

Gourley Township

Menominee County Michigan

DRAFT Minutes of October 12, 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; Jeffrey Rogg, Prosecuting Attorney for Menominee County; Mary Stein, Mental Health Director at Menominee ISD; TJ, Ed Jenkins, candidate for Carney Nadeau School Board; Dustin Drabec, Decker Insurance; Brent Desjarlais, Assessor

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 September 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Stephanie made a motion to accept the minutes. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.

Treasurer & Clerk Report:

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

- The Financial Report for September 2026 was reviewed and there was \$515,420.87 in the General Fund and \$354,232.38 in the Fire Fund. Jesse 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 calls for the month, a house fire in Talbot.
- A Regular Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor's Report:

- Brent Desjarlais, the Gourley Township Assessor, gave an update on the final site visits. He also gave an update on the Equalization Department.
- Steve looked at the building permits with Brent and Pierce Desjarlais. They also finished up the 20% walkdown.
- The emergency generator needs service. Steve will coordinate the maintenance.

- Steve is working with Russ Berger Jr. to find the best company to make our fire signs.
- 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. A new box culvert needs to be installed.
- 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:

- Snow Plow Bids: There was only one snow plow bid submitted by Russ Berger Jr for \$200 per plowing. Steve made a motion to accept the bid and Ivy supported the motion. The motion carried.
- There is a \$4M Rural Development Fund grant opportunity available to strengthen rural communities. It has a 20% match. Ivy made a motion to submit a letter of intent for a pavilion. Stephanie supported the motion and it carried.
- Michigan Broadband will be charging \$2.99 for paper billing. Ivy proposed that the township go paperless, but would still mail in the payments with a check and the board agreed.
- Annie Soper and Christie Wolf would like to use the hall for a Thanksgiving dinner for selected individuals who have no family in the area. They are requesting that the \$120 fee be waived. The board thought this was a good idea, but could not accommodate waiving the fee because the existing policy does not allow it. Steve recommended that individual donations be pursued to cover the rental fee.
- Menominee County MTA is holding its annual Christmas party on December 5th.

Old Business:

- Expansion of Parking Lot: There is money in the General Fund to expand the parking lot with gravel. The bid from Jeff Walechka is proposing two outcomes, each would cost \$9,200 and Jeff would keep the topsoil. This project was approved by the board at the September 14th board meeting.
- 2% Grant: The township applied for \$10,000 Hannahville grant with a township match for an expansion of the parking lot. 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.

The short-term solution is to allow Gourley Township residents to revert back to the copper line phone system which has generator backup at the main office in Carney. Long term, a redundant loop power supply back to the main office in Carney would also have generator backup. Residents wishing to make the short-term change will need to call Michigan Broadband to have the copper line.

Notification of this option for Gourley Township residents will be made in the Luft's Advertiser, put a notice on the township website, and on the back of the winter tax bill.

- There will be an Election Commission meeting immediately following the Regular Board Meeting.

Public Comment

- Dustin Drabec, Decker Insurance Agency, introduced himself and is taking over the Gourley Township insurance to replace Hannula Insurance Agency.
- Jeffrey Rogg, Prosecuting Attorney for Menominee County, introduced himself and is running for District Court Judge for Menominee County.
- Ed Jenkins introduced himself and is running for Carney Nadeau School Board.
- Tim Murray presented some ideas for communication alternatives.

Correspondence:

- Gourley's POTS lines, William Guerrero

Pay the Bills:

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

Adjourn:

- Ivy moved to adjourn. Stephanie supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivy Netzel, Clerk

Date Approved