

**MACKINAW TOWNSHIP
10595 WALLICK RD, MACKINAW CITY
2026/2027 PUBLIC BUDGET AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 17, 2026**

Supervisor Smydra called the Public Budget Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board Members present: Brew, Falor, Darrow, Closs, Smydra. Also, present: Timothy MacArthur, Kevin Ostwald, and Jeff Ostman. No public comments. Smydra declared the Public Budget Meeting closed at 7:01 PM.

The Regular Board Meeting was opened at 7:02PM.

Supervisor Smydra approved the agenda as presented.

Motion by Brew, supported by Closs to approve February 17, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Reports

1. Attorney Timonthy MacArthur gave the board an update on the upcoming fire protection millage. MacArthur received the details from the assessor for the fire millage proposition. This millage would generate approximately \$51,572 based on the taxable value as of right now. He discussed the renewal millage proposition for the fire protection services and the resolution in great depth. Once the resolution and proposition are approved, we must send these documents to the county clerk by May 12th. MacArthur will hand deliver these approved documents and receive a receipt. The county clerk will then put together the ballot proposition and sent out to the board and MacArthur for approval and to check for any errors.

2. Commissioner Jeff Ostman informed the board that the two moratoriums on the data center and solar energy permitting are in effect for one year. In May the chipping of debris from the ice storm will begin. This will cost just over \$300,000 to complete this task. At this time the county is unsure if FEMA will reimburse them for the chipping of storm debris. FEMA has reimbursed some of the local fire departments from the ice storm such as Wolverine and Inverness Fire Department.

3. Supervisor Smydra will be absent during the regular April township meeting. Smydra contacted the MTA attorney on how to appropriately appoint an individual to conduct the meeting in his absence. The clerk and treasurer are legally required to have deputies and their appointees do not require board approval. The supervisor may appoint a deputy but that appointment must be ratified by the board. A deputy who is a trustee must be assigned specific duties beyond statutory trustee duties. Motion by Smydra, supported by Darrow to appoint Brew as the Mackinaw Township Supervisors' deputy and conduct all township meetings when the supervisor is absent and serve as the Mackinaw Township fire board representative. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

1. Motion by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve and renew the millage proposition for the fire protection services (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value). Roll call vote: Ayes: Falor, Closs, Smydra, Darrow, Brew. Nays: None. Motion carried.

2. Motion by Brew, supported by Smydra to approve the resolution that authorizes the Mackinaw Township Board to place a fire millage renewal proposal on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 4, 2026. Roll call vote: Ayes: Darrow, Brew, Smydra, Closs, Falor. Nays: None. Motion carried.

3. Motion by Smydra, supported by Falor approve the municipal retainer agreement with MacArthur Law Firm for the one-year period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. to Roll call vote: Ayes: Smydra, Falor, Closs, Darrow, Brew. Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. Falor has graciously delayed her retirement by one month with the townships best interest in mind. Her new last day will officially be April 30, 2026. Two applicants expressed interest in the vacant trustee position and the boards plans to interview both in May and select the new trustee at the May regular board meeting. A special open meeting for these interviews will be scheduled and a notice will be posted.

New Business

5. Motion by Smydra, supported by Brew to approve the 2026/2027 General Budget & Fire Fund Budget.
Roll call vote: Ayes: Brew, Darrow, Smydra, Falor, Closs. Nays: None. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Brew, supported by Falor to adopt the 2026/2027 General Appropriations Act.
Roll call vote: Ayes: Darrow, Smydra, Falor, Closs, Brew. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report/ Bills/ Financial Report

1. The Treasurer reported that we have settled with the county on March 9th and 95% of the taxes have been collected at this time.
2. Motion by Brew, supported by Closs to approve the bills for March.
Roll call vote: Ayes: Closs, Smydra, Brew, Darrow, Falor. Nays: None. Motion carried.
3. The Standard Budget Financial Report was reviewed as presented.

Non-Agenda Items

1. The board presented Donna with a retirement card and gift. Falor has been a great asset to Mackinaw Township for many years and has served in every position on the township board. We are grateful for her years of service and will be dearly missed.
2. The fire board meeting has been rescheduled to March 24th due to the snow storm.
3. The Church of the Straits has served as a warming center during the snow storm for anyone in need and was open for 15 days.

Meeting was adjourned by call of the chair at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Darrow, Clerk

