



LODI TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Lodi Township Hall
3755 Pleasant Lake Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

1. Call to order - Pledge of Allegiance

The regular meeting of April 7, 2026 opened with a brief moment of silence in honor of Township Supervisor Jan Godek followed by the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Smith moved to have Foley moderate the meeting due to Godek's absence. Second by Marsh. A voice vote was taken. Aye=all, Nay=none, absent=1. Motion carried, 6-0.

2. Roll Call

Present: Blackburn, Foley, Marsh, Matelski, Rentschler, Smith

Absent: Godek

3. Public Hearing: Saline Area Fire Authority

Smith moved to open the public hearing for the Saline Area Fire Authority at 6:01 pm. Second by Matelski. A roll call vote was taken. Blackburn=aye, Marsh=aye, Smith=aye, Foley=aye, Rentschler=aye, Matelski=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 6-0.

Charles Schaible stated that he cannot support moving to a Fire Authority because nothing in the Articles of Incorporation states that the response times nor the fire ratings will be lowered. Without a substation in Lodi, he cannot see where it would benefit the Township or how tripling the taxpayer's tax bill will decrease his fire insurance. The Township already has 35% equity in the Fire Department and the Board should consider creating their own fire department.

Another resident stated that he was against this due to the increase in taxes and that the Board of Trustees needs to turn it down.

Brian Sweetland recommended denying the Fire Authority until there is property tax reform based on mailing addresses.

Another resident stated that farmers are struggling these days already. To make a decision that will significantly increase costs to farmers will only encourage more and more farmers to sell to developers and it is not sustainable.

Saline Area Fire Chief Jason Sperle addressed the comments made by the public and explained the difference between approving the Articles of Incorporation and approving a millage. Additionally, he explained that if the Fire Department becomes a Fire Authority, they will be able to take advantage of grants and other sources of funding beyond just tax dollars that they are unable to participate in currently. Due to the age and condition of equipment, the cost of maintaining the Fire Department is going to increase either way. Sperle also reviewed Lodi Township's options if Lodi Township pulls out of the Saline Area Fire Department.

Questions were asked of Sperle by members of the public as well as Trustees which included:

- Is the Saline Area Fire Department in debt? There is no debt, but there are OPEB liabilities for retirees which would be removed from Lodi Township's books and transfer to the Fire Authority if approved. This would improve Lodi Township's tax rating.
- Is the millage set in stone? No. Sperle reviewed local fire department millage rates in the area compared to the current amount of funding the SAFD receives.
- What is the timing for receiving grants and how much would be received? That is unknown, but grants are currently not available with the current structure unless the SAFD partners with another municipality.
- What is the voting structure for the Fire Board? For most issues, it is majority wins, but in the Articles of Incorporation, there are items that require a two-thirds vote in order to pass.
- What is the population density vs. millage rates for the other municipalities whose fire department millage rates were listed by Sperle? It ranges and depends more on tax base than population density.
- What will it do to the fire ratings? It should bring it down if a fire station is built in Lodi Township.
- Since Lodi Township has one of the higher tax bases, why would Lodi Township not be the first community a new substation would be built in? Sperle said that Lodi Township's representatives have not pushed for a substation in the past.
- What share of the \$7 million from the Saline Township data center settlement will Lodi Township receive? The Saline Area Fire Department will be receiving equipment from that settlement, not money. It is a gift.
- How many men would be required to make a substation work? Two per day.
- Can the Lodi Township vote be contingent on the other municipalities approving as well? The Fire Authority does not happen unless all municipalities approve.
- Building a substation in Lodi Township would lower response times and likely lower insurance premiums, but will it lower those enough to offset the increase in taxes?
- If a substation is built, who pays the bills for that substation? The Fire Authority
- What is the Saline Area Fire Department's budget right now? \$2.8 million.
- If the Articles of Incorporation are passed what would the budget be? \$2.9 million
- If the Articles of Incorporation are passed and the goal millage of 2.98 mil passes, what would the budget be? About \$5 million
- For grants, would you hire a grant writer? Some grants can be written in house. Otherwise, there is a local grant writer who charges a couple hundred to a couple thousand per grant depending on the complexity of the application.

Sperle also reviewed the Fire Department's current 10-year plan including building substations in Lodi Township, Saline Township and York Township with 24/7 coverage and new equipment and repair the City of Saline fire station. The goal millage to meet that 10-year plan would be 2.98 mil.

Smith moved to close the public hearing for the Saline Area Fire Authority at 6:49 pm. Second by Rentschler. A roll call vote was taken. Smith=aye, Blackburn=aye, Marsh=aye, Rentschler=aye, Matelski=aye, Foley=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 6-0.

4. Consent Agenda

- C-1: Approve – March 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes and March 18, 2026 Special meeting minutes
- C-2: Accept - Investment Report (treasurer report)
- C-3: Approve - Checks for Approval – 3/5/2026 – 4/7/2026
- C-4: Recognize - Monthly Budget Report
- C-5: Amend Budget

April 7, 2026 Budget Amendments 2025-2026 Budget		
101101:704.1	Recording Secretary	\$2,070.00
101101:930.1	Copy Machine	\$133.95
101101:704	Trustee S/W	\$1,126.01
101101:726	General Supplies	\$2,370.41
101101:805	Legal Services	\$6,497.50
101101:807	Site Plan Inspections	\$1,675.00
101171.860	Supervisor Travel/Education	\$94.00
101215:7020	Clerk S/W	\$0.04
101247:704	Board of Review S/W	\$25.00
101247:860	Board of Review Education	\$343.73
101247:900	Board of Review - Public Notices	\$592.00
101410:704	Board of Appeals - S/W	\$250.00
101265:922.1	Internet	\$120.05
101265:920	Electricity	\$1,553.15
101265:922	Telephone	\$80.00
101265:930.5	Snow Removal - TWP	\$3,225.00
101400:801	Consulting Fees	\$7,593.00
701222	County Share	\$76.00
701225	State Education	\$704.00
		\$28,528.84
101101:980.1	Software/Support	-\$5,000.00
101101:716	Medicare - Employer	-\$2,500.00
101101:995	Capital Improvement	-\$1,100.00

101101:810	State/Local Dues	-\$1,100.00
101265:930	Township Hall - Maintenance	-\$3,500.00
101265:921	Natural Gas	-\$1,100.00
101265:930.1	Township - Lawn Maintenance	-\$5,000.00
101301:801	Sheriff	-\$9,228.84
		-\$28,528.84

C-6: Recognize Planning Commission Minutes – 3/24/2026

C-7: Recognize Board of Appeals Minutes – none

C-8: Recognize Sheriff Report

Blackburn moved to approve parts C-2, C-3, C-4, C-6, C-7, and C-8 of the Consent Agenda as presented. Second by Marsh. A voice vote was taken. Aye=Blackburn, Foley, Marsh, Matelski, Nay=Smith, Rentschler, absent=1. Motion carried, 4-2.

5. Attorney Report: None

6. Planning Commission Update: Sweetland reviewed the most recent Planning Commission meeting held on March 24, 2026.

7. Short Public Comment

Public comment began at 6:51 pm. Comments were received from 2 members of the public. Public comment ended at 6:54 pm.

8. Revision / Approval of Agenda

Travis Pointe Country Club (TPCC) asked to be removed from the agenda. Discussion about filling the Township Supervisor position needs to be added to the agenda as well as C-1 and C-5 of the Consent Agenda.

Smith moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Matelski. A voice vote was taken. Aye=all, Nay=none, absent=1. Motion carried, 6-0.

9. Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion on Policy to Appoint Members to Township Boards

Smith moved to table the discussion on the Policy to Appoint Members to Township Boards. Second by Rentschler. A roll call vote was taken. Matelski=nay, Rentschler=aye, Foley=aye, Smith=aye, Marsh=aye, Blackburn=nay, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 4-2.

10. New Business:

1. Saline Area Fire Articles of Incorporation

Township Attorney Jesse O’Jack explained his email with recommendations for changes to the proposed Articles of Incorporation and the reasoning behind those suggestions.

Blackburn moved to approve the Articles of Incorporation of Saline Area Fire Authority as presented in the Board packet with the following changes:

- Section 12.2.C.ii updated to: The preliminary budget for the next fiscal year shall be prepared for and presented at a budget meeting no later than a September Board meeting prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Board shall approve submittal of the budget for the next fiscal year to the Incorporating Municipalities at least sixty (60) days before the end of the fiscal year. The Incorporating Municipalities shall each vote on the budget and it is adopted if all of the Incorporating Municipalities approve it. If the budget fails, the Board will cause to be prepared a new budget that will again be submitted to the Incorporating Municipalities for approval.
- Section 24.2 changed to: In every situation where a two-thirds vote of the Board members appointed and serving with at least one member of each Incorporating Municipality present at the time of the vote is required, if no representatives of an Incorporating Municipality appear at a meeting of the Board for two or more consecutive meetings where the vote is called and the meetings are at least a month apart, the requirement that at least one member of each Incorporating Municipality must be present at the time of the vote is suspended.

Second by Marsh. A roll call vote was taken. Blackburn=aye, Marsh=aye, Smith=aye, Matelski=aye, Rentschler=aye, Foley=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 6-0.

2. WCRC – Lodi Township 2026 Road Projects

Smith read a handwritten note **on an email** that she found on **Supervisor Godek's desk that originated** an email between Blackburn and Adam Lape from the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC). Smith also clarified which roads are the County's job to maintain and which roads are the Township's job to maintain as well as the reasoning why, financially, subdivision roads cannot be maintained by the Township.

Adam Lape and Ken Harris from WCRC were present to express condolences, explain the process for determining what work needs done when, explain the reasoning for the provided projects and answer questions from Trustees.

Smith found a quote on Godek's desk from November 2025 for paving Ellsworth Road from Maple Road to Saline Ann Arbor Road. **Smith stated that** Godek made it very clear **to her** that she wanted that stretch of road taken care of because it is unsafe, gets abused, and needs to be done. After the road is paved, the County would be able to take over maintenance and care of that road. Due to the current hill cut project by WCRC on Ann Arbor Saline Road and the plans the owner on the corner of Ellsworth Road and Ann Arbor Saline Road has, this project would be easier and more financially feasible to complete at this time.

Blackburn reviewed the history of their requests for a road maintenance plan and questions regarding road work and asked multiple questions.

Smith moved to approve the 2026 Lodi Township Agreement as presented with the addition of Ellsworth Road from Wagner Road to Saline Ann Arbor Road for \$150,000.00 and Noble Road pavement portion for \$20,000.00 with an agreement to revisit in July once actual costs come in to be able to see what is feasible to enter into an agreement with the County to do design services for Ellsworth Road from Maple Road to Ann Arbor Saline Road. Second by Rentschler. A roll call vote was taken. Blackburn=aye, Marsh=aye, Smith=aye, Foley=aye, Rentschler=aye, Matelski=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 6-0.

Marsh requested to discuss setting up a subcommittee for the roads in two months. Blackburn requested for the Board of Trustees to allow Lape to respond to Blackburn's emails.

3. Request from Janet Rogers – Wood-Rogers Farm Historic District – Resolution #2026-010

A discussion was held regarding the request for the Wood-Rogers Farm Historic District and Resolution #2026-010. An updated Service Contract is needed before proceeding with action.

4. C-1: Approve – March 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes and March 18, 2026 Special meeting minutes

After discussion, Blackburn moved to approve the March 18, 2026 Special meeting minutes as included on the table for the public due to the incorrect version being included in the Board packet with the following footnote added after "Toll Brothers representative Jason Iacoangeli stated that the wording of the agreement to provide two trees per lot is the exact wording approved by the Township in the minutes" located in 5. New Business 1. Toll Brothers Development Agreement Resolution #2026-009: "That was incorrectly stated at the meeting; the minutes say "Toll Brothers will provide" and the wording was changed to "offer" and "could"." Second by Marsh. A roll call vote was taken. Blackburn=aye, Marsh=aye, Smith=nay, Foley=nay, Rentschler=nay, Matelski=aye, Godek=absent. Motion failed, 3-3.

Foley moved to approve the March 18, 2026 Special meeting minutes as included on the table for the public due to the incorrect version being included in the Board packet as presented. Second by Smith. A roll call vote was taken. Smith=aye, Foley=aye, Matelski=aye, Rentschler=aye, Marsh=aye, Blackburn=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 6-0.

Smith moved to approve the March 3, 2026, regular meeting minutes as presented. Second by Matelski. A voice vote was taken: Aye=all, Nay=none, absent=1. Motion carried, 6-0.

5. C-5: Amend Budget

Smith reviewed the timing and need for the presented budget amendments.

Smith moved to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Second by Rentschler. A roll call vote was taken. Matelski=aye, Rentschler=aye, Foley=aye, Smith=aye, Marsh=aye, Blackburn=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 6-0.

6. Discussion regarding vacant Supervisor position due to Godek's death

Two people have expressed interest in the open position. According to Michigan statutes, the Township has 45 days from April 3, 2026, to fill the open position. The County Clerk has confirmed that if the position is not filled after the 45 days, the position will remain open and they will not hold the special election required by the Michigan statutes. Smith and Foley have had to cover Godek's duties in the interim. A replacement is needed to help take that load off of Smith and Foley.

Blackburn felt the Township needed time to grieve and allow time for any other interested candidates to submit interest to be reviewed and decided on at the May Board of Trustee meeting.

Blackburn moved to post the vacant position of Township Supervisor and table the discussion until the May Board of Trustee meeting. The motion failed for lack of second.

Smith moved to appoint Jacob Schaible to the vacant position of Township Supervisor until an election can be held. Second by Rentschler.

During discussion regarding this motion, Eric Roberts **disrupted the meeting and the Sheriff Department was called.** interrupted the meeting out of order and would not comply with the requests from O'Jack or multiple Trustees to either sit down and be quiet or leave. A call was made to the Sheriff with a request to remove Roberts from the meeting. Roberts left the meeting during that phone call making a verbal comment towards the Clerk on his way out before the police could arrive.

O'Jack and Blackburn agreed to talk after the meeting about why Godek's deputy would not be able to help out and fill in until an appointment is made.

A roll call vote was taken. Smith=aye, Rentschler=aye, Matelski=aye, Marsh=aye, Blackburn=nay, Foley=aye, Godek=absent. Motion carried, 5-1.

11. Closed Session: None

12. Public Comment

Public comment began at 8:50 pm. Public comment was received from 1 person. Public comment ended at 8:51 pm.

13. FYI:

1. Planner Scope of Services
2. James McDonald filed an official complaint with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission since the last Board of Trustee meeting. A response has been filed by David Landry who was appointed to represent the Township by the Township's insurance company.

14. Adjournment

Smith moved to adjourn at 8:54 pm. Second by Foley. A voice vote was taken. Aye=all, Nay=none, absent=1. Motion carried, 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christina Smith,
Lodi Township Clerk



Michelle Joppeck,
Recording Secretary

