



ALBERT TOWNSHIP

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Albert Township Hall

July 15, 2025

ROLL CALL: Board Members: Supervisor Michael Szukhent, Clerk Sandy Raffin, Treasurer John Righi, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Trustee Mark Bowser.

Fire Chief Doug Baum, present. Also, 8 community members.

ABSENT: Zoning Administrator Jeff McDonald, Secretary Hope Rosso, excused.

ORDER: The regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Szukhent.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the flag was led by Szukhent.

1. Agenda.

Motion made by Raffin to approve agenda. Second by McDonald.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

2. Public Comment: Szukhent opened public comment. (Limit 3 minutes)

Greg Bator 1129 Fleming Road – Re: Patio on East Twin again. Appreciate for John Righi wants the board room named after John Righi.

Kaye Woodruff – Re: Timberfest 5k, repair bathrooms at the Chamber.

Eric Smith 2815 Co Rd 612 – Re: Possible social district routes. Baum answered Smith, stated that he starts with the DDA.

Szukhent closed public comment.

3. Approve Minutes.

Motion by Righi to approve minutes for June 17, 2025 as presented, second by Raffin.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

4. Human Resources Service Proposal (see attachment)

Szukhent presented the proposal and recommends getting a new employee handbook. Raffin asked where the money will come from in the budget. Szukhent said we could split it with the Fire Station. Baum stated the Fire Station is very different than a township employee, and would like time to prepare for this topic. There are issues to work through, and the dollar amount given is a very good. Baum added it is way overdue.

Motion by Raffin to table proposal, second by Righi.

5. Title Search (driveway for the Post Office)

Righi did some research with Montmorency County Road Commission, and their records show no ownership of the alley. Righi got a price for a title search to see who owns it. Light House came back with a price of \$250 for the search.

Motion by McDonald to do a title search to find ownership of post office alley, second by Bowser.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

6. Library Trail (see attachment)

Righi was at the Planning Commission meeting last week. Planning Commission recommends the Township Board to approve this project. Righi explained how the trail works and the proposal.

Motion by McDonald to approve Library Book Trail, with a maintenance agreement on the signs, Jamie Winkleman Maintenance Supervisor will have final say as to the placement, second by Bowser.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

7. Security Cameras (see attachment)

Barger Creek, proposal for Lions, Tom May Memorial, and Bingham Ball Field. Cameras are 180 degrees. Quote does not include Buttles Park. There needs to be clarity for the proposal.

Motion by McDonald to table Barger Creek quote and have a special meeting with Barger Creek, second by Raffin.

8. Approve List of Bills.

Motion by Raffin, to approve payroll from July 11th. Seconded by Righi.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Motion by Raffin, to approve the list of bills from June 13 to July 11. Second by McDonald

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

9. Treasurer's Report.

Righi presented his report. We continue to get \$2,500 from the lease on the 5 acres. There is delay in the direct deposits from the EMS runs. This has been going on for the last couple months. Baum stated he is looking into other companies, due to the same issues. Righi stated, no funds for activities on parks and cemetery we will collect that in the winter taxes.

10. Clerk's Report.

Raffin appointed Hope Rosso as her Deputy Clerk. Raffin made a motion to appoint Rosso as her Deputy Clerk, also to add her as a signer for checks through Nicolet, and get an additional .39 per hour. Second by Bowser.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Raffin presented a quote for the cemetery and make an arch that is out of metal. The arch would say Albert Township Cemetery. Quote was changed from an arch to straight. Quote is for \$14,800.00 there is \$20,000.00 for the budget. Raffin would like to get board approval for the project. (Public engaged in discussion with Raffin, size, height, name, and coating.) Will take 2 months to build the sign.

Motion by Raffin to table quote, second by McDonald.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Righi stated there needs to be a conversation about there is a millage in 2024 that raised \$90,000.00 for parks and cemeteries. That has not been discussed how that would be split or spent, none of that money is in our budget. We will get another rough amount of \$90,000.00 for parks and cemeteries this year.

Raffin informed the board the tire recycle day is September 6th 9am-12pm at the transfer site and \$2.00 per tire. With or without rims.

11. Staff Reports:

a) Zoning

Jeff McDonald, Zoning Administrator, information is in the packets.
There is some litigation happening.
Accepted as presented, received, and filed.

b) Fire & EMS

Doug Baum, Fire Chief, gave hard copy of report to the Board.
Accepted, received, and filed.

Street lights are out on 612, almost every street light is out, from the fire station to Sun and Snow. PIE&G is billing us for that, and they are not on.

Timberfest is in full swing for planning the event. Permit process is working great for communication with what is happening in town for our staff. In the past we have pop up vendors, they are not permitted to be here. Baum is asking for the authority and permission as Fire Chief that a non-permitted vendor is to leave the event. Raffin asked how many have showed up in the past, Baum stated 3 or 4. This is a Chamber event and they need to register with the Chamber. Szukhent added this is on discussion for the future due to pop up food vendors setting up across the street from our businesses that are the brick and mortar for the community.

Raffin made a motion to give Doug Baum, Fire Chief authority to ask outside vendors that are not registered with the Chamber to go to the Chamber to get approval for them to participate during Timberfest or vacate the downtown area. Second by Bowser.

All in favor: 5 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Baum presented information on a fire truck and combining the two trucks. All is depending on after the audit. Baum is hoping for an upgrade within the next 3 years.

Baum met with all Fire Chiefs County wide, nothing new.

Baum stated 4th of July went smooth, Fire Station was staffed up for the weekend. Fire crew was staffed on the fireworks barge; there was a fire on it and the Walter's Family was very happy we were there.

Baum is doing a cookout for the volunteers for Timberfest.

Baum informed the board he received information from the Christian Group that camped behind the Fire Station for Ice Storm clean up. They reported they had 600

volunteers they brought in from across the country, and 4,380-man hours that was given to this community. We are very fortunate for our community. They focused on the elderly helping them clear the debris.

Baum gave an update on the upgrades and let the board know Total Audio will be giving him a quote for some work to be done.

Righi asked is there still well checks coming in? Baum stated yes, they are still coming in.

c) Maintenance

Szukhent reported they playground equipment is still sitting at Bingham Ball Park. The contractor made a mistake and only charged 10% of what the cost is for the playground. Szukhent had a meeting with Jamie and Dave about getting the playground finished in 3 weeks, if the board would approve the overtime to get the project complete.

Righi made a motion to authorize the maintenance department to put together the playground equipment and keep track of their hours if there is overtime involved, we pay them. Second by McDonald.

All in favor: 5 Yeas

0 Nays

Motion passed.

d) Supervisor

Szukhent informed the board some of the things he has been working on such as food vendor permits and the transfer site prices have not increased since 1990. Pricing has gone up on everything. Righi stated he did some research on the transfer site, last year we had net income of \$15,600.00 Raffin stated she talked with GFL and ordered 2 extra roll offs for the transfer site for the 4th of July, which was slammed and closed early 2 days due to over filled. Raffin stated GFL is charging us \$19.00 per yard, and the 30-yard dumpsters and comes to \$770.00 per dumpster. I don't see how we are breaking even. Raffin understands Righi got his numbers from last year, but things have changed this year. Raffin stated it will be over \$1,500.00 for just those 2 30-yard dumpsters. June's bill was over \$4,000.00 and anticipate July will be over \$6,000.00. Szukhent mentioned we need to take a hard look at our prices and the transfer site is for Albert Township residents and for Vienna Township residents, we have many people from all over using our transfer site. Raffin stated we need to figure out a way to keep it for our Township residents only.

Szukhent also mentioned there are talks about Short Term Rentals.

Szukhent also brought up an issue about brinning the roads.

Szukhent talked about 25 MPH speed limit signs for ATV's and no enforcement for it.

Szukhent is working through the library title transfer. It is being fixed with the attorney.

Szukhent turned the floor over to Eric Smith about the vandalism at the restrooms. Eric would like to raise money for or help head up to lead with funding to the arrest or apprehension of the individuals. Baum stated maybe the cameras being installed

will help deter the vandalism. Raffin would like signs up. McDonald stated there is no sign for no life guard on duty. Public lady questions, was there a report done? Raffin stated, no there was not. Raffin has called before and nothing was done. Baum stated if there is no criminal complaint there can be no reward. Public man said he would give \$250.00 to help. Baum stated Raffin needs to keep track of hours that was put in to fix the restrooms. Public lady stated she saw a boy on the scooter racing up and down the road prior to vandalism.

Righi stated he has contacted the insurance company about the fences and we have a \$1,000.00 deductible.

Righi had a resident offer a floating raft, and contacted the insurance company and would not advise on doing that.

Righi thanked Greg for the kind thoughts. Politely declined having the room named after him.

e) Road Commission

No report.

12. Board Comments

None

13. Adjournment

Motion by Szukhent to adjourn, Second by McDonald at 9:00 pm.

All in favor: 5 Yeas

0 Nays

Motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by:

Hope Rosso, Albert Township Secretary