

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2025 MINUTES**

PRESENT – Supervisor Marcinkowski, Clerk Steffes, Trustee Cross, Treasurer Roggero, Trustee VanOosterhout, Trustee Brower, Trustee Holman

ABESNT –

ALSO PRESENT – (45+) Forty-five+ Interested Parties

CALL TO ORDER - Supervisor Marcinkowski called the October 20, 2025 Regular Meeting to order at 6:09 PM and led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA - Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Holman, ***ADOPTED***, to accept the amended October 20, 2025 Regular Township Board Meeting Agenda.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES– motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Kathy Pellerin-Mahoney- 8008 Old Channel Trail- Requested the opportunity to talk at the next work session regarding the Resolution presented by Greg Griner. Spoke about National Guard members from Battle Creek being sent to the southern boarder of Texas.

Brian Butler- 3333 W Bard Rd- Spoke about his concerns regarding the contract with the WLAA and Community Center. Asked how the township can assess fees for the WLAA without a vote and why it would only be assessed to primary residents. Discussed the lack of community support for a community center. Stated there are many additional things the township needs to address before spending money on those issues.

Patricia Whitener- 3293 W Bard Rd- Stated she came from Meridian Township and listed the line items on her last tax bill and stated there are much fewer line items for Fruitland Township and the total millage she's paying is higher. Agreed with Mr. Butler's statement that additional taxes need to be voted on.

Rober Grove- 5375 W McMillan- Stated the township must put an assessment to a vote. Asked if the ambulance authority would be exclusive for Fruitland Township.

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Discussed the staffing shortages in the paramedic industry and expressed his concern about ambulance availability and what we would get out of the dollars spent.

Taylor- 4330 Duck Lake Rd- Discussed the contract with the WLAA and asked what services are included, if they will exceed what we currently receive from Trinity, if there will be an ambulance permanently stated in Fruitland Township. Stated Fruitland Township already receives backup support from WLAA. Discussed how the township would pay for a community building.

Elise Butler- 4333 W Bard Rd- Discussed the community center, advised there was no determination about a community center, if it would be taxed, etc. Shared a personal anecdote about an ambulance experience she had. Stated she is not convinced that paying for additional service will get us quicker response times.

Susan Dennison- 4875 Riley Thompson Rd- Shared her experience with calling EMS, stated the fire department came first and helped her and then 40 minutes later the ambulance showed up. She stated she is not worried about the response time in our township, but she is worried about taxes.

Mel Oakley- Jay Road- Stated there was a meeting with WLAA and the information they provided at that meeting. Explained WLAA would provide ambulance authority to us rather than just mutual aid, with fully staffed ambulances with the highest level of care before you get to the hospital. Advised the average response time would be in the neighborhood of 15 minutes. Stated his support of the WLAA contract.

Nick Hardy- 4754 Riley Thompson- Advised Life EMS has no privilege to operate a primary ambulance service, and that Trinity EMS already services Fruitland Township. Discussed his concerns about an assessment being levied on only primary residences. Encouraged the board to think carefully before voting.

Jessica Cook- Muskegon County Commissioner District 6- Introduced herself and stated she is available for questions after the meeting.

Ace (Zoom)- Stated it is too much money, too fast for ambulance service for a small township. Stated if residents are being charged for it, there should be a vote. Asked

for more outreach, transparency and time and asked the board to consider reaching out to shared contracts with other municipalities.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Dave Rice – DCNA/FFTT – Update and Volunteer Recognition-** Advised they are done with the trails and boardwalks, recognized the volunteers that helped. Discussed the Trail Steward Program. Talked about future projects- including the Simonelli Rd parking lot, boot scrapers and bike racks, benches on the North side, interpretive signage, duck houses, and take care of some invasive species. Asked the board to reconsider Ordinance R63, which allows hunting in DCNA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS –

- a. **CAC – No Spray in the Road ROW**
- b. **VC3 Computer Upgrades-** Week of Nov 10th to upgrade computers and Windows 11
- c. **Assessment Corrected Action Plan-** will be placed on file

CONSENT AGENDA –

- a. **September 2025 Treasurer reports – Revenue and Expenditure - Fund 101 Revenue \$38,590.47; Expenditure \$141,318.86; Fund 120 Revenue \$6,163.70; Fund 130 (Public works) Expenditure \$300.00; Fund 145 Equipment Replacement Fund Expenditure \$13,756.92; Fund 180 (Community Building Capital Improvement) Revenue \$50.00; Fund 213 American Rescue Plan Act \$3,331.41**
- b. **September 2025 Clerk reports – Check Disbursement and Budget Amendments**
- c. **Minutes – September 8, 2025, Work Session; September 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting**

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Treasurer Brower, **ADOPTED**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Cross **AYE**, Clerk Steffes **AYE**, Supervisor Marcinkowski **AYE**, Treasurer Roggero **AYE**, Trustee Brower **AYE**, Trustee VanOosterhout **AYE**, Trustee Holman **AYE**– **motion carried**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- a. **Additions to Maintenance Staff**

Motion by Supervisor Marcinowski, support by Trustee Brower, **ADOPTED**, to approve the proposed maintenance increases: Promotion for Arron Ferris to Maintenance Supervisor, pay raise for Leonard Pierce and Rodney Gifford, and

hire a seasonal summer maintenance worker and additional truck for maintenance staff.

Discussion: Treasurer Roggero discussed the importance of having a list of guidelines in place for the future to ensure maintenance duties are completed regularly. Asked for job descriptions and lists of monthly and seasonal maintenance duties.

Supervisor Marcinkowski rescinded his motion until December so we can gather more information.

b. Transfer Station office – BLOX revised quote

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, support by Trustee Brower, ADOPTED, to accept the quote to put the visual screens in at the Ecology Station Container Office for the amount of \$2,772.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Cross **AYE**, Clerk Steffes **AYE**, Supervisor Marcinkowski **AYE**, Treasurer Roggero **AYE**, Trustee Brower **AYE**, Trustee VanOosterhout **AYE**, Trustee Holman **AYE**– **motion carried**

~~**c. Community Center Proposed Location**~~

d. Ambulance Services – Action item

Supervisor Marcinkowski read emails/letters submitted by Wendy Bohning, Rick Bohning and Karolyn and Jack Rillema opposing a contract with WLAA and asking questions. Those emails will be placed on file.

Motion by Trustee Holman, support by Trustee Cross, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rules.

Upon Voice Vote: **7_AYES – motion carried**

Jeff Abrams- WLAA Board and Clerk for Blue Lake Twp- Discussed the financial strength of WLAA and advised that the board takes a very active role in the authority to ensure continued strength. Advised they are staffed very well with 2 ambulances on and the option to have a scramble crew for a 3rd or even a 4th if needed.

Additional public comment and discussion and questions between board, residents and Mr. Abrams.

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Motion by Clerk Steffes, support by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to reinstate Roberts Rules.

Upon Voice Vote: 7_AYES – motion carried

Motion by Trustee Holman, support by Trustee Brower, **ADOPTED**, to accept the contract with WLAA and pay for it without assessing the residents.

Board discussion regarding funding options.

Trustee Holman rescinded his motion.

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, support by Clerk Steffes, **ADOPTED**, to table the issue until next month pending the determination of financing.

Upon Voice Vote: 7_AYES – motion carried

e. Policy and Procedure updates – Action item

Motion by Treasurer Roggero, support by Trustee Cross, **ADOPTED**, to approve the Policy and Procedure updates proposed by Clerk Steffes.

Upon Voice Vote: 7_AYES – motion carried

~~f. Rescind Regulatory Ordinance Article 58 Fire Code~~

NEW BUSINESS –

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Taylor- discussed how concerning it is how quick the decision happened for WLAA.

BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION –

Trustee Cross thanked the residents for coming to offer their opinions.

Trustee VanOosterhout thanked the board for agreeing to consider funding before moving forward. Discussed his concern about the lack of data we have to compare the current response times. Advised he doesn't need more information about a community center, he doesn't believe it is time for it in the township.

ADJOURNMENT

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Motion by Trustee Cross, second by Trustee Brower, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the October 20, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Township of Fruitland at 8:31 PM.

Upon Voice Vote: **7_AYES – motion carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexa Steffes, Clerk
Township of Fruitland