



**PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP**  
**Board of Trustees Minutes**  
**April 13, 2026 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

4:00 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge was recited.

**Roll Call**

Present: Supervisor Steve Lang, Treasurer Jennifer Wiczorkowski, and Trustees Mark Devers and Mary O'Neill.

Absent: Clerk Kate Szydowski

**Approval of Agenda**

Lang requested that **Fire Department** (item h) be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Wiczorkowski, supported by O'Neill to approve the agenda with the addition. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the 3/9/26 Minutes
- b. Treasurer Report – Wiczorkowski
- c. Clerk Report – Szydowski
- d. PC Report – Wiczorkowski
- e. P&R Report – Szydowski
- f. ZBA Report – O'Neill
- g. Zoning Report – Lang
- h. Assessors Report – Spencer
- i. Museum Society Report – Milstein
- j. Library Report – Rogers
- k. Facilities Report – Bedard
- l. PITFD Report – LaCross
- m. EGLFD Report – Waterson
- n. Tree Committee Report
- o. Correspondence

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Devers, supported by O'Neill, to approve the consent agenda as submitted. The motion carried unanimously

**Audience Comments (3-minute limit)**

Joni Rogers reported that, in addition to acting as the Library Board representative, she would also now serve as the Presque Isle Township Museum Society liaison. She also reported that the Grand Lake Library hired a new part-time clerk.



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**Board Comments**

Lang reported that the Grand Lake – Lake Level Special Assessment District public hearing would be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Rogers Theater in Rogers City.

**Items Pulled from Consent Agenda**

None.

**Unfinished Business:**

**a. Lighthouse Restoration Fund**

Lang stated that the Presque Isle Township Museum Society (PITMS) agreed to contribute \$3,000 from the Community Foundation Fund toward electrical repairs at the Old and New Lighthouses. It was noted that the repairs cost \$43,000 and were required for insurance compliance.

Board members expressed disappointment that the contribution was not greater, as failing to perform the repairs would have resulted in the lighthouses losing insurance coverage and remaining closed. It was also noted that the Community Foundation Fund is a joint account of both PITMS and the Township and can only be accessed if both parties agree on the use of funds. It was further noted that \$3,000 represented earned interest from the account.

A motion was made by Wieczorkowski, supported by O'Neill, to approve the \$3,000 expenditure from the Community Foundation Fund for the electrical project at the 1870 New Lighthouse Park. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

- a. Approval of Payables**
- b. 1840 Lighthouse Ground Lighting**
- c. Shubert Hwy. Paving**
- d. Cemetery Pricing**
- e. Zoning Fees**
  - i. Land Use Permit \$40 to \$50**
  - ii. Site Plan Review \$50 to \$100**
  - iii. ZBA \$50 to \$100**
- f. Weather Closings**
- g. Volunteer Work Projects**

Approval of Payables: The board reviewed the payables report and additional invoices submitted by Szydlowski.

A motion was made by Devers, supported by Wieczorkowski, to approve the payables totaling \$17,511.85 and additions totaling \$9,208.32. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

1840 Lighthouse Ground Lighting: The board discussed correspondence received regarding the ground lighting at



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**h. Fire Department Training**

the Old Lighthouse. Lang explained that residents have expressed concerns about the upward-facing lighting, citing the Township's Dark Sky Ordinance which requires all lighting to be directed downward. Board members noted that the lighting is necessary for safety. It was also acknowledged that, although nearby harbor lighting is significantly brighter, it has not generated similar complaints. Board members also noted that the ground lighting is turned off every evening at 11:00 p.m.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Devers, supported by Wiczorkowski, to continue leaving the 1840 tower lit until 11 o'clock at night. The motion carried unanimously.

Shubert Hwy Paving: The Board reviewed a submission from Presque Isle County Road Commission Superintendent David Kowalski regarding the repaving of Shubert Highway, with an estimated total cost of \$380,000, of which \$247,162 would be charged to the Township.

Lang noted that Shubert Highway is not a primary road and that the repaving of local roads should be handled through a special assessment district rather than the general road fund. The Board agreed that the matter would be placed on hold unless a special assessment petition is submitted. Lang stated that he would provide petition materials upon request.

Cemetery Pricing: Lang reported that the new grave digger for the cemetery will cost \$750 per burial, which is higher than the previous grave digger's rate but consistent with other local cemeteries.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Lang, supported by Devers, to charge \$750 for a full burial and \$100 for a cremation burial. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Fees: Lang proposed updates to the Township's zoning fees. The proposed adjustments included increasing the land use permit application fee from \$40 to \$50, the



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site plan review fee from \$50 to \$100, and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) fee from \$50 to \$100. It was noted that the site plan reviews and ZBA proceedings require site inspections, public notices, and meeting expenses, and the current fees do not fully offset those costs.

A motion was made by Lang, supported by Wieczorkowski, to approve the zoning fee increases.

The board then discussed raising the land use permit fee further but determined that the new rate is consistent with other local permit fees.

With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Weather Closings Lang discussed the Township's practice of closing the Township Hall for weather conditions based on Alpena Public Schools closures. It was noted that weather conditions can vary across the area, with some locations experiencing more severe conditions than others. Board members discussed whether an alternative standard should be used but agreed that using Alpena Public Schools as the indicator provides a clear and consistent benchmark for weather-related closures. The importance of public and employee safety was emphasized.

With no further discussion, the board agreed to continue the current practice of closing the Township Hall when Alpena Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions.

Volunteer Work Projects Lang presented a list of proposed work projects to be completed by a local volunteer group. The proposed projects include the Old Lighthouse stockade and parking lot barriers, the caretaker's crawl space steps, and the cemetery split rail fence. Lang stated that estimated material costs are \$3,000, which would be available within the existing budget. It was also noted that the group is insured under the Township's workers' compensation and liability policies.



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With no further discussion, the board agreed to proceed with the volunteer work projects and requested that a record of the individuals involved be maintained.

Fire Department Training: Presque Isle Township Fire Chief Larry LaCross presented a request for regional trench rescue training for one member of the fire department at an estimated cost of \$1,000. It was noted that the expense would be covered under the PITFD's budget. LaCross stated that the training would provide specialized rescue skills for rare but high-risk trench collapse incidents. It was also noted that the department does not currently have local technicians available for this type of response.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Devers, supported by O'Neill, to allow the Fire Chief to spend \$1,000 for trench training for one (1) member of the fire department. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

LaCross also reported that the fire department is celebrating its 10-year anniversary since being reestablished. Plans were discussed for public outreach, including possible news coverage in the PI Advance and an open house at the fire station. Board members expressed support for the initiative.

In addition, the Fire Chief reported that he has been in contact with emergency officials in Alpena and Presque Isle counties regarding local flooding. He noted that he issued a public reminder online urging residents not to drive through flooded roadways. He also stated that fire department personnel are actively monitoring road conditions and have not identified any impassable routes at this time. He indicated that the department continues to monitor the situation closely and remains prepared to respond as needed.

**Future Agenda Items**

Lang reported that the board would hold a budget meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026, at the Township Hall



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**Audience Comments (3-minute limit)**

The board heard comments from one (1) audience member.

**Adjournment**

4:43 p.m.

Bank

Receipt Item

Receipt #	Reference Number	Count	Amount
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Bank Curre CURRENT TAX

STAX	SUMMER TAX	10	3,626.83
WTAX	WINTER TAX	31	17,088.60
Totals: Bank Curre CURRENT TAX		41	20,715.43

Bank GEN GENERAL FUND

HALLRENT	RENTAL OF TWP HALL	4	430.00
OLHRENT	OLD LIGHTHOUSE RENTAL	1	670.00
OPERATE	PI TWP OPERATING	1	9,721.75
PENALTY	INTEREST / PENALTY	1	7,497.69
TAXADMIN	ADMIN FEE	3	2,749.53
ZONEFEE	ZONING FEE	8	1,820.00
Totals: Bank GEN GENERAL FUND		18	22,888.97

Bank Speci SPECIAL REVENUE

BLUE H	BLUE HORIZON ROAD MAINTENANCE	1	735.67
EMS REV	EMS AMBULANCE REVENUE	2	358.38
FIRE SA	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR FD #2	1	3,961.70
Totals: Bank Speci SPECIAL REVENUE		4	5,055.75

Grand Totals		63	48,660.15
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TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Jennifer Wieczorkowski  
DATE: April 9, 2026  
RE: Planning Commission Meeting on April 6, 2026

Board of Trustees,

- The Planning Commission had Denise Klein, from NEMCOG, join us via zoom to review township ordinances on Accessory Structures, Fences, Greenbelts, and Sections 4.5 and 4.6.
- A Public Hearing was held regarding approval of the construction of a chicken coop. The Planning Commission approved the chicken coop being placed on a property located on Parallel Avenue.

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Mary O'Neill  
Date: 4/13/2026  
RE: ZBA Meeting on 4/7/2026

The Brosnan Variance Request – 17301 Grand Lake Blvd. (122-151-000-007-00) was granted by the ZBA board after much discussion. After it was decided Steve Lang informed everyone that there is work on not allowing this kind of variance to be allowed in the future.

Mary Ann McCoy gave some information on the Grand Lake - lake level plans that she had heard.

Next meeting will be at 6 pm, The First Tuesday July 7, 2026

## Zoning Administrator Report for BOT Meeting 4-13-2026

**Blight Violations:** I turned over three blight violations to Township Attorney Gulden for formal hearings before Judge Ekdahl:

1. Richard and Bonnie Beuter – E. Grand Lake Rd.
2. Lori Cable – Bell Bay
3. Dusty Paddock – Wilderness Dr.

Increased pressure on the above and the 89<sup>th</sup> District Court resulted in the following:

1. Mr. Beuter answered a letter from Mr. Gulden with a phone call to his office to explain his lack of conformance to the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Beuter's plan for this spring and summer is to remove the wood siding and finish the house with a metal or vinyl siding and match the garage with the new siding. He complained that his wife is ill and that my persistent tickets and letters are not helping her situation. We gave him this summer to make significant progress on his outside remodel.
2. Cable and Paddock are scheduled for a Status Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the 89<sup>th</sup> District Court room. If the issue is not resolved, a formal hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

The District Judge has finally begun acting on my civil infraction tickets.

**Short-Term Rentals:** I am starting to receive STR applications and fees.

**Dark Sky Ordinance:** Needs review. I'm being bombarded by an individual who is complaining about me not enforcing the ordinance. I have taken photos of his complaints, contacted Alpena to shield streetlights and served a letter to three other individuals to shield their lights. These lights are a quarter of a mile away across East Bay on Long Lake. Some of the lights are inside the dwelling. I don't believe that the Dark Sky Ordinance was meant to turn off all lights that are visible from such distances.

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Joni Rogers  
DATE: April 13, 2026  
RE: Presque Isle District Library Report

\*\* Attached is the 2025 Presque Isle District Library Annual Report outlining current, new, and evolving programming taking place throughout the district library branches.

- AT ALL BRANCHES: Reading Raffle for ages 0-17. Enter for a chance to win a Lego Prize Pack! Earn 1 ticket for having a library card and 1 ticket for each day that you check out a book! Drawing is April 30th.
- 2nd Annual Great Waters Film Festival is April 24-26, 2026 at the Rogers Theater on Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm. Films showcase experiences in the natural world and fragile ecosystems within the Great Lakes region. Freewill donation
- Ladies of the Lights: An Evening with Dianna Stampfler at the Rogers Theater on Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 pm. This program takes a look at women lightkeepers from the 1840's to present day. Freewill donation
- 2026 Michigan Notable Books Author Tour featuring John Counts, the author of " Bear County, MICHIGAN ". Taking place on Friday, June 5th at 7:00 pm at the Rogers Theater with a book signing to follow the program. Freewill donation

\*\*[2025 Presque Isle District Library Annual Report](#)

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Rogers

13 April 2026

Memorandum For:  
Presque Isle Township, Board of Trustees  
From: Matthew G. Bedard, Facilities & Projects Manager

Subject: Project Status Report, March 2026

We are temporarily paused in construction of the new parking area near New Lighthouse Park. This work will continue throughout the spring as weather and frost conditions permit. We are now complete with our contracted electrical upgrade and repair to the electrical systems throughout the New and Old Lighthouse Park's facilities, with only two punch list items remaining for the front lamppost light at the New Lighthouse Park. The Christmas tree displays at the New Lighthouse Park are now turned off. We will remove the light strands, power cords, and tree displays next week, weather permitting. We ask that tree sponsors, with remaining display ornaments from their representative trees, please remove them immediately. We will also begin our initial spring start-up procedures next week. As the snow cover melts and grounds are more firm, we will be placing the township picnic tables throughout the parks.

Recurring maintenance: Interior seasonal maintenance and repairs are continuing throughout the Lighthouse parks and township facilities.

#### 1. Facility Maintenance:

Job Order 1210226 is a new installation project to install impact padding on the walls of the Township Hall gymnasium. The pads will be placed on the north and south ends of the gymnasium, behind the basketball backboards. This project is part of the recommended risk mitigation recommendations provided by our insurance underwriter. Status: We have completed installation of 10 wall mats and are awaiting delivery of two additional mats.

Job Order 1210326 is a new installation project to affix the U.S. flag on an exterior wall within the Township Hall gymnasium. Status: material is on-hand and awaiting equipment to support installation. Estimated completion: 1 May 2026.

Job Order: 5430624 is a new installation project, installing a divider wall in Garrity Hall to create two separate workspaces, in the kitchen/dining area and maintenance shop. Much of the installation was performed in 2024/2025. The sheetrock wall covering was left uninstalled on the maintenance shop side for electrical work upgrades and inspection requirements. The electrical work has now been completed, and new sheetrock has been installed, with mud/tape applied to the seams. Status: In progress, awaiting painting.

Job Order: MB 5420625 is a repair project for the entrance storm door to the 1870 building. We have replaced the door handle and closure as an interim repair. Awaiting sourcing for a like-style replacement, reflecting period-appropriate style and materials. Status: On hold, awaiting installation as weather permits. Est Compl: 15 May 2026.

Job Order: MB 5410225 is a repair project to replace the storm/screen door at the rear entrance of the 1905 House. The existing door has rotted near the bottom of the frame and paneling sections. We have already repaired this door once, but the current damage is beyond reasonable repair and warrants replacement. Status: On hold; installation will begin in the spring, weather permitting.

## 2. Project Management:

Work Order 1210126 is a new installation project to replace the existing volleyball net and affixed support posts in the Township Hall gymnasium. The new equipment will provide adjustable height capabilities, yet still removable when open gymnasium space is needed. Status: On order.

Work Order 5430125 is a new construction project to build additional workspace in the maintenance area of Garrity Hall. This proposed addition will add a 12'x16' addition onto the east side of the facility. We met with an architect from R.S. Scott to develop a site plan and concept drawing with floor and elevation views. Once completed, we will present these drawings to SHPO for concept consideration. Upon approval, we will solicit bid proposals from local-area contractors. A contract draft has been submitted by RS Scott to develop concept and construction drawings. Contract for draft prints awaiting township approval.

Work Order 5410126 is a repair project to upgrade the electrical systems in the facilities at the NLH, OLH, and Township Hall to comply with our insurance underwriter's inspection findings and recommendations. Work has begun at both the New Lighthouse and Old Lighthouse parks. The last phase of work at the Township Hall is projected to begin after the new fiscal year, in July 2026. Status: In progress.

Work Order 5470124 is a grounds improvement project to create an overflow parking area near the entrance to the New Lighthouse Park. The parking plan will provide 50 additional parking spaces, including drive-through parking for RV and vehicle-trailer configurations. We have contracted for a site and topography report to determine the elevation and grade. EGLE determined that no wetlands are present in the proposed site. Status: A contract was awarded to Curtis Excavating for \$138K. Status: In progress.

Work Order 5250324 is a repair project to renovate the stockade display at the Old Lighthouse Park. Many of the floor decking boards and joists are deteriorated and require replacement. Status: On hold. Est cost: \$1,600. This project may be completed by local volunteers in spring 2026.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//  
Matthew G. Bedard  
Facilities & Projects Manager



To: Honorable Township Board of Trustees

From: Chief Larry LaCross

Date: April 9, 2026

Re: March Monthly Report for Presque Isle Township Fire Department

### **Monthly runs**

During March we responded to a total of 11 calls for service. We had 8 EMS calls which included 4 transports and 4 calls involving lifting or other assistance with patient refusal. We had 3 fire calls including evaluating for potential residential gas leak, one mutual aid/cancelled and one tree on a power line fire during the ice storm.

Our district fared well during the ice storm overall. There were some areas without power and many residents were blocked into their houses due to heavy snow and ice. We did extricate one older couple from their home and transported one patient to the hospital. Members provided staffing at the station for several days during the worst part of the weather; during that time the roadways were difficult to travel and staffing enabled us to more quickly respond if needed.

### **Training**

Our regular training meetings focused on medical protocol, review of recent calls and equipment overview.

Our EMT students are nearing the end of their class and will take the final practical on Monday. They have been meeting separately for study and prep and doing a great job assisting on calls as well.

**Personnel updates**

Our newest member, Noah Romel, received his firefighter helmet as he has now become fully certified and licensed.

As our EMT students graduate and become licensed, this will make 6 new EMTs for Presque Isle Township Fire Department!

Myself and our experienced EMTs will be working with our new responders for field training and supervised clinical time before they are approved to work independently. This will significantly increase our staffing capability.

**Action item**

ACC and our training coordinator Doug Keogue are proposing a regional 3 day trench rescue class. The cost would be \$1000 for a student and I am requesting board consideration to approve \$1000 to send one student if we have one available to go.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chief Larry LaCross, FF/EMT

989-324-0152

EAST GRAND LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
EAST GRAND LAKE MONTHLY REPORT

Monthly meeting held April 1, 2026

There were 3 medical runs

- 1 Intercept
- 0 Basic
- 0 No transport
- 2 Lift Assist

Power lines down wait on scene until PIEG arrived

April Training – Tanker

Monthly training – Wildland Training