

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Members Present: Jim Pitsch - Supervisor, Renee Busscher - Clerk, Ashley Brower – Treasurer, Dan Striegle – Trustee, Don Sebright – Trustee
Also preset: Adam Mays –Fire Department Captain, Lisa Vandebunte – Library Director
Absent: n/a

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

Reading of previous board meeting Minutes and Bills, if no additions or corrections Minutes and Bills were approved and paid by consent.

County Road Commissioner: n/a

County Commissioner: at Fillmore tonight, see attached report.

Comments from Commissions & Departments of:

- *Zoning:* See attached sheet of zoning issues that we have currently (labeled Enforcement List). Lori is out of town. Noted that action date is not up to date on form.
- *Planning:* Solar Ordinance approved by planning commission. Completed document was supposed to be sent over to township board. It has not been received. Waiting on PCI to deliver. Striegle to follow up.
- *Fire:* Adam Mays presented, see attached report.
- *Ambulance:* Pitsch has not heard updates, will find out tomorrow night 9/10/25 during meeting.
- *Library:* Lisa Vandebunte presented, see attached report. Check out Library webpage for all information <https://saletownshiplibrary.org/>
- *Parks Planning:* Stripes are painted on the tennis court and it is completed now. Nets came in today. Pickleball courts are up to bid.
- *Roads:* no new updates. Unknown when 142nd will be striped – thinking this week 9/9/25.

Public Comment:

- Remark on striping: has called twice to the county road commission and has not had a call back, no phones are answered.
- Question about ponds in yard and if the fire department can use the pond to put out fire, can you get discount on taxes?
 - o Not something that is done in our township.
- Residents near 32nd and 146th had question about ditch digging. They are able to see the road is eroding their yard and could cause structural issues to home and foundation as home is located on hill.
 - o Ask that we get their information so we can get in touch with road commission to have engineer come and assess to make sure home is protected.

Old Business:

1. Salem Township Solar Ordinance Amendment (Solar Farms):

Postponed

Discussion: planning commission recommends it as written with only in industrial zoning. We don't have a lot of industrial, idea was to make its tougher to allow. Lawyer says it should be in Ag zoning. We could be taken to court with not allowing solar in Ag, which would be financially devastating to township.

2. Cell Tower:

Postponed, waiting on lawyer's update on starting negotiations.

New Business:

1. 2026 Flee Market:

Postponed

Discussion: Organizer to see about making agreement for pricing and hours. Need time for flea market from 7AM-3PM. Will schedule a time to discuss and vote next meeting.

2. 27th Street Issues between 144th and 146th – dealing with ORVs.

Moved by Renee Busscher to continue to allow county to oversee and allow ORVs, seconded by Ashley Brower.

Discussion: received list signatures in favor of ORV use on the road as currently allowed by county. Would consider if we received lists of signatures was opposing.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment:

- Statement on UTV on roads, finds it convenient. States it could be policed better.
- 27th and 146th, property owner put up cameras since people are coming into her property.
 - o Will have to reach out to police regarding people trespassing.
- Letter regarding request for consideration for idea for small temporary tiny home on property.
 - o Recommend to talk with PCI – Jason. Board approves ordinance, but planning commission would work on the ordinance changes if this is something we are able to allow.
- Harmsen property concerns
 - o Boat owner is not responding and is in Florida currently.
 - Recommend to go through Jason at PCI, and have it listed as abandoned vehicle, so it can be picked up.
- Cameras seeing into neighbor yard – do we have an ordinance on this?
 - o Believe this is a civil matter and would have to be handled accordingly.
- Discussion from supervisor:
 - o Statutory revenue sharing: Michigan wants to take away from local government and give to county.
 - o Turtle Drive got paved, it is a local county road but not built to county specs. County wants Salem and Monterey to sign papers to abandoned and turn into private road.

Adjournment:

Moved by Brower, seconded by Sebright to adjourn meeting at 8:00 PM

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Pastor Craig Van Beek

Allegan County Commissioner District 1

Good afternoon, Salem Township Board Members,

I pray each of you are well and ready for the transition from summer to fall. Tonight, I will be attending Fillmore's meeting. In October I will be at Overisel and back with you in November. As always, my goal is to serve you with transparency, accountability, and genuine care for our community's future. I welcome your questions, concerns, or ideas, and I remain grateful for the opportunity to represent you as your County Commissioner. Please find my report below.

Allegan County Fair

For the second year Allegan County will host a booth in the industrial building that will feature information on county services. We will also have Veterans Day on Thursday, September 11, 2025. Veteran Service Officers will be on-site from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Light refreshments and lunch vouchers will be made available while supplies last.

Taste of Allegan County

The Tourist Council will launch an exciting new initiative to showcase the local dining scene year-round! The Taste of Allegan County Postcard Program is designed to encourage both visitors and residents to dine locally, discover new restaurants, and support our tourism economy.

Allegan County Park Tour

On Tuesday, August 26th, the Commissioners completed the all-day tour of the county parks. Using one of the Transportation Department's buses, we visited each County park to review facilities and observe conditions firsthand. We continue conversations on funding and improvements for our County parks.

Courthouse Renovation

The renovations of the former Prosecuting Attorney suite on the second floor have been completed. District Court Probation and Prosecuting Attorney staff have commenced moving into the newly renovated space. Further renovation work will proceed in the old District Court Probation suite upon their complete relocation.

Allegan County Juvenile Center

The Allegan County Juvenile Center is a 22 bed co-ed secure facility for youth between the ages of 10-17. The function of juvenile detention is to provide temporary care for youth requiring secure custody pending court and disposition or pending transfer to another jurisdiction or agency. The County Commissioners took a tour of the center a couple weeks ago to look at needs for the home and the possibility of upgrading and expanding its facility in the future.



SALEM TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

CHECKOUTS 2025

Physical Items **6,646**



Digital Items **1,530**



Hotspots **31**



Steam Kits & LOT Items **91**



CHECKOUTS 2024

Physical Items **7,017**



Digital Items **1,599**



Hotspots **19**



Steam Kits & LOT Items **67**



%

-6%

-5%

+39%

+26%

ITEMS LOANED OUT

Number of physical items that were borrowed by other libraries

2025

2024

487

501

198 ITEMS ADDED

Number of physical items that were added to our collection

13 NEW PATRONS

VISITS

Number of patrons who visited the library

2025

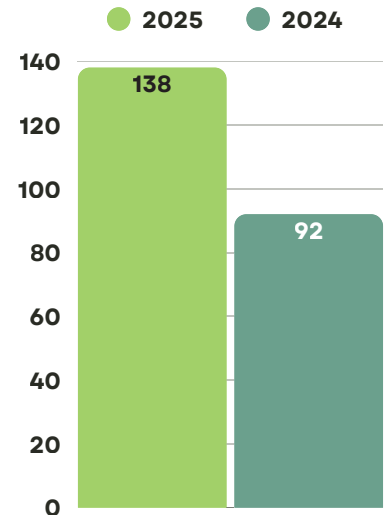
754 Adults 569 Kids 1,323 Total

2024

781 Adults 511 Kids 1,292 Total

REFERENCES

When patrons ask for information



AUGUST PROGRAMS

Library programs provided and participant counts

- Adult Book Clubs: 19
- Knitting & Crocheting Nights: 12
- Homeschooling Informational: 9
- Landscaping for Beneficial Predatory Insects: 3

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

Current & upcoming library programs and events

- September 8: PM Book Club @ 7pm
- September 11: Play N' Learn @ 11am
- September 15 & 29: Knit & Crochet Night @ 6pm
- September 20: Lego Club @ 11am
- September 22: CPR Class at @ 6:30pm
- September 29: AM Book Club @ 8:30am

LIBRARY NEWS

What's happening at your library

- First meeting was held with the Salem Township Future Facilities Committee
- Book Sale Began on September 2; \$7 / bag of books
- September 17: Library Closed for all staff training day with the ACLA



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

Projects	
SOGs	Working on updating operational SOGs
PPE	Sized and ordered 3 out of 4
Equipment ordered	The order for rescue equipment has been placed
New hires	Working through getting 2 new personnel on board
Apparatus annuals	Kleyn has been working through the annual DOT inspections and service of the apparatus. 1732, 1740, and 1741 have been completed.

Total Fire and EMS Year To Date- 295			
Fire Incidents	Total -25	YTD-106	Incidents in Sandy Pines- 0
Type	Number of Incidents	District	Notes
Structure Fire	1	1- Overisel	Assist on a barn fire
Grass Fire	2	1-Salem 1-Overisel	1 started from driveway sealing 1 in Overisel from hot brakes
Accident	5	3- Salem 2-Monterey	Salem- 1 minor injuries/ 1 serious/ 1 no injuries Mont. 1 serious w/ extrication-/ 1 no injuries
Downed Power Lines	1	1-Monterey	Trees down on wires
Hazmat Investigation	2	2-Salem	-EOC called to have a address check out, a vac-truck was dumped on some-ones property -Gas smell investigation
No Incident Found	2	2-Salem	iPhone dropped from car
Public Service	2	2-Salem	Smoke alarm install
Year to date Incidents in Sandy Pines- 7			

EMS			
Total -16	YTD-138	Incidents in Sandy Pines-5	Incidents in Rehoboth- 0
District	Number of Incidents		
Salem-	18		
Monterey-	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
August 2025**

Canceled Medical alarms-	2			
Disregarded Priority 3 medical	5	YTD Priority 3:	50	
Year to date Medical Incidents in Sandy Pines- 16		Year to Date in Rehoboth- 4		

Trainings/Meetings	
Topic	Number of Personnel
Pump Ops and Water Supply with Dorr	18
Officers meeting	5
Pump Ops and drafting	9
Equipment Checks	6

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.

Enforcement List

09/04/2025

Enforcement Number	Address/ Parcel Number	Category	Date Filed	Status	Next Action	Next Action Date	Date Closed
EN24-0020	3115 138TH AVE 03-19-028-027-00	Blight	03/22/2024	OPEN - CJ Entered. See CJ Entered 30 Da		09/19/2025	
EN24-0054	4443 27TH ST 03-19-011-017-20	Exterior Property	06/18/2024	Open - Complaint Recei	FOLLOW-UP IN	04/16/2025	
EN25-0059	3107 138TH AVE 03-19-028-028-00	Blight	06/13/2025	Open - First Letter Sent	FOLLOW-UP IN	06/30/2025	
EN25-0082	146TH AVE 03-19-011-001-21	Exterior Storage/Blg/She	07/18/2025	Open - Complaint Recei	SITE BID PARA	08/21/2025	
EN25-0099	3258 146TH AVE 03-19-008-004-10	Zoning Dispute	09/02/2025	Open - First Letter Sent	Needs 2nd Letter	09/18/2025	

Records: 5

Population: All Records

Enforcement.ParcelNumber Starts With 03-19 AND
 Enforcement.Status Starts With Open AND
 Enforcement.DateLastAction > 09/04/2025 - <1 Years>