

Gourley Township Menominee County Michigan Minutes of July 13, 2026 Regular Meeting

Supervisor Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 6:02 p.m. and then, asking all to stand, Steve led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Steve Wery, Supervisor
Stephanie Walechka, Treasurer
Ivy Netzel, Clerk
Dan Cordy, Trustee
Jesse Wery, Trustee

Absent:

Also Attending: Brian Mack, Fire Chief, Brent Desjarlais, Township Assessor, Solomon Boerschinger, Volunteer Fire Fighter

Agenda: Steve presented the agenda and after review, Ivy made a motion to accept the agenda as amended with Dan supporting the motion; it carried.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 8, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Stephanie made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Jesse supported the motion; it carried.

Treasurer & Clerk Report:

NOTE: The clerk checks the tax fund check book monthly.

- The Financial Report for June 2026 was reviewed and there was \$551,429.21 in the General Fund and \$390,927.55 in the Fire Fund. Stephanie made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Dan supported the motion; it carried.

Fire Chief Report:

- There was one fire call for the month for the trees that fell across County Road 551.
- SCBAs that were ordered from POMASL were delivered.
- Gear for Solomon Boerschinger has been obtained.
- Annual pump test by POMASL will be scheduled.
- An air pack is out of service due to a bad battery board and will be repaired by POMASL.
- Lange Industries is no longer assigning fire numbers. They will continue to make the signs, just not assign the numbers.

- Solomon passed his road test and now can legally drive the fire trucks.
- Tom Phillips contacted Brian to offer a 4x4 SXS and other fire equipment to be stationed at the Gourley Township Fire Hall. It would be maintained by Menominee County and would be insured by Menominee County. Steve made a motion to accept the county's offer, Stephanie supported the motion and the motion carried.
- A Training Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor's Report:

- Dust Control: Dust oil has been put down on the gravel roads in the township.
- Steve and Brent did the required 20% property verifications.
- The culvert on DePas Lane was washed out. The County Road Commission poured gravel around the culvert which has ended up in the culvert.
- The County Road Commission has laid gravel on some of the township's gravel roads.
- The flag is lowered to half-staff for the death of Senator Lindsay Graham.
- There will be a Board of Review scheduled for July 21st at 10:00 central time.
- Brent Desjarlais reported that there is about half a day of inspections left to do. Sales study from the Menominee County Equalization Department was provided and Brent expects some properties to be excluded from the sales study calculation. He attended the MAA conference in June as continuing education.

New Business:

- The State Primary Election will occur on August 4th. Public Accuracy Testing of the ballots will occur July 21st and is open to the public.
- Parcel Reconfiguration: Rob and Dawn Miller, Fred and Sandy Miller submitted a Parcel Reconfiguration. Steve made a motion to accept the parcel reconfiguration; Dan supported the motion and the motion carried.
- Parcel Reconfiguration: Gabriele Porath submitted a Parcel Reconfiguration. Steve made a motion to accept the parcel reconfiguration; Ivy supported the motion and the motion carried.
- 2026 Election Excellence Grant Program: The U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence is offering a nonpartisan 2026 Election Excellence Grant Program to support local election offices across the country in their pursuit of election excellence. Offices can apply to receive \$5,000 to pursue and achieve one or more of the voluntary, nonpartisan Standards for Election Excellence — the first-ever set of nationally developed guidelines for high quality election administration, shaped by nearly 300 election officials. Applications open July 16, and will be available on a first come, first served basis.

- Kellogg Lane: Kellogg Lane needs repair. Steve would like to recommend delaying the asphalt sealing of the township hall parking lot that was budgeted for this fiscal year and carry over the \$5000 that was budgeted to next year. With an additional \$3000 from the township next year, the Menominee County Road Commission will commit to contribute the rest of the money to repair Kellogg Lane. Steve made a motion that we enter into a contract with the road commission to widen and straighten Kellogg Lane and put more gravel on the road. Ivy supported the motion, and the motion carried.

Old Business:

- There is an Election Commission Meeting immediately following this board meeting.
- Biennial Audit: The status of the biennial audit was discussed. Steve took the opportunity to remind the board of the ethical behavior and appropriate business practices.
- Backup generator for the Michigan Broadband telephone system update: Ivy suggested that the board consider writing a complaint to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), with notice also given to Michigan Broadband and the Menominee County 911 Commissioner. Ivy would also like to consider submitting a letter to the editor of the Menominee County Journal and the Escanaba Daily Press.

In April 2025, a snow storm knocked out power to the township, including the fiber optic panel, for days. The fiber optic panel has backup batteries, but the power outage was longer than the battery ratings and Gourley Township residents were without 911 capability for several hours until Michigan Broadband could come out and hook up a temporary generator.

Enough time has been given for Michigan Broadband to come up with a solution. The board recommended that Ivy contact the MPSC to report a potential design flaw in the conversion from copper phone lines to voice over IP using the fiber optic lines.

Public Comment

- none

Correspondence:

- none

Pay the Bills:

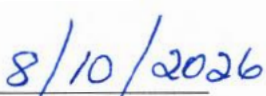
- Jesse made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by Ivy. The motion carried.

Adjourn:

- Ivy moved to adjourn. Stephanie supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,


Ivy Netzel, Clerk


Date Approved