

Fairfield Township
Annual Budget Hearing
Minutes from March 12, 2026

The March 12, 2026 Annual Budget Hearing meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Supervisor Rick Zemla with the Pledge of Allegiance. The board members in attendance were: Supervisor Rick Zemla, Treasurer Allison Emelander, Clerk Sonya Latz, Trustee Steve Maynard and Trustee Tim Riegle.

Motion by Trustee Riegle, support by Trustee Maynard to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Maynard, support by Trustee Riegle to approve the Budget minutes from the March 5, 2026 meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Treasurer Emelander, support by Trustee Maynard to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2026 monthly meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Guests present were: Mark Zemla and Kelly Zemla

Guest Comments: There were no comments.

New Business:

1. Budget Amendments - Motion by Supervisor Zemla, support by Clerk Latz to make an amendment from 101-101-971-000 to 101-253-752-000 for the folding machine for \$700. Motion carried 5-0
2. Regular meeting dates for 2026 were set in January for the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm
3. Motion by Trustee Riegle, support Trustee Maynard to approve a 1% administrative fee for summer/winter taxes. Motion carried 5-0
4. Cemetery Maintenance Contract - The bid presented by Hurst and Son Lawn Service LLC for Fairfield Township Cemetery lawn services was discussed. Motion by Trustee Riegle, support by Treasurer Emelander to continue with the current contracted service. Motion carried 5-0
5. Elsie Public Library Contribution - Motion by Trustee Riegle, support by Trustee Maynard to continue our support of the Elsie Public Library at \$750/yr. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Magnet Contribution - Motion by Supervisor Zemla, support by Trustee Maynard to continue our support of Magnet with a donation of \$652, which is \$1 per Township resident. Motion carried 5-0
7. Elsie Recycle Program Contribution was made at \$500.
8. Elsie Area Fire Authority - Fairfield Township board approved the Elsie Area Fire Authority Contract at the March Regular Meeting, once it is reviewed by legal council.

9. Owosso Fire and Ambulance Contract - Motion by Trustee Riegler, support by Trustee Maynard to approve the Owosso Fire and Ambulance Contract for the next fiscal year. Motion carried 5-0
10. Shiawassee County Road Commission Budget - Motion by Supervisor Zemla, support by Trustee Riegler to approve the following projects for 2026 with the cost to the township of ~~\$159,975~~ \$89,975:
 - Chip Seal/Fog Seal/Pavement Markings to Carland Road to Allan Road
 - Gravel to Baldwin Road from Juddville Road to Buck Road (cost share with Rush Township)
 - Two applications of Mineral Brine #9, Gradall #8
 - Arm Mowing, Dust Control, Tree Trimming
11. Audit Contract Approval - Motion by Trustee Maynard, support Trustee Riegler to approve the contract with VMD & Associates, PLLC. Motion carried 5-0
12. Building and Grounds Projects - there are no plans for any projects at this time.
13. Insurance Approval - Motion by Clerk Latz, support by Treasurer Emelander to retain Sovis Insurance Agency for township insurance purposes. We are awaiting the bill for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year. Motion carried 5-0
14. 2026/2027 Budget Approval - The projected 2026/2027 township budget was reviewed. Motion by Trustee Maynard, support by Treasurer Emelander to approve the 2026/2027 Budget as amended. Motion carried 5-0
15. Deputy Pay Rate for Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor - Motion by Supervisor Zemla, support by Clerk Latz to approve \$15/hour, up to 100 hours per fiscal year, for wages paid to Deputy Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor. Motion carried 5-0.
16. Approval of Bills - Motion by Treasurer Emelander, support by Trustee Maynard to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Final Public Comment: Kelly Zemla spoke to the board about the positives of the Michigan Class Banking Option for investing the township money. Michigan Class will be contacted to request a representative come to our meeting to answer questions that we may have.

Motion by Trustee Riegler, support by Trustee Maynard to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonya Latz
Township Clerk