

Bergland Township Board Meeting

February 19, 2026 6:30 pm

Township Hall

906-575-3522

Pledge of Allegiance let by Lori Schmidt, Clerk.

Meeting called to order: 6:31 pm by Jack Otlewis.

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

Approval of the February 19, 2026, Agenda: Jerry Wuonemaa, Trustee motioned to move the Clerk items to the top of the Agenda under New Business. John Berglund, Trustee provide a second for the motion. Roll call: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor-no; Lori Schmidt, Clerk-no; Jerry Wuorenmaa-yes; John Berglund, Trustee-yes; and Sue Barnaby, Treasurer-yes. Motion carried.

Public Comments: It was noted that the May Bergland Township Meeting is posted as occurring on May 12, 2026. The meeting will be corrected to display as May 21, 2026. The public would like to be part of the selection process for members. This is through the election process as it is on the election ballots. Finn Town Assessor's Plot was discussed.

Reports:

Treasurer: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer presented a written report.

Planning Commission: Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee provide an update.

Fire Chief: Brad Huettl, Fire Chief provided an update.

Utility Superintendent: Wally Saubert, Utility Superintendent provided an update. There needs the water tank being inspected as it is due. One quote was received. A second will be coming in.

Supervisor: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor presented an update. All BOR members have been sworn in and attended a training in Gogebic County. There has been a cost savings in the current budget in comparison to 2024. Discussed a Letter from Governor Whitmer regarding expenditures exceeding the budget previously.

December 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee to approve the minutes. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. Roll call; motion carried.

January 15, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Wuorenmaa, Trustee to approve the minutes. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. Roll call; motion carried.

Warrants: A motion was made to approve the warrants by John Berglund, Trustee. A second was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. All in favor; motion carried.

New Business:

Clerk Resignation: Jack Otlewis made a motion to accept the resignation of Lori Schmidt, Clerk at the end of the current meeting. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer-yes; John Berglund, Trustee-no; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor-yes; and Jerry Wuornemaa, Trustee-yes. Motion carried.

Clerk Appointment: A motion to appoint Bobbi Jo Ferguson as Clerk upon Lori Schmidt's resignation was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by John Berglund, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

Sylvia Green Variance: Discuss was held regarding the variance. The variance will need to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ryan Dehut, County Road Commission: Ryan Dehut from the Ontonagon County Road Commission discussed the recent landmark new roads budge and the Neighborhood Road Fund tax which will provide revenue to the township for road improvements.

PH Meter for the Lagoons: a motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor to not exceed \$1,500 for the new PH meter. A second was made by John Berlund, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

Nordine and Minnesota Pump Works Warrants: A motion to approve the two warrants was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by Lori Schmidt. All in favor; motion carried.

Laura Erhart, Assessor Overpayment: A motion was made by Jack Otlewis to have a letter sent by Attorney Bucknell to Laura Erhart to demand the return of the overpayment monies. A second was made by Lori Schmidt, Clerk. All in favor; motion carried.

Fire Department Air Packs: A motion was made by Jerry Wuonemaa, Trustee for the Fire Department to purchase the refurbished air packs not to exceed \$13,000. A second was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. All in favor; motion carried.

Finn Town Costs: Jack Otlewis noted that this matter will move to a Public Hearing.

Township Audit: A request to have the Accounting Firm to meet with the Board via Teams will be sought. A motion to approve the warrant for the completed audit was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.

Budget Discussion: The budget will be published for transparency, and a meeting will be scheduled to review and approve.

Old Business:

Speed Limits: A study will occur in the spring.

Confined Space: Discussion held.

Adjourned:A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Alls in favor motion carried. Adjourned at 8:28pm EST.