

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

Members Present: Jim Pitsch - Supervisor, Renee Busscher - Clerk, Ashley Brower – Treasurer, Dan Striegle – Trustee, Don Sebright – Trustee
Also present: Dan Kipen –Fire chief, Officer Rewa - Allegan County Sheriff Office
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: n/a

Officer Rewa - Allegan Co Sheriff Office: presented – showed map of where ORV crashes had been, only one crash 26th and 139th in the past two years in Salem Township. County-wide statistics: 2023- nothing reported, 2024 – one fatal accident, 7 suspected serious injuries, 4 minor, 3 no injuries, 2025- no fatal, 2 serious suspected, 2 minor, and 2 with no injury. 31% of 2024 crashes involved alcohol. 21% of 2025 alcohol related. They don't write citations to all they stop. They are trying to educate first and not ticket every thing everyone is doing. ORV enforcement is new to deputies, and is a training topic as they learn and work through it in the department.

Public comment: said one fatal in 2024 was farm use would have happened as legal for farm use not just personal.

Comments from Commissions & Departments of:

- *Zoning:* one property monitored for blight is being torn down as the property was sold.
- *Planning:* Special use permit for Shed sales, had proposal for office and talked about renaming to change requirements
- *Fire:* Dan Kipen presented, see attached report.
- *Ambulance:* Pitsch wasn't in attendance at last meeting, nothing new to report.
- *Library:* See attached report. Check out Library webpage for all information <https://saletownshiplibrary.org/>
- *Parks Planning:* Pre Construction meeting scheduled for January
- *Roads:* 24th ongoing construction.

Public Comment:

n/a

Old Business:

1. Cell Tower: Accept Offer to sell our Lease Rights to Tower Alliance: (with terms of abandonment and lapse in lease, tower is removed and property put back to original topography)
Moved by Busscher as long as we talk with Josh the lawyer and abandonment is set to 5 years instead of 10, seconded by Striegle
Discussion: n/a
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New Business

1. Amend Wayland Area Ambulance Inter-Local Agreement:
Moved by Sebright, seconded by Brower
Discussion: no additional cost right now for Yankee Springs leaving. In March, new budget is approved. Amendment to stay during fiscal year, cannot pull out Mid Year. All other townships will need to pass it as well.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
2. Bid for Cemetery Tree Removal:
Moved by Brower, seconded by Striegle
Discussion: old trees that are falling and branches cracking, asked for bids from multiple places only
Shaffer got back to us, includes stump removal and clean up. Want to protect citizens in the cemetery.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Planning Commission Training Pay

Postponed

Discussion: MTA does training online, we have deal with MTA so it may be free for them to do online. Would need stipulation that is done, and proof of completion. Jim to look into it. Kim Pitsch asked if ZBA needs training as well. Based on state law, it needs to be done.

Public Comment:

n/a

Adjournment:

Moved by Brower, seconded by Sebright to adjourn meeting at 7:33PM

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
