

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 07, 2026 7:00 p.m.

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 7:00 P.M. by Visser.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Roll Call: Present:** Huston, Meert, Visser, Sell, Hephner
4. **Approve Agenda:** *Motion by Visser, supported by Sell to add Porta Jon at North Lake Beach under New Business on the agenda. All yes, motion carried. Motion by Hephner, supported by Huston to approve the agenda with the new business addition. All yes, motion carried.*
5. **Consent Agenda:** *Motion by Hephner, supported by Visser to approve the Consent Agenda. All yes, motion carried.*
6. **Monthly Bills:** *Motion by Sell, supported by Hephner to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$81,752.84. All yes, motion carried.*
7. **Correspondence and Reports:**
 - A. **County Commissioner: Submitted.**
 - B. **Road Commission: Submitted.** Doug Burleson – 2nd Avenue Bridge funding was awarded. Will be replaced the summer of 2029. Fog Seal is continuing to be applied, it's been a tough year to get it applied. Eaton County had a Road Construction Flagman killed and Van Buren County almost had a Flagman killed a couple of weeks ago. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN FOR OUR ROAD WORKERS!** Kathy Garrett stated the drain by her store has not been cleaned out in the 18 months that she has been gone. Burleson stated he will bring it up at the County meeting. Burleson will check with Brett on the remaining lights and signs for the CR388/27th St Curve.
 - C. **Fire Chief:** Chandler stated the Fire Prevention Open House will be Oct. 8th at the Fire Station from 6pm-8pm.
 - D. **Fire Board:** Nothing new to report
 - E. **Ambulance:** 21 calls for July and 18 calls for August
 - F. **Treasurer: Submitted As of 8-31-2026:** Total: \$1,466,469.72
 - G. **Planning Commission:** Next meeting, October 19, 2026 at 6 p.m.
 - H. **KABA:** Sept. had a total of \$6,653 in permits. 136 permits to date
 - I. **Ordinance Enforcement:** OEO has 33 current cases pending, 19 new cases in the last month, 1 in court
8. **Committee Reports:**
 1. **Building Community:** Groundworks Crawlspace Encapsulation: Groundworks encapsulation will take place on November 19 & 20. The building will have to be closed on the 19th. VDK will be here the week of December 7th to do mold remediation in the basement and upstairs. The building will have to be closed for the week. Visser will check to see if it can be done a week earlier due to winter taxes being mailed on December 1st.
 2. **Mold Remediation of Basement and Main Level Scheduled:** VDK will be here the week of December 7th to do mold remediation in the basement and upstairs. The building will have to be closed for the week. Visser will check to see if it can be done a week earlier due to winter taxes being mailed on December 1st.
 3. **Parks and Rec: Update if any:** Visser reported the Rural Business District Grant did not get approved. That was for the street scape design. The Township can reapply next year. Next meeting will be October 20th at 5 p.m.
9. **Old Business:**
 1. **Renewable Energy & Data Center Updates; if any: No Updates** Visser reported there was a Data Center seminar that U of M presented. The presentation was forwarded to the board member's email. It is also on YouTube if anyone would like that link.
 2. **Road Planning 2027:** Visser will be scheduling a Ride Along with the Road Commission to do an assessment on Pine Grove Township roads to identify roads that have needs for the 2027 budget.

10. New Business:

- 1. Snow Plow Bid Proposals:** 3 bids were received. Each were discussed. *Motion by Hephner, supported by Meert to accept the bid from New Life Property Care, LLC for \$8,000.00. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – no, Hephner – yes. 4 Yes, 1 No, motion carried.*
- 2. J&S Proposal for N. Lake Boat Launch and Pine Grove Cemetery Trees:** J&S Tree Removal, Inc. presented a quote for the removal of the storm damage trees for \$3,000 total. *Motion by Visser, supported by Sell to approve the bids from J&S to remove the trees at North Lake Boat Launch and at the Paulson St. Pine Grove Twp Cemetery for the cost of \$,1900 at the boat launch and \$1100 at the cemetery. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.* Visser will request a quote for the stump removal at the Pine Grove Cemetery.
- 3. Porta Jon Removal at North Lake:** Visser would like to leave one Porta Jon at the North Lake Beach for the Ice fishermen, as there is a fair amount of winter fishermen in the winter. *Motion by Visser, supported by Sell to leave one Porta Jon at the North Lake Beach for the winter fisherpersons. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*
- 4. Concrete Slab Proposal for Recycle Center:** Huston reported that the Recycle Center needs a 14'x32' cement slab on the east end of the building where tire recycling, etc. takes place to help maintain a clean environment. Two bids were received and were discussed by the board. *Motion by Meert, supported by Visser to approve the bid by Boyer for \$2,500 for the cement work at the Recycle Center. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*
- 5. PGT Hall Christmas Décor Proposal:** Sell received the annual Christmas decoration bid from Christmas Décor, Naylor Landscaping, which has gone up \$100 from last year for \$1,203.58 if paid in full. *Motion by Huston, supported by Visser to accept the bid for Christmas lights. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*
- 6. Ambulance Gutter Repair/Replacement Proposal:** 3 bids were received for rain gutters and guards for the Ambulance building and discussed by the Board. *Motion by Huston, supported by Sell to award the bid to TNT for \$\$2,449.00. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*
- 7. Jeff Marculis approval for Brush Mowing for Township Hall:** *Motion by Meert, supported by Visser by to approve up to \$1,500 for clean up around the township parking lot. Roll Call: Huston – yes, Meert – yes, Visser – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*
- 8. VBCCD Winter Tax Bill Insert:** Kalli Marshall from the VBCCD has proposed having an electronic collection event next year on June 9, 2027. VBCCD would bring in a trailer, starting at 1 p.m. The trailer would stay at our site for 3 weeks to allow residents to drop off electronic items and then VBCCD would pick the trailer on June 28, 2027. There is no cost to the township. *Motion by Sell, supported by Huston to agree to do the electronic collection next year, June 9th through June 28th. All yes, motion carried.* Emily Hickmott, from VBCCD has asked about putting an insert about recycling opportunities in our mailings with tax bills. Sell stated Pine Grove Township has had a very strict NO INSERT policy. Sell stated she would rather look into other options in working with them to get the flyers out, but not as an insert in the tax bills. *Motion by Visser, supported by Sell to NOT include the insert in the tax bill. All yes, motion carried.*
- 11. Public Comment (Limit 2 minutes per person):** Kathy Garrett commented that Jeff at the Recycle Center is wonderful and very helpful. Kathy also asked if several of the residents around town would like to decorate the Kendall Park for the Christmas season, like lights on the tree and around the pavilion. Visser will check with the attorney to make sure that it will be ok, but the board is ok with the idea. Tangaline Hayes thanked the community for welcoming them back to the community with open arms. There has been a lot of changes to the Kendall Store so come on in, they will be decorating for the holidays. The deli will be returning and they now have ice cream. Mark thanked them for taking down the beer banners. Pam stated that Oct. 18th and 19th are Arts at the church. The church will be doing a Trunk N Treat. The church will be doing a soup supper on October 10th 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Brian would like thank the board for leaving the Ordinance Enforcement report on the agenda. Brian stated that he would like to see recycling information get out to the public more.

Tangaline asked if the weather siren had been under more consideration and Visser reported they are very expensive and she has been doing some due diligence in looking into it. Eric stated he doesn't know if there is a Leave a Book Take a Book around here and was thinking that one would be nice to have in this area somewhere around town. Eric suggested the township build a permanent outhouse at the North Lake Beach. Visser stated the township has looked into this before and it comes down to the maintenance issues. Jesse asked about the 5-year rotation resurfacing of roads and Visser stated they would be back working on that. Pam Wescott stated about a year ago, a truck had lifted the churches cross up out of the ground and stole it. Yesterday, Rob Stack built a 7-foot cross and used cement to put the cross up at the church and she wanted to give a shout out to Rob Stack.

12. **Member Comment:** Visser stated the Sheriff's Office is doing a targeted patrol at construction zones. There is a new scam regarding emails stating your package could not be delivered due to a small customs fee that was not paid, beware.
13. **Adjournment:** *Motion by Visser, supported by Hephner to adjourn at 8:33 pm. All yes, motion carried.*

Adjourned: 8:33 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Township Clerk0**