

Gourley Township Menominee County Michigan DRAFT Minutes of August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting

Supervisor Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 5:57 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: Brian Mack, Fire Chief

Also Attending: Solomon Boerschinger, Volunteer Fire Fighter

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

Minutes: The minutes of the July 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Stephanie made a motion to accept the minutes. Dan supported the motion; it carried.

Treasurer & Clerk Report:

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

- The Financial Report for July 2026 was reviewed and there was \$544,782.38 in the General Fund and \$388,833.26 in the Fire Fund. Steve made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.
- Draft Biennial Audit: The draft report was sent to each of the board member via email.

Fire Chief Report:

- There were two fire call for the month: July 21st tornado on Seven-Mile Marsh Road, then a fire on the old Gourley Dump Road. The new side by side that Menominee County is stationing at the Gourley Township Fire Hall was used to fight the fire on the Gourley Dump Road. DNR also responded and is still monitoring the situation.
- Elijah Bourschinger retook the Fire Fighter I and II test. Results are not yet available.
- Applications for the Fire Equipment Grant Program, previously discussed at an earlier meeting, must be submitted electronically by September 30, 2026. The Fire Chief will consider submitting a grant request.
- A Regular Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor's Report:

- The culvert on DePas Lane was washed out and there was some road damage as well. Steve submitted it to FEMA and it is very likely that the State will pay for the repairs.
- Kellogg Lane: Kellogg Lane needs repair. The quote from the Menominee County Road Commission came to \$7,420. In the July 2026 meeting minutes, this work was approved.

New Business:

- Expansion of Parking Lot: There is money in the General Fund to expand the parking lot with gravel. The location of the new gravel parking lot is to the east of the hall, and preference would be that the lot be adjacent to the concrete sidewalk so that there was easy access to the double doors of the hall and a future playground. Steve made a recommendation to ask Jeff Walechka for a quote to expand the parking and he will contact Jeff for a quote.
- MI Class: Michigan Corporate Liquid Asset Securities System (MI Class) is a local government investment pool. It allows public agencies, local communities, and school districts in Michigan to pool their cash balances. This helps them get higher investment returns while keeping money safe and easy to withdraw. Stephanie stated that this investment might be worth looking into, because the township checking accounts are all at one bank, and during tax season, the cumulative total on deposit exceeds the \$250k FDIC insurance amount. The Board discussed whether to place excess cash in this type of account rather than leaving it in the low interest checking account. As an alternative, the township discussed putting the money in CDs at Peninsula Federal Credit Union, or using the excess cash to do projects that would benefit the township.
- Girl Scout use of the township hall for meetings: The Girl Scout troupe, a 501c3 organization, lead by Felisia Izzi and two other leaders would like to use the township hall for meetings every other Friday. They would like the Board to waive the rental fee. They would clean up afterwards. Ivy Netzel had a discussion with the Custodian, Jackie Mack, and Jackie is ok with the girls taking responsibility for the cleanup afterwards. The Board decided to table this request until the board members have had a chance to reconsider.
- 2% Grant: The township will apply for funds for an expansion of the parking lots.
- Tables & Chairs: Ivy would like to purchase 8 tables, 70 chairs and a cart for the tables. It would be paid for with Hall Rental money. The board agreed to this expenditure.

Old Business:

- Backup generator for the Michigan Broadband (MBBS) telephone system update: Ivy called the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and lodged a complaint. The complaint states that there is a potential design flaw in the conversion from copper phone lines to voice over IP using the fiber optic lines. Michigan Broadband has 10 business days to respond, and their response has not been received yet. Notice should still be provided to the Menominee County 911 Commissioner.

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.

Steve also had conversations with Michigan Broadband. The Board is hoping that a resolution will be in effect before the snow season begins this upcoming winter.

Public Comment

- none

Correspondence:

- none

Pay the Bills:

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

Adjourn:

- Steve moved to adjourn. Stephanie supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivy Netzel, Clerk

Date Approved