Mastodon Township Board Meeting Draft Minutes

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: 1371 US Hwy 2 South, Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Skinner at 5:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chad Skinner, Stacey Watters, Dave Smith, Mike Bjork and Karen Mallon.
Board Members Absent: None
Township Employees Present: Dan Kurtz, Stu Creel
Public Attendees: Mark Taylor, Gordon Marcinak, Mike Webb, Dawn Heil, Phil Heil, Tom Walker, Roy Carlson

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bjork supported by Watters to approve the agenda as presented. Call to vote. All ayes, motion carried.

Approval of July 14,2026 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Watters and support by Mallon to approve the July 14, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes with the spelling correction to Jim Marcell's name under Thrasher Building Update from Parcell to Marcell. Call to vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable and Payroll Review

Bjork reviewed accounts payable and payroll. Motion by Watters to approve accounts payable checks 33114-33160 in the amount of$25,131.61 from General fund, invoices 14638-14683 from General Fund in the amount of $27,190.39, to approve payroll checks 33106-33113 and direct deposits 1414-1427 in the amount of $17,754.82 Support by Mallon. Call to vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reports

Treasurer Report: Written and submitted
Clerk Report: Written and submitted. Mallon advised Board both the General Operating and Road millages were supported by voters and renewed. She further advised that the new computer site has gone live. The new address is mastodontownhip.org. The mastodon township.com site will route users to the .org site.
Supervisor Report: Supervisor reported that the Road Commission has requested the township to provide a three-year plan for major road work. Skinner and Smith to look at major roads for repair. Supervisor advised that he received an email from the DNR regarding Stager Lake for land use agreement. He will meet with DNR and update board at the September meeting. He will be reviewing the water ordinance again. Skinner advised he contacted the township attorneys regarding the emails sent between Creel and Mallon. He has requested that the attorney meet with both and him.
Road Commission Report: No report. Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026. Smith asked if another board member could attend in his place. Mallon stated she would attend the August Road Commission meeting in his place. Culvert work continues on 424. Pavement on 424 is a five-year cap it will be reworked.

Assessor's Report: Written and submitted
Fire Chief's Report: Written and submitted
Planning Commission Report: No report; no meeting
Zoning Administrator's Report: Written and submitted
Recreation Committee Report: No report; no meeting.
Village of Alpha Report: No report submitted
Maintenance Report: Written and submitted. Kurtz reported that the AC unit needs repair. The furnace is fine, but it was reported that coils may be rusting. Kurtz stated he could do a "mini split" on the unit for around $1700.00. No work will be done on the unit as the need for AC has diminished this year. Smith requested and update from Kurtz once the unit is fully looked at.

Public Comment – Agenda Items

Dawn Heil: Regarding the Buck Lake Special Assessment. Mrs. Heil expressed her opposition to the special assessment as it stands today. She would like to the petitioner to work on the cost. She signed the petition because she was told the cost would be around $350.00-$400.00 per year. With the cost plan today, the cost per parcel is over $1,000.00. With two parcels, the cost would be over $2,000.00. She stated she signed the petition with an understanding that the time period would be several years, not three years. She further stated that milfoil has spread and something needs to be done. She would like the township to contribute to the cost as the township is a property owner on Buck Lake.

Stu Creel: Regarding Buck Lake. Creel stated that if the Township owns frontage, then the township can use general funds tax dollars to help with the weed problem.

Phil Heil: Regarding Buck Lake Special Assessment. Mr. Heil stated he would like to see the township put money into the project. He supports the township paying. He also wondered what the township's role is, and wondered why this matter is on the agenda again. He is against the proposed resolution as it is written. He believes that the property owners need to do a better job with the petition and proposed management project of Buck Lake.

Tom Walker: Regarding Buck Lake Special Assessment. Mr. Walker wonders why he is here if the proposed assessment unanimously failed in June 2026. He opposes the special assessment and stated that if it goes on the tax bill and is not paid, then it's delinquent, and he could lose his property.

Unfinished Business

Thrasher Building Update: Kurtz provided three options for a thrasher building. Discussion was held by the Board regarding these options. Motion by Skinner and support by Mallon to move forward on thrasher building with the Corner Wall concept with pocket doors, concrete flooring and shingles that match the township hall. Roll call vote: Bjork – yes; Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes; Watters – yes; Smith – yes.

Buck Lake Special Assessment: *Mallon provided the Board with documents regarding the Buck Lake Special Assessment. These documents included Resolution 2026-0605-001, a letter from Sally Danner, BL-SAD Petitioner, dated August 11, 2026, requesting the Board to defer consideration of the resolution, email correspondence from Randy Koziatek in which Randal and Gina Koziatek, Ken and Judy Kubica, Debora and Richard Marx, Dean Batistella, Robert Waytunlonis, and Tomas Sullivan all state their opposition to the SAD Resolution.*

Bjork requested that the Buck Lake Special Assessment Resolution 2026-0605-001 be brought before the Board as it is a legal and valid resolution that was not acted upon by the Board at the Public Hearing on June 5, 2026.

Mallon advised the Board that legal stated that the Board should have taken action when the motion to adopt was made. The two options is to support the resolution and move forward in the process. The other option would be to not support the resolution through a roll call vote which would then show that the motion failed. The petitioner could present a new petition to the Board and begin the process again.

Watters stated that moving forward with the petition received seems to be a better option if changes to the cost and time frame can be made. Both Skinner and Bjork agreed with Watters. Mallon stated that the costs and terms can be modified, but this would have to be done by the petitioners through the lake management company and that the Township cannot modified the plan.

Motion by Skinner and support by Mallon to adopt Resolution 2026-0605-001, Buck Lake Aquatic Weeds – Special Assessment District Resolution No. 2. Roll call vote: Bjork – yes; Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes; Watters – yes; Smith – no. Motion passed, Buck Lake Aquatic Weeds - Special Assessment District Resolution 2026-0605-001 is adopted.

Park Usage Ordinance and Application
Skinner requested that this matter be tabled as he would like to review what other surrounding communities have in place.

New Business

Planning Commission Appointment
The Township has received a letter of interest from Cathy Shearin to serve on the Planning Commission. Skinner requested to table this appointment until he is able to speak with Ms. Shearin.

Other Business

Closed Session: Motion by Bjork and support by Skinner to enter into a closed session of the Township Board to discuss the Perry and Denise Jacobs Lawsuit at 6:27 pm. Roll call vote: Mallon – yes; Skinner – yes; Watters – yes; Smith – yes; Bjork – yes.

The Regular Board meeting was closed at 6:27 pm so that the Board could enter a Closed Session.

At 6:42 pm the Regular Board meeting was reconvened and called to order by Skinner.

Perry and Denise Jacobs Lawsuit
Motion by Skinner and support by Bjork to move forward with the Perry and Denise Jacobs' lawsuit. Call to vote: All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Roy Carlson asked for confirmation that BL-SAD resolution no. 2 was not tabled.

Phil Heil stated that the Buck Lake petitioners are not in a hurry to get this done. He would like to see it done right and done well.

Board Member Comments

Skinner stated that government entities don't have to pay special assessments; however the Board can address this at the next budget meeting scheduled for 2027-2028 fiscal year.

Bjork stated that the petitioners control the special assessment.

Details of the Next Meeting

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 10:00 am at the Camp 5 location.

Adjournment

Motion by Bjork and supported by Watters to adjourn the meeting at 6:67pm. Call to vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the approved minutes of the August 11, 2026, Regular Board meeting. Signed herein by the Mastodon Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 12th day of September 2026.

Karen Mallon, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Mallon, Mastodon Township Clerk