

Gourley Township Menominee County Michigan Minutes of September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting

Supervisor Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 6:00 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

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

Minutes: The minutes of the August 10, 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 August 2026 was reviewed and there was \$532,096.37 in the General Fund and \$358,027.03 in the Fire Fund. Ivy made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Stephanie supported the motion; it carried.
- Biennial Audit: The approved final report was shown to each of the board members. Electronic copies are available for board members upon request.
- Stephanie recommended putting \$20,000 - \$25,000 into a CD at Peninsula Federal Credit Union for 15 months at 4.3%. She also recommended putting \$25,000 in a CD for the fire department.

Fire Chief Report:

- There was no fire call for the month.
- There were red lights on the boilers. Brian reconfigured the software and reset the system. Brian recommended surge protection for the system. Steve will contact the township's electrical contractor to see if surge protection is warranted.
- Elijah Bourschinger will retake the Fire Fighter I and II test.
- Appreciation Dinner: The fire department will come up with a date.
- There is a new EMS/Ambulance service called MMR coming into the area.

- 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.
- Brian needs a new computer. Jesse made a motion to pre-authorize \$1500 to purchase a new computer. Dan supported the motion and the motion carried.
- A Training Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 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. No new information was provided at this meeting so Steve will follow up.
- 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. No new information was provided at this meeting so Steve will follow up.
- Steve and the township assessor Brent Desjarlais will do a 20% walkdown in October.
- Fire number for Tom Phillips will be placed on Local 32 Road.

New Business:

- Gourley Township Historical Society would like to host a Movie Night, featuring the film "Young Washington," at their November 5th meeting. They would also like to invite Gourley Township residents to attend this event. The society would like board permission to host this event at the township hall on Thursday, November 5th. The board agreed to allow the Gourley Township Historical Society to proceed with their plans to host a Movie Night at their regularly scheduled meeting in November.
- Constitution Week Proclamation: Ivy presented a request to the board to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the constitution had in 1787 by passing a proclamation for Constitution Week.

During Covid, the following Constitutional Amendments were infringed upon:

1st Amendment: Freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly, and petition

- The right of free speech: In the name of combatting "misinformation", censored scientists and physicians who questioned the governments dubious covid pronouncements and orthodoxies.
- The right to assembly by social distance regulations
- The right to worship by closing churches for a year

7th Amendment: the right to a jury trial

- The government gave a liability shield to the pharmaceutical companies. No matter how negligent they were, people who were injured by the vaccine could not sue the pharmaceutical companies for damages.

5th Amendment: guarantees essential legal rights, including protection against self-incrimination, double jeopardy, and deprivation of life, liberty of property without due process

- The government shutdown 3 million businesses with no due process and no just compensation.

4th Amendment: protection against unlawful searches and seizures

- Government forced Americans to disclose their vaccination status/medical information before they could exercise their constitution rights.

From: RFK Jr. Speech at the 2026 RNC Midterm Convention;

https://www.fox26houston.com/video/fmc-iek7gkw0un0oyh2y?link_source=ta_first_comment&taid=6aa38ad880449d000178d09f&utm_campaign=trueanthem&utm_medium=trueanthem&utm_source=facebook

Ivy made a motion to declare September 17-23 as Constitution Week. Stephanie supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

- McCarthy Bridge on County Road 551: Brian indicated that the southward side main support columns are broken and cracked. Steve will bring this issue up with the Menominee County Road Commission.

Old 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. The bid from Jeff Walechka is proposing two outcomes, each would cost \$9,200 and Jeff would keep the topsoil. Ivy made a motion to expand the parking lot for both options A and B, not to exceed \$20,000. Dan supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

Roll call vote:

Steve yes

Stephanie: abstain due to financial interest

Ivy yes

Jess yes

Dan yes

The motion carried.

- 2% Grant: The fire department will apply for \$10,000 with a township match for an expansion of the parking lots. This project will benefit the fire hall and township hall.

- Backup generator for the Michigan Broadband (MBBS) telephone system update: Ivy received correspondence from Michigan Broadband that outlined both a short-term and long-term solution. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has closed the complaint. The complaint stated that there is a potential design flaw in the conversion from copper phone lines to voice over IP using the fiber optic lines in that the battery backup did not have sufficient capacity for the heavy snow storms we receive, rendering 911 inoperable.

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.

Public Comment

- none

Correspondence:

- Notification of the sale of the Iron Mountain branch of Anderson, Tackman & CO, PLC
- Dustin Draybek, new insurance agent for Decker Insurance at October meeting (email)
- DNR – Escanaba Management Unit Open House, October 1, 2026

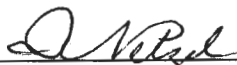
Pay the Bills:

- Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Stephanie supported the motion, the motion carried.

Adjourn:

- Steve moved to adjourn. Jesse supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,


Ivy Netzel, Clerk

10/12/2026
Date Approved