



ACME TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**ACME TOWNSHIP HALL
6100 US 31 N, Williamsburg MI 49690
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: A. Jenema, P. Scott, L. Swanson, D. White, A. Wylie

Members excused: D. Hoxsie, D. Stevens

Staff present: L. Wolf, Planning & Zoning Administrator; John Iacoangeli, Beckett & Raeder; J. Jocks, Legal Counsel; C. Danca, Recording Secretary

A. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Limited Public Comment opened at 6:01 p.m.

Jason Seevers, Acme Resident
Brian Kelley, Acme Resident

Limited Public Comment closed at 6:07 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Supervisor White requested addition to *Old Business #3 Discussion on the Engle Case* and addition to *New Business #5 Approval of a Board of Review Member*.

Motion by Jenema, supported by Scott, to approve the agenda with the additions of the #5 under New Business the Board of Review appointment and #3 under Old Business Engle update. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: 1/6/2026

Motion by Swanson, supported by Wylie, to approve the Board minutes as presented. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

D. INQUIRY AS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

E. REPORTS:

a. Clerk – There is ongoing preparation for the 2026 election cycle.

(Election dates: State Primary August 4, 2026, and State General November 3, 2026)

b. Parks – None

c. Legal Counsel – Discussion will occur under a later agenda item regarding the Engle case.

d. Sheriff – Per officer Abbring, weather related crashes have increased, and he encouraged drivers to drive cautiously as roads are icy – especially side roads.

e. County – None

f. Supervisor – The light located at M72 and Bates Road has been replaced. The township received a 2% grant award from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in the amount of \$46,110 to be used for sound system equipment in the community room and a portico over the double door entry (Danca was thanked for her work on the application, and she acknowledged Jean Aukerman for her role as well).

g. Planning and Zoning – Wolf referred to her 2025 year-end report included in the packet and invited questions.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

h. Road Commission – Manager Dan Watkins provided the following information: the Bunker Hill Road project was completed; car count data from the summer is expected to be available on their website the end of February (they averaged the count for each section of Brackett Road over two-day periods and found that during that time: travel on Brackett from US31 to Lautner = 1,446 cars; Lautner to Bates = 598 cars; from Bates to Elk Lake Road = 560 cars; and Yuba Road = 124 cars. Per Watkins, it appears there is enough traffic on Brackett to proceed with the process of changing its designation from a local to a county road. Crews are planning for spring work (ditching, tree removal, etc.); Arnold Road is scheduled for chip/seal work; large projects this year will include Hammond and Cass Roads; they anticipate developing an online system that shows a timeline for road projects, car counts, etc. that people can view. Potholes can be reported on the Road Commission website.

F. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None

G. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. RECEIVE AND FILE:

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Clerk's Revenue/Expenditure Report
- c. Clerk's Balance Sheet
- d. 12/8/25 Draft Unapproved PC Minutes

2. APPROVAL:

1. Accounts Payable Prepaid of \$448,929.64 and NO current to be paid
(Recommend approval: Clerk, L. Swanson)

Motion by Jenema, supported by Wylie, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

H. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR: None

I. CORRESPONDENCE: None

J. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Fire Prevention Ordinance Adoption (included in packet)

Public hearing opened at 6:24 p.m.

Brian Kelley, Acme resident, thanked Chief Mackin for being in attendance, voiced concern about illegal burning of furniture in his neighborhood and requested the township promote the ordinance and the brush pass vouchers available to residents for pickup at the township hall.

Chief Mackin, Metro Fire, stated burning is allowed on parcels of 5 acres or more (permit required); state statute prohibits burning trash; recreational campfires are allowed without a permit contained inside a ring no larger than 3 feet in diameter with flames no higher than 2 feet, at least 25 feet from structures, natural vegetation and lot lines, and only clean dry campfire type wood should be burned.

Public hearing closed at 6:27 p.m.

Discussion occurred. Both East Bay and Garfield townships have passed the ordinance, it was agreed upon by the Metro Board, and Acme's legal counsel has reviewed it.

Motion by Scott, supported by Jenema, to adopt the resolution to approve the fire ordinance as presented. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on Township Hall/Community Room rental forms and conditions (included in packet)

Clerk Swanson highlighted details from example forms provided prior to the meeting by D. Stevens intended for consideration when creating a rental form for Acme Township's Community Room. Board discussion included key card versus keypad entry, timeframes, no alcohol/tobacco use, decoration and other restrictions, insurance coverage, input/review from legal counsel, rental fees/security deposit, and maintenance fees for damages. Board consensus was to continue working toward a policy specific to Acme.

2. Hope Village Water System (information included in packet)

GTC Director of Public Works, Noah Karberg, summarized that in 2018 Acme Township approved a water rate schedule change that was to take effect in 2019 but for reasons unknown was never applied by DPW. He recommended implementing the 2026 rate starting with March 1st water usage with notice of a rate increase going out prior. He also recommended it be done by resolution. Discussion occurred about making a motion, preparing a resolution for the next meeting, and Supervisor White having already made Autumn House aware of the increase.

Motion by Scott, supported by Swanson to go back to the schedule that was approved in 2018 at a Board meeting where Jenema made a motion to approve the recommended water rate schedule as presented and I supported – that we actually go to that schedule with a Resolution to follow up at our next meeting. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Master Plan Distribution: Resolution 2026-02 (included in packet)

Wolf addressed the Board stating that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that distribution of the master plan occur. A proposed change to the future land use map (regarding High Pointe Golf Club) was discussed at the last PC meeting and passed with a 4-3 vote. Per J. Iacoangeli the PC believes, and he agreed that the Master Plan draft is complete enough to go out to other agencies for the statutory 63-day review period giving them the opportunity to provide feedback to the PC prior to having a public hearing. Residents are welcome to submit comments to Wolf during this period as well – that feedback will be presented to the PC. Wolf referenced her Master Plan Summary and other memos included in the packet. The Master Plan can be found on the township website (acmetownship.org). The PC will decide based on feedback what if any revisions to make, compile the final draft, provide notice of the public hearing and hold a public hearing. Based on feedback during public hearing, changes can still occur prior to adoption.

Motion by Jenema, supported by Swanson, for Resolution 2026-02 recommending the distribution of the Acme Township Community Master Plan. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Wolf thanked the Board and acknowledged the hard work put into the draft.

4. Discussion on Sewer Use Ordinance (included in packet)

GTC Director of Public Works, Noah Karberg explained that the ordinance exists to specify who can put what into the sewer and it is needed to allow enforcement if/when violations occur. Many of the updates are clerical, and some others are related to growth in Blair township. Director Karberg recommended the Board adopt the changes. Discussion occurred about the amended ordinance bringing the township up to today's standards.

Motion by Jenema, supported by Wylie, that Acme Township adopt the Amended Uniform Sewer Use Ordinance Resolution 2026-03. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of a Board of Review Member

Supervisor White recommended Michelle Stockman as replacement for a member who stepped down.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

Motion by Jenema, supported by Swanson, to approve Michelle Stockman to Board of Review pending completion of class. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

L. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on Sewer Rate Connection Increase (correspondence included)

Supervisor White was advised against a sewer rate connection increase and referenced correspondence in the packet. Discussion occurred about rate connection fees in other townships in the county. Director Karberg offered the following per sewer benefit approximations: Acme \$4,200, Garfield \$3,925, and East Bay \$3,500. He could not recall Peninsula or Elmwood township amounts but noted that Peninsula has the highest rate. Scott requested that during future sewer studies/reviews, the connection fee be looked at.

2. Audio System Proposal from Ascomnorth (included in packet)

Discussion occurred about the 2% grant award covering the cost of both the Ascomnorth quote and the estimated cost of the portico addition. Supervisor White expects it will cover most if not all costs. Matt Kern of LIAA recommended the Ascom system to the Board stating a video system could easily be added in the future at an additional cost in the range of about \$5,000 - 25,000 depending on the system.

Motion by Jenema, supported by Scott, to approve proposal provided with the review for Ascomnorth to provide all the equipment. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion on the Engle Case

Legal counsel explained the Court's most recent order and potential action by Acme Township concerning Engle's property taxes – the property is close to foreclosure because of unpaid property taxes. MDARD attorneys and Jocks filed a motion asking the Circuit Court to order them to pay their delinquent taxes or to allow the township to pay them and put a lien on the property. That is what the judge ordered, giving the family a February 15th deadline. A separate case between Engle and “the Yuba group” is still ongoing. Jocks requested the Board authorize or agree that Acme will pay the delinquent taxes from 2023 and 2024. Jenema estimated it would be less than \$10,000 and would be paid out of the Farmland fund. Discussion occurred about the history of the case.

Motion by Jenema that we pay the delinquent property taxes as the court order suggests it would be if the 2023 taxes and 2024 taxes are not paid by February 17th (because of the holiday) so once we find out if they were not paid, on the 18th we'll cut a check for the 2023 and 2024 amount because as of March 1st they go up to the county and it is foreclosed on. Counsel will draft a lien to be recorded. Discussion occurred about funds coming out of and going back into Farmland upon repayment of the lien. **Motion supported by Scott. Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Comment opened at 7:38 p.m.

Brian Kelley, Acme resident

Public Comment closed at 7:39 p.m.

Motion by Scott, supported by Jenema, to adjourn the meeting. No discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.