

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2025 MINUTES**

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

**ABESNT** – Trustee VanOosterhout, Trustee Holman

**ALSO PRESENT** – (10) Ten Interested Parties

**CALL TO ORDER** - Supervisor Marcinkowski called the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA** - Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Cross, **ADOPTED**, to accept the amended December 15, 2025 Regular Township Board Meeting Agenda.  
*Upon Voice Vote: 5 AYES– motion carried*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Brian Butler- 3333 West Bard Road- Spoke about his concern about the process of adding the WLAA Millage Proposal to the ballot in 2026.

**PRESENTATION**

- a. **Matt Biolette- Fleis & Vandenbrink**- Provided an annual update. Stated they completed the traffic study, and it is now in the hands of the county. The county will need to apply for funding if they decide to move forward since they own the roads. Explained the state took many previously approved appropriations and rescinded them and reallocated.
- b. **Sabrina Butler – MACD – HWA Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant** – Provided and update on what work they have done. There were 5990 Hemlock trees in Fruitland Township and they are assessing them all to determine if they can be treated or if they need to be removed and replaced with other trees. They planted a total of 2600 seedlings.

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Brower, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rules.

*Upon Voice Vote: 5 AYES– motion carried*

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Treasurer Roggero, **ADOPTED**, to reinstate Roberts Rules.

*Upon Voice Vote: 5 AYES– motion carried*

- c. **Jack Greve – Lakeshore Keepers – WRLS year-end report-** Mr. Greve was not present to give a report.
- d. **Mike Holman – Planning Commission 12/4 meeting update-** Trustee Holman was not present to give a report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS –**

- a. **Master Plan Steering Committee – 12/15 meeting update-** Supervisor Marcinkowski advised the board what they discussed at the meeting. Resident surveys will likely be going out in January. The next meeting is 1/19/26 at 3:00 PM.
- b. **Ambulance Services –** Supervisor asked the board to direct himself and Clerk Steffes to prepare the ballot language for the proposal for the WLAA millage proposal on the ballot for a May 2026 Millage Election. He explained that there have been residents both in favor and against the township contracting with or joining the WLAA.

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Clerk Steffes, **ADOPTED**, for Supervisor Marcinkowski and Clerk Steffes to prepare the ballot language to add a proposal for a WLAA Millage on the May 2026 Ballot.

Treasurer Roggero stated this is a more fiscally responsible choice for the township since it puts the matter in the hands of the voters.

Trustee Cross asked about when the coverage would be in effect if the millage passes and asked about Fruitland Township paying the costs of the attorney fees.

Trustee Brower asked if there have been conversations with Trinity EMS regarding their services. Supervisor Marcinkowski advised he has spoken with them, and they are willing to sit down but he has not received more information.

Trustee Brower asked if the public could take the initiative to get it on the ballot if the township chooses not to act on this matter.

Trustee Brower and Clerk Steffes both expressed the benefit of the public being able to vote on the matter and the importance of residents deciding for themselves.

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

- c. **Utility Rebuild Project-** Email from Environmental Consulting & Technology regarding the decommissioning and rebuilding of infrastructure. Email and associated map will be placed on file.

**CONSENT AGENDA –**

- a. **November 2025 Treasurer reports – Revenue and Expenditure - Fund 101 Revenue \$26,461.52; Expenditure \$72,814.99; Fund 120 Revenue \$0; Expenditure; \$12,000.00 Fund 160 (Park & Recreation Specialty Fund) Revenue \$136,163.00; Expenditure \$0; Fund 180 (Community Building Capital Improvement \$50.00**
- b. **November 2025 Clerk reports – Check Disbursement**
- c. **Minutes – November 10, 2025, Work Session; November 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes**

Motion by Clerk Steffes, second by Trustee Cross, **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**– **motion carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- a. **Maintenance Staff – Part time seasonal Employee**

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Cross, **ADOPTED**, to approve the addition of a Part-time seasonal employee starting May 2026 at a pay rate of \$15/hour for approximately 30-32 hours per week.

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

- b. **Planning Commission – definition of basement; zoning map change 61-06-101-400-0001-10 MHP to HDR**

Motion by Clerk Steffes, second by Treasurer Roggero, **ADOPTED**, to approve the definition of a basement that was approved by the Planning Commission.

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

Motion by Clerk Steffes, second by Supervisor Marcinkowski, **ADOPTED**, to adopt Zoning Ordinance No. 168 to amend the Fruitland Township Zoning Map to rezone parcel #61-06-400-0001-10 Whitehall Road, Whitehall, MI 49461 from MHP to HDR.

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

- c. **DNR Passport Grant** – Fruitland Township received the DNR Passport Grant for Accessible Pathways in Nestrom Park for \$82,300.00.

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Brower, **ADOPTED**, to accept the DNR Passport Grant for Accessible Pathways in Nestrom Park for \$82,300.00 and the responsibility for Fruitland Township to match \$27,000.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

- a. **Land Split Application – River Dell Subdivision Lot 7– Jonathon and Lindsay Jacobs-**

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Clerk Steffes, **ADOPTED**, to approve the land split application submitted by Jonathan and Lindsay Jacobs.

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

- b. **Township property - .29 acres of vacant land on South Shore Drive-** Discussion on whether to sell or retain the land, realtor estimated a value of \$48K. Trustee Brower expressed the desire to see the property in the summer, and the board agreed to take no action until then.

- c. **Road Project – Tranquil Trail** – MCRC recommended a 2-inch overlay, estimated at \$41K. Township would be responsible for \$10,250 and each of the 23 parcels would be assessed an estimated amount of \$891.30, assessed over a 2-year period. Supervisor Marcinkowski presented a draft letter to mail the residents. Trustee Cross asked for a due date to be added to the letter and Clerk Steffes asked for some formatting updates.

Motion by Trustee Brower, second by Treasurer Roggero, **ADOPTED**, to mail out the petition letters to the residents on Tranquil Trail with the discussed updates.

*Upon Voice Vote: 5\_AYES – motion carried*

- d. **Resolution 2025-29 RESOLUTION TO AMEND APPENDIX B TO THE UNIFORM WATER RATE ORDINANCE**

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Brower, **ADOPTED**, to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-29 RESOLUTION TO AMEND APPENDIX B TO THE UNIFORM WATER RATE ORDINANCE.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Mark Carlson- 1828 W Bard Rd- Stated his opposition to the WLAA millage due to amount of taxes he already pays.

Brent Wolffis- 3350 Orshal Rd- Stated he is in favor of doing anything to make the area better but does not believe the cost of healthcare should be impacted by the value of your house. Asked for an explanation of how the board went from considering a one-year contract to a millage proposal.

Various comments were made via Zoom chat in opposition to the WLAA millage.

**BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION –**

Treasurer Roggero stated that the information we received from WLAA pointed to them providing faster response times. Supervisor Marcinkowski and Trustee Brower agreed that was the data being presented.

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Supervisor Marcinkowski stated previously the township board was considering paying for the 1-year trial and assessing that cost to the residents. The board decided against that route.

Clerk Steffes stated that putting the proposal on the ballot gives the decision-making power to the residents and expressed that meeting minutes are not a full transcript of the meetings, they are a recording of decisions made by the board.

Trustee Cross expressed her sympathy and understanding to those that do not want higher taxes or an additional millage on the ballot but stated the importance of allowing all of the residents to have their voices heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Cross, second by Trustee Brower, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Township of Fruitland at 7:32 PM.

*Upon Voice Vote: 5\_AYES – motion carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexa Steffes, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland