

# Mastodon Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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A regular meeting of the Mastodon Township Board was called to order at 5:30 pm by Supervisor Skinner. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A moment of silence was held for the recent passing of Jeff Seppala former Fire Chief of Mastodon Township.

**PRESENT BY ROLL CALL:** Karen Mallon, Chad Skinner, Dave Smith. Mike Bjork and Stacey Watters were absent.

**Department members present:** Dan Kurtz, Andy Flemmin, Stu Creel

**Public in attendance:** Mark Leonhardt, Mike Webb, Julie Harp and Charyl McCole, Village of Alpha Rep.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Smith to approve agenda. Support: Skinner. Call to vote: All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Skinner to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 Regular Board meeting as presented. Support: Smith. All ayes; no nays. Motion Carried. Motion by Smith to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 Budget Hearing as presented. Support: Skinner. All ayes; no nays. Motion Carried.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL REVIEW:** Mallon advised that more checks were processed during March were done so because it was the end of the fiscal year end. Motion by Skinner to approve payables, invoices and payroll as submitted. Support: Smith. Call to vote. All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

### REPORTS:

**Treasurer:** Written and submitted.

**Clerk:** Written and submitted. Advised that the date presented in Spring Newsletter for the May Planning Commission was incorrect. The Planning Commission meeting is slated for May 20, 2026. The July Board of Review meeting was listed for July 12, 2026. The Board of Review meeting is July 21, 2026 if there is business to conduct.

**Supervisor:** Skinner advised he signed letters of support for the City of Crystal Lake for grants the city is applying for. Skinner advised that the pipeline expansion with TC Energy will be holding open houses to update the community on the project. Skinner will post the dates of the open houses at the Township Hall. Skinner reported that the Road Commission will begin resurfacing work on US2 to CR424 beginning May 18, 2026 through November 14, 2026.

**Road Commission Report:** Smith advised he attended the April 14, 2026 Road Commission meeting. The Road Commission reported it is at the lowest level of salt it has ever had, further advising there is a shortage on salt, and that nearly all counties are currently out of salt. The Road Commission advised that they "lost" a heavy equipment operator, and that a mechanic will be leaving the Road Commission as well. The Road Commission is currently seeking applicants for summer employment to work on the road crew. The Road Commission reported that the State Legislature implemented new road funding, and currently the method on how the county will receive state funds is unclear. Highline internet services is continuing in the county. There are no current reports on washed out roads in the county. Smith advised that he requested monthly road reports from the Road Commission. Road work on US 2 may cause single lane traffic during the summer. Mallon advised Smith that the Township received a letter from Pas Kellogg asking for the Township to communicate his concerns about the County not plowing Mastodon Road to the Road Commission. Smith asked that Mr. Kellogg be advised that his concerns should be communicated directly to the Road Commission, which would have a greater effect than the Township doing so.

**Assessor:** Written and submitted.

**Fire Chief:** Written and submitted.

**Planning Commission:** No meeting.

**Zoning Administrator:** Written and submitted.

**Recreation Committee:** No meeting.

**Village of Alpha:** McCole advised the Board that the Village has received several calls and complaints about posted hours at the Township not being kept. She specifically said that these are Treasurer hours. Mallon advised that the Village can contact her if township residents go to the Village for township business. Mallon further advised that if a taxpayer comes to the Township to pay taxes during normal business hours, she will accept payment and give the taxpayer a copy of the check and bill marking the date payment received for posting by the treasurer. Mallon advised that she has requested

that the Deputy Treasurer work one day a week during tax season to process payments for taxpayers. McCole asked about office hours for the Treasurer and why is the Township paying a deputy to do work. Mallon advised that the Treasurer is required by law to have a deputy who is able to fulfill duties as required by law. The Treasurer is required by law to collect tax payments on the last day of the year and the last day of tax collection. The Treasurer is not required by law to keep certain office hours per week. She is only required to complete certain tasks of the Treasurer's Office as required by law.

**Maintenance:** Kurtz advised his maintenance report follows in Other Business as presented on the agenda. Smith asked Kurtz for an update on the electronic sign for the Township. Kurtz advised that CJ Graphics is working on a quote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Agenda Items.

- Stu Creel asked how a winter tax bill charge is on the agenda for the Board of Trustees to act on. Creel advised the Board that only the Board of Review can review tax bill issues and the Board of Trustees has no statutory authority to hear taxpayer appeals. Mallon advised that the matter presented on the agenda is a correspondence issue for the Board of Trustees to consider. Skinner advised more information will be presented under New Business.
- Julie Harp asked if the Clerk by statute can collect tax payments. Mallon advised that she is receiving tax payments from taxpayers as if she were taking payments from the mailbox or night drop box, she is not receipting tax payments. This is a process similar to transfer of correspondence.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Renewal Millages Resolutions**
  - **General Operating:** This is a renewal of the expiring 2026 millage. Motion by Skinner to adopt Resolution Number 2026-0414-001 General Operating Millage Ballot Language. Support: Mallon. Roll call vote: Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes; Smith – yes. Absent: Bjork, Watters. Resolution adopted.
  - **Road Maintenance:** This is a renewal of the expiring 2026 millage. Motion by Skinner to adopt Resolution Number 2026-0414-002 Road Millage Ballot Language. Support: Mallon. Roll call vote: Skinner – yes; Smith – yes; Mallon – yes. Absent: Bjork, Watters. Resolution adopted.
- **Legal Representation Resolution:** Motion by Mallon to adopt Resolution Number 2026-0414.003 Township Legal Representation. Roll call vote: Smith – yes; Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes. Absent: Bjork, Watters. Resolution adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Short Term Rental Discussion:** Skinner requested this matter to be tabled because Bjork and Watters are absent. Mallon advised that within the meeting packet is information regarding Short Term Rentals which is important to read. She further advised there is a sample resolution to be considered. Mallon requested that this matter be reviewed and consider at the May meeting as this is a concerning topic for many in the township.
- **Agreement for Law Enforcement Services – UPSET Funding Commitment:** Skinner advised that the Township received an agreement from MSP UPSET for non-specified funding for law enforcement services. Discussion regarding this matter was held. It was determined that this matter will be tabled to gather more information. Smith advised he will reach out to a law enforcement acquaintance to gather more information. Mallon advised she will also seek further information regarding this agreement from MSP.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- **Tree Cutting Quotes:** Discussion held regarding three quotes presented for tree cutting. Motion by Mallon to accept the Quintin Olson Enterprises LLC bid, number 1066, at \$4,500.00 without the chipping. Support: Smith. Roll call vote: Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes; Smith – yes. Motion carried.

The Board has stated that there is to be no removal of cut trees by residents due to liability reasons.

- **Law Tractor Discussion:** Two bids were presented for the purchase of a lawn mower. Motion by Smith to purchase the Husqvarna TS345XD lawn tractor at \$4,999.95. Support: Skinner. Roll call vote: Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes; Smith – yes. Motion carried.

- **Winter Tax Bill Charge – Michael Borkowski:** Mallon advised the Board she received correspondence from Michael Borkowski who purchased property in mid November 2025. Through correspondence he reported that he requested a tax bill from the Treasurer multiple times and did not receive a phone call back nor a tax bill. Subsequently he was charged interest and late fees. Mr. Borkowski is requesting reimbursement of fees he had to pay. Mallon further stated that she advised Borkowski that she will present his request to the Board. After further discussion, the Board made no decision on this matter and it is tabled for further discussion. Skinner wondered if the Township could even refund late fees/charges.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Julie Harp commented on the discussion regarding refunding late charges to taxpayers. She stated that the taxpayer has personal responsibility to pay taxes. He could have gotten information at closing or called County Equalization and gotten the information there. She stated that the Township cannot refund charges as these are not Township fees, and stated she guarantees that the County would not refund the charges.

Stu Creel commented on the wage increases that occurred during the Budget Hearing. He stated he is perplexed on how the Board came to the decision to give a rate increase to a maintenance employee that he determines is a 50% rate increase. Creel advised that he did a survey on wage rates for maintenance with surrounding townships and that the going rate is \$19-\$21 per hour. He ~~further~~ further cautioned the Board to be prepared to justify decisions to all constituents at church, in school and at the grocery store, stating "You better have some good reasons." Creel stated he would like to review the data the Board obtained and would like to listen to the recorded Budget Hearing.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

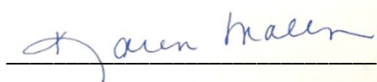
Mallon stated she was confident and secure about the decisions the Board made during the Budget Hearing. Mallon offered to remain after the meeting to discuss with those who have questions regarding decisions she made at the Budget Hearing. Several members of the public expressed interest in answers.

**DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING:** May 12, 2026 at the Township Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:34pm. Support: Skinner Call to vote. All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

*(Mallon remained after the meeting for 30 minutes to discuss matters of concern presented at the meeting. No public remained after the meeting for answers to questions presented at the meeting regarding wage increases or any other budget matter).*

*I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the approved minutes of the April 14, 2026, Regular Board meeting. Signed herein by the Mastodon Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.*



\_\_\_\_\_, Karen Mallon, Clerk