

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
June 17, 2025
Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:01 P.M. by the Supervisor.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call of Officers – Levi Ellis (Supervisor) present; Daryl Wilcox (Treasurer) present; Sharon Mattis (Clerk) present; Stephen Girard (Trustee) present; Denise Hudson (Trustee) present.
4. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve Agenda with the following addition: Add New Item 14: Approve a \$350.00 payment from Fire on the Bay donated funds for t-shirts (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve May 20, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve May 2025 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Budget Amendments Report – There were no budget amendments to report this month. The next report will include amendments through 30 June 2025.
8. Treasurer's Report – **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Approval of Bills –
 - a. **Motion** to approve a \$455.06 payment to Road Machinery & Supplies for backhoe repair (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Motion** to approve Bills to be Paid (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Committee & Department Reports:
 - a. Ambulance Department: K. Bourgeois for J. Boudreaux/Ambulance Coordinator:
 - i. There were six (6) calls since the last meeting.
 - ii. We have the Zoll cardiac monitor on site. It is a demonstration unit. We had training last week on it. We will decide in a few weeks if this monitor will work for the Department. So far it looks like it will.
 - b. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/EMS:

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- i. The Food Bank is shut down for the summer, but food is still available at any time. If needed, just call the township or Emergency Management Department.
 - ii. I was asked to sit in for the Wildfire Protection Plan for Marquette County. Meetings are starting soon, and I will be attending.
- c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
- i. There were two (2) calls since the last meeting. There was a lockout and a single-car accident.
 - ii. We also received the Marquette Wildfire Protection Plan Meetings notice and plan to attend if able.
 - iii. Just a reminder, the township usually gets a deputy for Fire on the Bay traffic control. This is because there have not been enough volunteers over the last few years to support this need.
 - iv. The agenda item for the fleet maintenance and inspections item is an estimate so that we are not caught off guard if the inspector arrives early (as in, prior to the next board meeting approval opportunity) and funds are required for any immediate compliance actions.
- d. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/Chair:
- i. Regarding the Spark Grant and Draver Park construction/upgrades:
 - 1. Deconstruction started, and new construction starts soon.
 - 2. Thank you to Supervisor Levi Ellis for taking the lead on this project. He has been coordinating and deconflicting with the architects and Hall Contracting to ensure compliance with codes and contracts during several plan changes.
 - ii. Regarding the Safe Routes to School Grant:
 - 1. Mike Springer gave a presentation to Powell Township School Board on April 23, 2025.
 - 2. A new Committee was formed, and they met with all the grant stakeholders.
 - 3. The timeline has been extended for the October 2025 Grant Cycle due to the changes and delays.
 - iii. The May 17, 2025, Big Bay Relay fundraiser brought in around \$7,000.00 for Powell Township Recreation Area (PTRA) trail systems.
 - iv. The May-July newsletter is out and posted online and around town.
 - v. Regarding the Summer Concert Series, there will be one (1) concert this year on July 12, 2025. The band is Ramble Tamble. This event will take place at the Burns Landing Pavilion 7:30 -10:00 P.M. There will be electricity at the LeClair Cabin and the Burns Landing Pavilion.

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- vi. Remaining Events for the year include:
 - 1. Fire on the Bay, July 12, 2025: Fundraising Chair - Levi Ellis
 - 2. Christmas Tree Lighting, December 6, 2025: Lead - Laurie Shaw
- vii. The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission is working on the data received from the Powell Township 5-Year Recreation Plan community survey. They are currently working on goals and objectives, and the action plan.
- viii. The Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) administration reviewed and sent the revised version to the Powell Township Supervisor for legal review and signature.
- ix. The Parks and Recreation Department has populated all the new planters around town with foliage and flowers, and they look great. Thank you to Coty Sorby for planting them.
- x. We are working with the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) and the Big Bay Stewardship Council (BBSC) on current trail maps for both of our trail systems.
- xi. The town's 4th of July parade is at 10:00 A.M. this year.
- xii. There is an NTN trail maintenance event on the Sweet Pine trail on July 22, 2025, 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. Volunteers are encouraged. We will meet at the PTRA Trail Head at 5:30 to start the event.
- xiii. We are also looking for help maintaining the town's new Native Garden at the Big Bay Pathway Trailhead. Native Garden Work Session dates are below.
 - 1. July 8, meet at 6 P.M. at the Big Bay Pathway Trailhead entrance.
 - 2. August 14, meet at 6 P.M. at the Big Bay Pathway Trailhead entrance.
- e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee:
 - i. Bruce Hutchinson is the new Planning Commission Chairperson, and Michael Kantola is the new Vice Chairperson. Both were sworn in.
 - ii. We also have two (2) job openings:
 - 1. Planning Commission Member
 - 2. Recording Secretary
 - iii. There was no report this month.
 - iv. There was discussion with new members about the Master Plan Checklist.
 - v. The Zoning Book needs to be reviewed, to include a focus on these items:
 - 1. Storage containers on properties
 - 2. Rental units and properties

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- vi. We are requesting 1-2 Zoning Books from the Board that the county has put out.
- vii. I encourage everyone to attend the meetings.
- viii. The next Planning Commission Meeting is July 16, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

- f. Sewer Department: C. Sorby for S. DeMoulin: Nothing to report.

- g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:
 - i. Aqua-Line Leak Detection Services was here early in the month and found three (3) leaks. We are working to resolve the leaks. The reports on the leaks are available on request.
 - ii. There are two (2) reports due at the end of June and we are on track completing them.
 - 1. Materials List for the Lead & Copper Rule
 - 2. Consumer Confidence Report

- 11. Correspondence:
 - a. From Powell Township Assessor: A Letter to Powell Township Residents regarding tax collection scam or fraud attempts is posted on the township bulletin boards and township website. Please spread the word.
 - b. From the Marquette County Clerk: The Public Accuracy Tests for the August 5, 2025, Special Election will be held for Powell Township on Monday, July 14, 2025, at Powell Township Hall, 101 Bensinger Street, in Big Bay, Michigan. Notice is posted on the town site, bulletin boards, and town hall doors.
 - c. From Powell Township Planning Commission: Meetings are now monthly on the third Wednesday of the month.
 - d. From Michigan Secretary of State (SOS): If enough residents are interested, the township will request a local SOS Mobile Office Event. If interested, please call or e-mail Powell Township (906-345-9345 ext. 10, clerk@powelltownship.org, or dep-clerk@powelltownship.org). Please mention a few days and times of the week that might work best for you, in case we can find an optimal time for everyone.
 - e. From Marquette County Register of Deeds Office: Property Fraud Alert services are available. The flyers with full information are in the town hall and posted on the Marquette County website.
 - f. From Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR): You can review and comment on 2027 local forest plans before they are finalized. Proposed plans are online at the DNR Forestry Public Input page, or by request by calling the DNR. There are mail, e-mail, online, and in-person

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options for public input. You can call or use the DNR Forestry Public Input page for info and inputs or attend the in-person OPEN HOUSE (3 to 6 P.M., June 25, 2025, at the Baraga Customer Service Center). The DNR will take all inputs and then decide on final treatment plans for forests in this region at a formal review on July 17, 2025.

- g. From U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the GREAT LAKES TUNNEL PROPOSAL: A tunnel proposal was submitted, and the USACE is taking any input from you and others about it. An Environmental Impact Statement is available for your review and any comments. All details and submission deadlines are at www.line5tunneleis.com. The due dates and basics are also posted on the township bulletin boards and website.
- h. From Bay Cliff Health Camp and Powell Township staff: The annual 4th of July Parade starts early, at 10 A.M., to kick off the day. The parade route is posted in newsletters, online, and on boards, and it is the usual route from previous years.
- i. From the Marquette 4-H Council MSU Extension: 2025 Plat Books are available for \$40. Details and official links are posted in the township office and on the township website.
- j. From the Big Bay Stewardship Council (BBSC) and the Big Bay Fitness group - Charise Baker will be leading an exercise class in town hall, open to everyone, every Wednesday from 5:30 P.M. to 6:20 P.M. If further information is needed, the contact number is 906-360-8529, OR you can check or message the Facebook group page for "Big Bay Fitness".
- k. From the Parks and Recreation Committee: New local trail usage statistics are available and will be posted to the town website this week.
- l. From the Powell Township and Marquette County Clerks:
 - i. A local Public Accuracy Test Notice is posted at town hall. The Test will take place on Monday, July 14, 2025, 10:00 A.M., at Powell Township Hall, in preparation for the August 5, 2025, Special Election. A Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programs used to record and count the votes cast at an election meet the requirements of law.
 - ii. A Notice of Registration for the Tuesday, August 5, 2025, Special Election, To the Qualified Electors of Precinct One of Powell Township, County of Marquette, State of Michigan, is posted at town hall. It includes in-person registration hours and registration deadlines.
 - iii. A Notice of Election for the Tuesday, August 5, 2025, Special Election, To the Qualified Electors of Precinct One of Powell Township, County of Marquette, State of Michigan, is posted at town hall. This is for the

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Operating Millage Renewal Proposition. The polls will be open on August 5th from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

- m. From the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWA): The solid waste tipping fees at the MCSWA location will increase to \$87.00 per ton effective July 1, 2025.

12. Presentations: Heidi Shatz gave an NTN Bike Race/Event Summary.
- a. The event is on Friday, July 11, 2025.
 - b. NTN is doing a “small town series” of events and this is part of it.
 - c. They will be biking at/near the Sweet Pine and Powell Peak trails so that there are no major road cross-over requirements during the event.
 - d. There were 35-50 people at the last similar event.
 - e. The event is advertised on social media, to include this wording:
“Welcome to the NTN Town Mountain Bike Series! — a celebration of the trails and two-wheeled machines that make the greater Marquette area a premier riding destination. This four-race grassroots XC series highlights our unique terrain and trails, mixing friendly competition with local flavor. Join us for one, join in for all. Open to all ages as well as Class 1 e-bikes. No charge for pre-registered NTN members (\$5 day of), \$10 donation for others (Donation bucket at check-in). Bring a dish to pass for the post-race potluck. Whether you’re racing all four or dropping in for one, the Mountain Bike Town Series brings the community together to ride hard or easy, smile, enjoy time together and celebrate our trails.”
 - f. Contact information: Lori Hauswirth, Executive Director, NTN Trails, (906) 487-6635, www.noquetrails.org

Public Comment:

- Kyann Clark:
 - o I have lived in Powell Township for about 12 years.
 - o I specialize in wildlife rehabilitation, specifically during the season April 1st through October 1st.
 - o I obtained my wildlife rehabilitation license and in 2019 opened Wilson Creek Wildlife Rehab Center on our family property.
 - o I’m having a hard time accommodating all the wildlife, and I plan to open the Upper Peninsula’s first rehab spot.
 - o It will be called the Superior Wildlife Rehab and Education Center. Education and training will be a huge part of it.
 - o The Center’s mission statement will be:
To build a dedicated wildlife rehabilitation facility that can

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accommodate the injured/orphaned wildlife from multiple counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. To care for wildlife in a space that is ethical and humane while offering resources and education to the public. To create sustainability for future licensed wildlife rehabilitators in our area by providing a place for consistent supervised training.

- I would love to build it in Powell Township if possible.
- I just wanted to open the lines of communication between me and the Board, and I hope to sit down and discuss this project soon.
- Gene Champagne:
 - I have also received potential property fraud or scam mail. Mine came claiming it was from Grand Marais officials.
 - I am in favor of an SOS mobile office event here in town.
 - Regarding the Public Accuracy Test, I encourage people to see it. It shows the public how we catch voting mistakes and false data or scam attempts, so that every legitimate vote gets counted.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Utility Billing: **Motion** to approve a \$440.40 payment from water and sewer funds for postage-paid billing envelopes (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
2. Election Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$567.60 payment from election funds for election and voter card ballot envelopes and postage fees (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
3. Assessments: **Motion** to approve appointment of Jim Maki as Powell Township Assessor Aide effective June 16, 2025 (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
4. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$540.00 payment from maintenance funds for annual fire extinguisher maintenance (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve an \$8,000.00 payment from maintenance funds for annual fleet maintenance and Department of Transportation inspections (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

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6. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$250.00 payment from maintenance funds for annual Station 1 emergency backup generator maintenance (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$425.00 purchase from donated funds for a wildland nozzle for Truck 2104's new hose reel (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the wording for the \$3,000.00 Hirvonen Foundation Grant application submission letter (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a Noquemanon Trail Network "Big Bay Shuffle" Bike Event on July 11, 2025, near the Sweet Pine and Powell Peak trail routes (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$450.00 payment from trail services funds for trail culverts (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
11. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$150.00 payment from Thomas Rock operating funds for wood stain (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
12. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$100.00 payment from Summer Concert Series funds for the Fire on the Bay Concert band advertisements (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Motion** to approve a \$2,909.61 payment and a \$225.00 payment to Michigan Townships Association for annual, legal, e-learning, and training class dues (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
14. **Motion** to approve a \$350.00 payment from Fire on the Bay donated funds for Fire on the Bay 2025 t-shirts to sell (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Jean Gertz – Some places are getting cleaned up around town, and I would like to thank whoever is doing it.
- Jane Gertz – Wondering if we have a different Fire on the Bay t-shirt design for this year (Heidi Shatz answered that it is).

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- Karen December – If you can do anything about the year on the Fire on the Bay t-shirts, e.g. remove the year, it might help with resale in future years.

Board Comment:

- Denise Hudson – We do have a Planning Commission Meeting tomorrow night, and we are taking applications for the open seat as well as a Recording Secretary.
- Daryl Wilcox – An additional thank you to Levi Ellis for taking the initiative and taking care of local blight issues.
- Levi Ellis – Regarding any cleanup, we are a community and here to help. If residents would like help, we can drop off the town trailer for you to fill with unwanted items on your property. Then we will pick it up later and transport the contents for you. If you contact the township, we will arrange an evening or weekend to drop off the trailer, then pick it up the next workday.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 7:53 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk