

Bergland Township Board Meeting
July 16, 2026 6:30 pm
Township Hall
906-575-3522

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance** let by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk.
- II. **Meeting called to order:** 6:33 pm by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk.
- III. **Roll Call:** Sue Barnaby, Treasurer; Irene Sorelle, Trustee; Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. James Bucknell, Attorney. Absent: Jack Otlewis, Supervisor; Shelly Newhouse, Trustee. Due to the absence of Jack Otlewis, Supervisor, there was a motion made for Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk to run the meeting by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. The second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.
- IV. **Public Comments:** Opened at 6:34 pm. Dave Niemi noted that the pavilion has a new flag and lights that were donated by the American Legion. Question regarding the Finn Town Assessor's Plat. Closed at 6:38 pm.
- V. **July 16, 2026 Agenda:** A motion was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer, to approve the agenda after the addition of Finn Town Assessor's Plat to be added to New Business. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.
- VI. **Reports:**
 - i. Treasurer's Report: The summer tax bills have been sent out. We have removed the Finn Town Assessor's Plat from the tax bills until the state approval occurs. Worked with the Auditor's for the completion of the annual audit. Reconciliation is current.
 - ii. Utilities Supervisor: not present for an update.
 - iii. Supervisor: Will be discussed in New Business.
 - iv. Planning Commission: Fred was present and discussed that there is a scheduled meeting for next week on Tuesday. Short board members. This will be discussed further in New Business.
 - v. Fire Chief: Russ Heathman was present to provide an update. The Fire Department is working on a millage for the fire truck fund. Also working on further needed equipment. The five-year plan was completed and approved by the Bergland Township Fire Department during the last meeting. One fire call out has occurred.
- VII. **Approval of the June/July 2026 Warrants:** A motion to approve the June/July 2026 warrants was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. The second was made by Irene Sorelle. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer – yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee – yes; and Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk – yes. All in favor; motion carried.

VIII. **Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 18, 2026:** will need to be done at the August Board Meeting.

IX. **New Business**

- i. **Jack Otlewis, Supervisor Resignation:** Letter of resignation from Jack Otlewis was read with an effective date of today. Sue Barnaby, Treasurer made a motion to accept the resignation of Jack Otlewis effective today. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.
 - i. **Township Helper:** Discussion was held by the lack of these positions. A motion was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee, to post the available position in the Ontonagon Herald and the Township Facebook page. The second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. All in favor; motion carried.
 - ii. **Campground Host:** A motion was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee to post this position with pay of \$500 per month and a campsite. The second was made by Sue Barnaby. All in favor; motion carried.
- ii. **McMillan Township Library:** Mary DeBonis presented further information regarding needed funding which the library is seeking. This information was received and will be tabled for the next board meeting.
- iii. **Blight:** Increase in blight complaints. Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, will reach out to Roman Tauer to discuss the process to address this.
- iv. **Mike Hinricks: ORT Trail Expansion:** Mike Hinricks provided an update. Carp Lake Township did approve of the expansion of the top section last night at their Board Meeting. He provided the documents which the Bergland Township Board will need to review and approve. A motion was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, to table this for next month's meeting to review. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.
- v. **Campground:** addressed above.
- vi. **American Relief Funds:** Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk provided an update regarding these funds and that with the storm sewer drains with the street project needing to be replace, these funds can be allocated for this use. A motion to rescind the return of these funds and once completed, the closure of the American Relief bank account and to move those funds into the General Fund was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Roll call: Sue Barnaby, Treasurer – yes; Irene Sorelle – yes; and Bobbi Jo Ferguson – yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- vii. **Fire Department Truck Funds:** Russ Heathman provided the Board with the plan for the millage for the replacement of the truck. The Fire Department members met and voted to request that the funds be moved into a CD in lieu of remaining in a savings account. Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk made a motion to move the current balance as voted and approved by the Fire Department into a CD within Flagstar. The second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll call: Sue Barnaby

– yes; Irene Sorelle, Trustee – yes; and Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk – yes. All in favor; motion carried.

viii. Fire Department Equipment Purchase:

- i. Russ Heathman, Treasurer of the Bergland Township Volunteer Fire Department requested that the Bergland Fire Department Auxiliary be reimbursed \$553.81 for the purchase of 14 walkie talkies. A motion to approve the expenditure was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. The second was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. Roll call: Sue Barnaby – yes; Irene Sorelle – yes; and Bobbi Jo Ferguson – yes. All in favor; motion carried.
- ii. Russ Heathman, Treasurer of the Bergland Township Volunteer Fire Department requested the approval to purchase the outlined fire equipment that was approved by the BVFD on July 6, 2026, in the amount of \$1,083.55. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. Roll call: Sue Barnaby – yes; Irene Sorelle – yes; and Bobbi Jo Ferguson – yes. All in favor; motion carried.

- X. Fire Department Truck Millage Renewal:** update provided within the Fire Chief report.
- XI. Planning Commission Vacancies:** Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk made a motion to nominate Sue Barnaby, Treasurer, to fill the Board vacancy on the Planning Commission until a new member steps forward. The second was made by Irene Sorelle. All in favor; motion carried. A motion to nominate Jerry Wuornemaa to the Planning Commission was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer. The second was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. All in favor; motion passed.
- XII. Finn Town Assessor's Plat:** A motion was made to send in the completed Finn Town Assessor's Plat to the State of Michigan for approval by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. The second was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. All in favor; motion carried.
- XIII. Old Business**
- i. **Speed Study: Discussion** was held as this letter has not yet been sent to the state. Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk, will send the letter to make the request.
- XIV. Public Comment:** Opened at 7:27 pm. Discussion continued surrounding the vacancies.
- XV. Vacancies for Township Help:** A motion was made by Sue Barnaby, Treasurer to provide that Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk can resolve manpower shortages for the park and campground within reason of the budget. The second was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. All in favor; motion carried.
- XVI. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Irene Sorelle, Trustee. The second was made by Bobbi Jo Ferguson, Clerk. All in favor; motion carried. Adjourned at 7:38 pm EST.