

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL 8, 2025

**Members Present:** Jim Pitsch - Supervisor, Renee Busscher - Clerk, Ashley Brower – Treasurer, Don Sebright – Trustee  
**Also preset:** Dan Kipen –Firechief, Lisa Vandebunte – Library Director  
**Absent:** Dan Striegle

Meeting was called to order by Jim Pitsch at 7:00PM  
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reading of Minutes and Bills, if no additions or corrections minutes and Bills will be considered to be approved and paid by consent.

County Road Commissioner: n/a

County Commissioner: n/a – update attached

**Comments from Commissions & Departments of:**

Zoning: no updates

Planning: Read email update from Dan Striegle.

Fire: Dan Kipen presented. See attached report.

Ambulance: Yankee Springs dropped out and costs re-adjusted to be spread over the remaining members, new chassis ordered.

Library: Lisa Vandebunte presented, see attached report.

Parks Planning: Met to see about replacing broken slide and adding soft fall to add dome that is waiting to be built.

Roads: Gas line put in incorrectly and in process of moving for the road.

**Public Comment:** Mention that library has a seed bank for those unaware.

**Old Business:**

1. SEMCO Gas Franchise Agreement Ordinance:  
*Postponed*  
Not completed, waiting on SEMCO
2. Zoning Change for Old Burnips Equipment Property known as Parcel 03-19-020-006-00 as proposed by the Salem Township Planning Commission:  
Moved by Renee Busscher, seconded by Don Sebright  
Discussion: preplanned in Master Plan to be commercial, to move from agricultural to commercial, Ashley Brower abstained from roll call vote.  
Roll Call Vote: Sebright- yes, Busscher – yes, Pitsch- yes
3. Salem Township Solar Ordinance Amendment:  
*Postponed* – it is not completed

**New Business:**

1. Salem Township Letter of Support Request from Frontier and 123 NET for BEAD Grant Funding:  
Don Sebright moved for support of 123Net, seconded by Ashley Brower  
Discussion: county is supporting 123Net, Frontier is more by South Haven  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
2. Wayland Ambulance Agreement Amendment:  
Moved by Ashley Brower to support, seconded by Renee Busscher  
Discussion: Wayland Ambulance group made the budget work without Yankee Springs  
Roll Call Vote: Brower – yes, Pitsch- yes, Sebright- Yes, Busscher – Yes
3. Hire Jody Boyles as the Salem Township Maintenance and Grounds Manager:

Moved by Don Sebright, seconded by Ashley Brower  
Discussion: he will be go to for sexton, lawn, cemetery, park head of those department  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Sandy Pines CC1 Bid Rejection: (\$500,000 over estimate, so Storm Room Committee suggests to redesign building and re-bid)

Moved by Don Sebright, seconded by Renee Busscher

Discussion: wondering if there is a timeline for this, in talks with State Police. Meeting at 10:30 on Thursday. Steve and Jim are working with FEMA to see if grant is still in place. Wightman is not fired, they are still working and Sandy Pines will pay them regardless.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Add a Salem Township Administration Fee for help in costs of Tax Collection:

*Postponed*

Discussion: looking to see if we can do less than 1% of the tax bill

**Public Comment:** n/a

**Board comments:**

Water will be turned on in park soon, still a little cold for the pipes currently. Newly cut keys are not working for park and cemetery. Cemetery has pine tree that broke and is laying there, leaves around, and headstone turned, trash left – thinking new ground maintenance to look into clearing up.

**Adjournment:**

Moved by Ashley Brower, seconded by Renee Busscher to adjourn meeting at 7:30PM

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\*\*See attachments on following pages



Pastor Craig Van Beek

Allegan County Commissioner District 1

Good afternoon Salem Township Board Members. I am scheduled to attend your meeting tonight but I will be in Lansing attending the Michigan Association of Counties Conference. My plan is to be at your next meeting in May. Please find my report below. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time.

### **Allegan County Medical Care Community March 2025 Master Planning Update**

Allegan County Medical Care Community traces its roots to 1866, when Allegan County established the County Poor Farm to provide for the poor, sick, homeless, and disabled of the County and to act as a safety net for those with needs that could not be met at home. The Allegan County Poor Farm was closed in 1968 as construction of the Allegan County Medical Care Facility, our current community, began on the same property. ACMCC has been in operation since 1971. We are going to be going through some extensive renovations to update our facility. We are going to reduce beds but we are converting space to accommodate couples as more couples are going into assisted living together.

### **Parks Recreation Plan**

In the 2022 citizen survey, 75% of respondents indicated a need for recreational opportunities. The 2020-24 Plan accomplished much, including but not limited to:

- Dumont Lake Park – Bank and bridge stabilization to prevent erosion (2021).
- Bysterveld Park – Walking trail enhancements (2022).
- Trowbridge Dam Property – Approved resolution to lease and manage the property (2022).

- Littlejohn Lake Park – Development of an 18-hole disc golf course, with construction starting in 2024 and opening planned for spring 2025.
- Ely Lake Campground – Addition of new playground equipment.

The Board will review and approve the 2025-2029 Recreation Plan in early 2025. The new Plan will include survey input to provide guidance on the future of County recreation needs. Getting people outside using our parks and trails is very important to our physical and mental health. I will continue to push increasing our parks and walking trail options for families to get outside and enjoy the outdoors.

### **2025 Allegan County National Community Survey Information**

Our survey that we have provided to residents has ended. The survey was a comprehensive survey that is used all over the country to gain information on what community members want to see for projects and where they would like funds to be directed. We should be getting those results very soon.

### **123 NET High Speed Internet**

High-speed internet over fiber optic cable will be available to 100% percent of the grant eligible addresses in Allegan County by the end of 2025. Allegan County is ahead of the game when it comes to getting high speed internet to all of our residents.

### **Water in Hamilton**

Hamilton schools is having issues with water quality and quantity as well as sewer concerns. At Blue Star elementary, they only have storage tanks for sewage which need to be pumped twice a month. Beyond that, they would like to explore the possibility of having water run to the elementary as well. Hamilton elementary also struggles with quality and quantity of water. Working with the school and John Yonker from Fillmore Township, we are looking into options for grant funds to bring in water and sewer to these areas and possibly more.



# SALEM TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

## CHECKOUTS 2025

Physical Items **6,013**



Digital Items **1,446**



Hotspots **20**



Steam Kits & LOT Items **93**



## CHECKOUTS 2024

Physical Items **6,524**



Digital Items **1,451**



Hotspots **17**



Steam Kits & LOT Items **107**



%

-8%

-23%

+43%

-24%

## ITEMS LOANED OUT

Number of physical items that were borrowed by other libraries

**2025**

**2024**

TBD

416

## 164 ITEMS ADDED

Number of physical items that were added to our collection

## 23 NEW PATRONS

## VISITS

Number of patrons who visited the library

### 2025

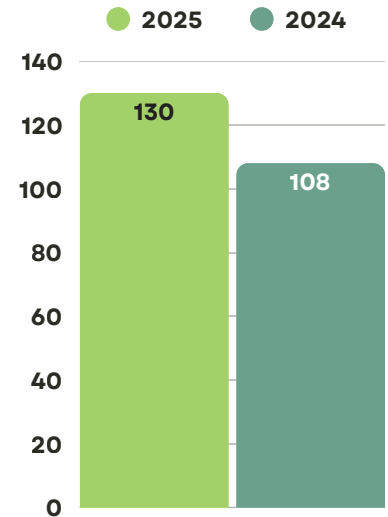
850 Adults    609 Kids    1,459 Total

### 2024

781 Adults    603 Kids    1,384 Total

## REFERENCES

When patrons ask for information



## MARCH PROGRAMS

Library programs provided and participant counts

- Crystal Blue Sled Dogs: 30
- AM Book Club: 8
- PM Book Club: 12
- Lego Club: 30
- Make an Oreo Cookie Pie: 16
- Animal Shelter Caring for Pets: 12

## APRIL PROGRAMS

Current & upcoming library programs and events

- April 1: Spring Reading Challenge for ages 12+
- April 7: Open Games and Perler Beads @ 1-3pm
- April 7: PM Book Club @ 7pm
- April 10: Snake Demonstration
- April 12: Lego Club for ages 5+
- April 21: Knitting and Crocheting Night @ 6pm
- April 28: AM Book Club @ 8:30am
- April 28: Soils with Jason Cass @ 6:30pm
- Story Time Every Wednesday @ 11am

## LIBRARY NEWS

What's happening at your library

- The library will be closed for carpet cleaning on May 6.
- Staff is working on an inventory of our collection.
- 30+ items were collected for the Wishbone Animal Shelter



**Salem Township Fire Department**  
**Monthly Report**  
**March 2025**

Projects	
SOGs	Working on updating operational SOGs
Grants	Working on grants to get headsets in 1712 and 1714
4H fire safety	Hosted a fire safety meeting for 4H from Ottawa County on 3/27/25- Focused on barn fire safety
Scouts fire safety	Hosted 2 nights of Fire Safety for Scouts from Hopkins
New Office maps	Working with Allegan County GIS to get updated maps for in the fire station
1731 pump	Need to replace skid unit
PPE	Will need to replace 4 sets of turnout gear- age and damage
Fit Testing	Will be conducting SCBA fit testing in April
SCBA Annual	SCBA annual flow test conducted 4/7/25- no issues

Total Fire and EMS Year To Date- 102			
Fire Incidents	Total -15	YTD-30	Incidents in Sandy Pines- 2
Type	Number of Incidents	District	Notes
Vehicle accident	1	1-Salem	Pedestrian ran over by their vehicle in Sandy Pines
Assist EMS	2	1-Salem 1-Monterey	WAEMS requested man power for list assist
Carbon Monoxide alarm	1	1-Salem	No CO found/ faulty detector in Sandy Pines
Woods/Grass Fire	2	1-Salem 1-Monterey	Salem grass fire Monterey woods fire
Illegal Burn	2	1-Salem 1-Monterey	Salem furniture/rubbish Monterey Fiberglass boat
Power lines	5	2-Salem 3-Monterey	Downed wires and trees on wires
Public Service	1	1-Salem	Smoke alarm install
Mutual aid disregard	1	1-Dorr	Possible structure fire
Year to date Incidents in Sandy Pines- 2			

Salem Township Fire Department has a dedicate group of personnel that respond from home and work to help keep the residents of Salem Township and the surrounding communities safe.



**Salem Township Fire Department  
Monthly Report  
March 2025**

EMS			
Total -15	YTD-49	Incidents in Sandy Pines-1	Incidents in Rehoboth- 0
District	Number of Incidents		
Salem-	12		
Monterey-	3		
Canceled Medical alarms- 1			
*Disregarded Priority 3 medical*	8	YTD Priority 3:	22
Year to date Medical Incidents in Sandy Pines- 2		Year to Date in Rehoboth- 1	

Trainings/Meetings	
Topic	Number of Personnel
Ropes & Knots/ Confined Space non-entry rescue	14
Officers meeting	4
Rope Rescue in Wayland	1
Powerline Safety at Jamestown	1
Fire Safety Scouts and 4H	2
Equipment Checks	5



2025 Firefighters Dinner- Movie Couples Theme

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