication, behavior at the Board of Review, lack of response, no justification of documentation, will not come to meetings, unprofessional. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor provided an introduction and resume for Katie Carlson-Lynch. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion to terminate the current assessor for cause. A second was made by Lori Schmidt, Clerk. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer-yes; John Berglund, Trustee-yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor-yes; Lori Schmitt, Clerk-yes; and Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee-no. Motion carried. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion was made to hire Katie Carlson-Lynch as the new township assessor at the same rate. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer-yes; John Berglund, Trustee-yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor-yes; Lori Schmitt, Clerk-yes; and Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee-yes. All approved; motion carried.

Bergland Township Zoning Presentation: Pat Coleman presentation.

Excel Utility Franchise Agreement-Natural Gas: The agreement was reviewed. A motion to approve and sign the agreement was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. All approved; motion carried.

Bergland Township 2026 Board Meeting Schedule motion-John Berglund, Trustee made a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee made a second. All approved, motion carried.

Banking Campground – First National Bank, Settlers Credit Union and Gogebic Range Bank:

A motion was made to close out the bank accounts for Bergland Township at the First Nation Bank and Settler’s Credit Union. A motion was made by Lori Schmidt, Clerk. A second was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to open a bank account at the Gogebic Range Bank for the General Fund was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. Campground Funds: This will assist with the depositing of the campground funds.

Township Audit Update: The summarized report should be available next month.

Old Business:

Board of Review-December Meeting-Thomas James: Addressed in January.

Polaris Station: They will be removing it.

Public Comments: Zoning public hearing will be posted.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

APPROVED