



# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MADISON

Ryan Rank  
*Supervisor*  
Janet Moden  
*Clerk*  
Harold Gregg  
*Treasurer*

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## TRUSTEES

Howard Bales  
Ralph Benschoter  
Chad Rodgers  
Norman Schutte

Madison Township Board Meeting  
Held in Person and Electronically (Zoom)  
Minutes of February 10, 2026

7:00 p.m. Board Meeting called to order, with a silent prayer, and pledge to the flag said by all.

### ROLL CALL:

Present in person: Rank, Bales, Gregg, Moden, Rodgers, and Schutte. Absent Benschoter.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:** Supervisor Rank reiterated that the March Board of Review would take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm and 5:00 – 7:00 pm. He also stated that with the passing of Wayne Smith last week, which leaves a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals if anyone is interested.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:** None

**LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### 3-MINUTE DEPT. HEAD UPDATES:

**Fire:** Chief Wilson stated they have been super busy, there have been 4 house fires in the last two weeks that they have participated in, which is unusually high. They have received another check from Vitacore, but not the complete amount owed to us yet. Have worked with Blissfield Fire and schools on training. We are currently not supporting BFD with an EMT as they have been able to secure enough personnel to operate. Hopes to have a new full-time EMT designate before Mark leaves on 3/31/26.

**Police:** Chief Gentner stated he has a new full-time police officer started on 2/2/26, Jesse Petty who is currently in FTO training for two months. Brian was off for two weeks with medical care.

**Water/Sewer:** Watterson stated it has been slow, mostly due to freezing weather. Water treatment building is going well. Working on electrical systems in new addition. Meter replacements, are still being worked on, due to figuring out who needs them for what reason.



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**Inspection:** Building Official, Rincon stated it has been unusually slow, with only 50 inspections. Murphy gas station at Walmart got their permit and CR Motors are looking at 1 million renovations in the spring.

**Legal:** None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Rodgers, supported by Bales to approve the consent agenda and previous month's board meeting minutes after corrected. Roll call vote: Rank: Yes; Bales, Yes; Gregg, Yes; Moden, Yes; Rodgers, Yes; and Schutte, Yes. Motion carried 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **2026 Committee Members:**

Supervisor Rand presented everyone with a copy of the assigned participants in each of the existing committees and other areas of responsibility for 2026. He noted again that with the passing of Wayne Smith, a long-time previous board member and member of various committees, there is a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals that needs to be filled. Motion by Bales, second by Rodgers to approve the 2026 Committee list as presented. Motion approved 6-0.

#### **Resolution - Health Care Opt Out for 2026:**

Clerk Moden presented a resolution for the purpose of Madison Township opting out of Public Act 152 for the annual exempting the Township, publicly funded Health Insurance caps and percentage options, and section 8.

Motion to accept the resolution as presented by Rodgers, seconded by Moden. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **2026 County Election Agreement for Early Voting:**

Clerk Moden presented a copy of an agreement to each of the board members that the County has submitted to any townships or cities that want the county to run their early voting responsibility for 2026 elections. The estimated amount that may be required for payment in early 2027 for 2026 elections is \$8,916. The board needs to approve the authority of the Clerk to sign the agreement presented as well as the estimated amount.



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Motion by Shutte, seconded by Rodgers to approve the signing of the County agreement for early voting processing and authorization for Clerk Moden to sign the agreement. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Fire Dept. Issues:**

#### ***Bathroom Remodel:***

Chief Wilson stated that there had been leaks found in the shower area of the women's and men's bathroom due to cracks in the tile. The proposals for fixing it were budgeted at around \$14,000, need approval to have the work done. Motion by Rodgers, seconded by Moden to authorize up to \$20,000 for spend out of budget for replacement of bathroom remodel. Motion carried 6-0.

#### ***Training Room Painting:***

Chief Wilson stated that the best bid that he got to paint the training room, since the mold issue was \$7,900.00. They may add metal wainscoting, not sure yet. Looking for permission to proceed with this bid. Motion by Bales, seconded by Rodgers, to approve up to \$7,000 for the purpose of finishing the training room walls. Motion carried 6-0.

#### ***EMT Swinehart retirement replacement:***

Chief Wilson stated that Mark Swinehart, EMT is retiring after 35+ years as a member of the fire department. Currently he is a full-time firefighter/EMT on day shift. When asked what increased cost would it be to upgrade that position to a Paramedic, the answer was approximately \$10,000 without overtime. His retirement date is 3/31/26. Motion was made to replace him with another full-time employee EMT by Rodgers, seconded by Shutte. Motion tied 3 – 3. Further extensive discussion was held by the members of the board as to why they voted against it. Further information was discussed. Motion to rescind the previous vote to reconsider was made by Rodgers, seconded by Bales, motion carried 6-0. A new motion was made to replace him with another full-time employee EMT by Rodgers, seconded by Shutte. Roll call vote: Rank: Yes; Bales, Yes; Gregg, No; Moden, No; Rodgers, Yes; and Schutte, Yes. Motion carried 4-2.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:**

Rank: Stated that he was notifying the board of a budget adjustment he had made in the Building and Apparatus Fund in the capital outlay area. It was moving the budgeted amount of \$270,000. from Capital outlay account 403-000-971 over to Fire Dept Capital outlay account 403-336-971, which is the line item that they work out of.

Moden: Stated that at the last County Clerk's meeting they we told that the State of MI is going to require everyone to purchase new and different voting equipment before the middle of 2027 to be used in 2028 elections. The anticipated costs would be \$15,000 per precinct, of which we



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have 4, plus a spare. We were told that the cost would fall to the jurisdictional entities and do not expect grants from the State to help. More info to come later. The state has put out RFP's to vendors they are considering; we have no say in who they pick.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** Resident Dale Vier asked what the status on the residence on Shumway that he had complained about having waste, heavy equipment and a trailer.

Resident Dale Thielan asked why we didn't have minutes for the consent agenda posted on the website. It was explained that on the consent agenda, an item in the board meeting is just to pay the bills and approve the previous months meeting minutes. The meeting of the whole, if one is called, is the meeting of the board before the monthly board meeting. It is not a monthly meeting, and it is only called by the supervisor if he has a need to educate the board on subject matter that will come before the board at the next meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: None**

**ADJOURNMENT/RECESS:** Motion by Rodgers, seconded by Schutte, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-Yes; 0-No. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Typed and Submitted by:

Janet Moden, Township Clerk