

Salem Township Planning Commission

Minutes, February 5, 2026

Salem Township Hall

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance – 7 pm

Roll Call of Members – Present – Striegle, Coupe, Pitsch, Oosterink (chair), Berens, Meyers, Wagner

Recognition of Visitors – ZBA – Crismon, Coffey

Public Hearing Guidelines – noted as at bottom of Agenda.

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Motion by Meyers, Second by Wagner. Carried.

Comments from the Public – Brad DeWeerd from Zeeland Township – reported that solar farm project proposed for 1900 acres which shares an aquifer with Salem Township will be further explained at company sponsored meeting on February 26 at Drenthe Grove. All are asked to attend.

Approval of the Agenda for the Meeting – Motion by Pitsch. Second by Striegle. Carried.

Inquiry of Conflict of Interest – none noted.

New Business

Public Hearing for Sandy Pines Chapel – Special Use Permit and Site Review for Expansion. Opened at 7:06. Jim Buchanan from Sandy Pines explained that this project is supported by Sandy Pines for younger members by adding to existing building to provide lounge and kitchen area. No landscaping will be disturbed and none added. Parking is plenty as most attendees come by golf cart. 7:13 – Public Comment – none. PC discussion none. Public Hearing closed at 7:15.

Findings of Fact 15.03

- a) Complies – addition with same purpose as existing use.**
- b) Complies – as building already there.**
- c) Complies – Sandy Pines has own services.**
- d) Complies – existing**
- e) Complies – is addition**
- f) Complies – existing**

Motion to approve as requested (no conditions) by Pitsch. Second by Coupe. Carried.

Site Plan review – 7:20 pm. Parking for golf carts including ADA are smaller and more will be added behind new building. Public Comment – none. Planning Commission concerns – none.

Motion to approve without conditions by Striegle, Second by Pitsch. Carried. 7:25 pm

Old Business –

Public hearing set for March for Ordinance amendment concerning backyard/hobby farms. Option 2 was selected and in one place reworded to make more streamlined.

Moratorium Resolution regarding data centers was reviewed and recommended to Township Board. Motion by Coupe, Second by Berens. Motion carried.

Battery Storage discussion postponed to March meeting. Jason is requested to bring draft - in order to facilitate local control.

Training – MSU Citizen Planner – all PC Members will be participating. Request that Clerk enroll members so that Township can make a single payment. Members will keep track of the time they put n.

Reports

Township Board – Gun Lake Casino donated rescue vehicle (used, as they are replacing) and it was accepted. Food ruck approved for Flea Market. 24th Street paving put out for bids.

PCI – none. Steve represented PCI for this meeting.

Correspondence received – none

Other/Roundtable – none

Next Meeting – March 5, 2026

Adjournment – Motion by Wagner, Second by Coupe . Carried. 7:50 pm.