

Bergland Township Special Board Meeting
June 18, 2026, 6:30 pm
Township Hall
906-575-3522

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance** led 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:** What is occurring with the Polaris Charging Station as the lease has expired. Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, will follow up to check on the status of the removal of the station. Public comment will be reserved for the Finn Town discussion. No other comments. Public comments closed at 6:34 pm.
- V. **June 18, 2026, Agenda:** Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, wanted to add "Special Events Approval" to the agenda. Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, made a motion to approve the amended agenda. A second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.
- VI. **Reports:**
 - 1) **Treasurer:** no report.
 - 2) **Utilities Supervisor:** Not present for updates.
 - 3) **Supervisor:** Road work has started and the storm sewers are in process.
 - 4) **Planning Commission:** Erik Lundwall, Chairperson, was not present, but Fred Pawlowski reported that there was no meeting last month due to the shortage of members to have a quorum.
 - 5) **Fire Chief:** Brad Huettl, Fire Chief, reported that there continues to be ongoing training. The tanker needed work and is not complete. There were 3 fire calls. Status of airboat was discussed with no progress. Discussion held regarding the status of the fire truck purchase.
- VII. **Approval of May/June 2026 Warrants:** A motion to approve the May/June 2026 warrants was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. The 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.
- VIII. **Approval of May 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve May 21, 2026, meeting minutes were made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. The second was made by Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.

IX. Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session Board Meeting from May 21, 2026:

A motion to approve May 21, 2026, closed board meeting minutes were made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. The second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.

X. New Business:

- 1) Mike Hinricks, Carp Lake Township Supervisor-ORV Trail:** Mike Hinricks discussed the possibility of working with Bergland Township to expand the ORV trail access between Bergland and White Pine. This will be placed on the next meeting agenda for new business.
- 2) Finn Town Attorney Fees:** Invoice from Attorney James Bucknesll for the period of May 28, 2024, through May 23, 2026, for work on the Finn Town Plat was received in the amount of \$4,517.00. A motion was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, to approve payment. The second motion was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 3) MTA Annual Dues:** An invoice was received from the Michigan Townships Association for the annual dues in the amount of \$855.11. A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, to approve the payment. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 4) Accident Fund Group Payment:** An invoice was received for the Accident Fund Group for the premium amount of \$1,145.00. A motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, to approve the payment. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 5) Ontonagon County Equalization 2026 Spring Processing:** An invoice was received from the Ontonagon County Equalization for the Township 2026 Spring process and materials for taxes. A motion was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, to approve payment. The second was made by Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. Roll call: Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 6) Planning Commission Appointments:** Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk made a motion to approve the appointment of Board Member, Sue Barnaby, to the vacant board position on the Planning Commission. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Discussion was held regarding the board seat vacancy as well as the letter of interest that was previously provided by Jerry Wuorenmaa. A motion was again made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, made a motion to approve the appointment of the appointments to the vacant board position on the Planning

Commission. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. No action was taken on this motion.

- 7) Water and Sewer Bills-10% Latre Fee for past due balances over 60 days:** Jack Otlewis discussed the implementation of a 10% monthly late fee for accounts that are delinquent past 60 days from the due date. A motion to approve the fee was made by Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. The second motion was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. Roll call: Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 8) Finn Town Account, Collection and Tracking:** The tracking of the funds received to date that were collected on the tax bills pertaining to the Finn Town Plat was made available.
- 9) Closure of the FlagStar Tax Account:** With the account opening at Zeal Credit Union, a motion to close the Tax Account that is with FlagStar was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. The second motion was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 10) Bergland Lakefest Expense:** Jack Otlewis would like the Board to approve the amount of \$2,000.00 to be provided to the Lake Gogebic Area Chamber of Commerce to assist with the necessary start up funds for the Bergland Lakefest. These funds will be reimbursed back to Bergland Township. A motion to approve the funds was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. The second motion was made by Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- 11) Special Events:** A motion was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, to approve the use of the beach for the Taste of the Lake. The second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer–yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee–yes; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk–yes; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee–yes; and Jack Otlewis, Supervisor–yes. All in favor; motion carried.

XI. Old Business

- 1) Speed Study:** Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, noted that the letter will be done in the next week to request the speed study.

XII. Public Comments: Fire Department millage renewal.

- XIII. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Otlewis, Supervisor. The second was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. All in favor; motion carried. Adjourned at 7:30 pm EST.