

**Bergland Township Special Board Meeting**  
**May 21, 2026 6:30 pm**  
**Township Hall**  
**906-575-3522**

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance** let by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk.
- II. **Meeting called to order:** 6:30 pm by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor.
- III. **Roll Call:** Sue Barnaby, Treasurer; Irene Sorelle, Trustee; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee; and James Bucknell, Attorney.
- IV. **Public Comments:** Finn Town discussion will be open for public comment under New Business. No other comments. Public comments closed at 6:33 pm.
- V. **May 21, 2026 Agenda:** A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor to approve the agenda. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.
- VI. **Reports:**
  - a. **Treasurer:** The check reader has been installed. Allowing for deposits to be made electronically.
  - b. **Planning Commission:** No presence for updates.
  - c. **Fire Chief:** No presence for updates.
  - d. **Supervisor:** Wally has been ill and therefore Paul Bergy has been hired for Permanent Part-Time in order to remain operational. Beach and campground are open. A cemetery caretaker report was received and Dave Niemi was thanked for the update and work that is being completed.
- VII. **Approval of April/May 2026 Warrants:** A motion to approve the April/May 2026 warrants was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. A second was made by Sue Barnaby. Roll call: Irene Sorelle, Trustee—yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer—yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor—yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk—yes; and Shelly Newhouse, Trustee—yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- VIII. **Approval of April 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. A second was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. All in favor; motion carried.
- IX. **Approval of April 29, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the April 29, 2026 special meeting minutes was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.

**X. New Business:**

- a. **Mary Debonis-Ewen Library:** The Ewen Library has lost some state funding and are looking for funds to be provided from Bergland Township. This will be tabled until next month's meeting.
- b. **American Relief:** Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk reported that the funds that were received during COVID were not fully expended. There were no projects approved for the remaining balance of over \$7,000. The time period has lapse in which these funds could be utilized. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion to return the remaining funds. Sue Barnaby, Treasurer, provided a second to the motion. Roll call: Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; and Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- c. **Zeal Credit Cards-Jack Otlewis and Wally Saubert:** Bergland Township is without a credit card for purchases. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion to approve a credit card from Zeal Credit Union for both Wally Saubert, Utilities Superintendent and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor with an amount limit of \$1,000. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll Call: Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; and Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- d. **North County Website Agreement:** The web designer seeks an agreement from Bergland Township for our website to remain ADA compliant. A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor to approve Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk to enter into that agreement on behalf of Bergland Township. A second was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. Roll call: Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; and Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- e. **UP Fiber Agreement:** UP Fiber seeks approval by Bergland Township for the Metro Act permit application. A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor to permit Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk to sign the agreement. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.
- f. **Highline Agreement:** Highline seeks approval by Bergland Township for the Metro Act permit application. A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor to permit Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk to sign the agreement. A second was made by Shelly Newhouse. All in favor; motion carried.
- g. **Beach Pavilion open year-round and beach roped off during winter:** Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion to keep the beach pavilion open year-round for use by the community and the beach will be roped off during the winter. A second was made by Sue Barnaby. All in favor; motion carried.
- h. **Finn Town Cost Sharing:**
  - i. **Public Comments:** Discussion continued regarding the Finn Town cost sharing and how the Finn Town Assessor's Plat came to be. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor will follow up with the state for an actual percentage of property owners that are necessary for the agreements. Sue Barnaby,

Treasurer will run a report displaying who and the amounts that have been paid by the property owners to date.

- i. **Paul Bergey:** Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion to approve Paul Bergey being hired as a Part-Time Maintenance at the rate of \$17.00 per hour. A second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Roll call: Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; and Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- j. **Lakefest August 15<sup>th</sup>:** Jack Otlewis, Supervisor provided information regarding Lakefest in which the Lake Gogebic Chamber is attempting to put together. This would be held at the beach area. Irene Sorelle, Trustee made a motion to approve coordinating with the Chamber for the event and permit the event to occur at the beach. A second was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. All in favor; motion carried.
- k. **Clerk-Park Reservations and Grant Writing:** Jack Otlewis stated that there is no longer a Park Host for the campground. Two areas of workload which are not a statutory duty for the Clerk and necessary for the operational needs of Bergland Township Jack Otlewis, Supervisor made a motion for the Clerk to be paid an additional \$20 per hour for reservations and online functions pertaining to the campground as well as research and grant writing. These are not duties of the Clerk. A second was made by Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. Roll call: Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes; and Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes. Absent from the vote was Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. All in favor; motion carried.
- l. **Closed Session: Laura Erhart Overpayment**

XI. **Back in Session:** 7:44 pm.

XII. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. A second was made by Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried. Adjourned at 7:44 pm pm EST.