

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:04 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: New Item 17: Approve the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) Memorandum of Understanding with Powell Township for signature (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve August 19, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve July 2025 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve July 2025 Budget Amendments Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Treasurer's Report – **Motion** to approve July 2025 Treasurer's Report (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve Bills to Be Paid (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Committee & Department Reports:
 - a. Ambulance Department: M. Anderson for J. Boudreaux/Ambulance Coordinator:
 - i. There were ten (10) calls since the last meeting.
 - ii. One included a long extraction.
 - iii. Thank you to Levi Ellis for assistance with electrical issues in ambulance.
 - b. Emergency Management: L. Ellis for K. Bourgeois/EMS: We will be reconvening the Food Bank beginning in October.

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

- c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
 - i. There were two (2) calls this month, one lockout and one tree clearing.
 - ii. We had five new firefighter candidate members attend the last meeting. They will start local training soon.
 - iii. We may have more, as many as six or seven total new trainees, possibly more.
- d. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/ Chair:
 - i. Safe Routes to School – there was a meeting with Max Fulkerson and some school board members, and things are on the right track. More to follow.
 - ii. The 5-Year Recreation Plan will have a new CUPPAD member assisting with its completion. Our previous contact has since left CUPPAD
 - iii. There is a Native Garden Work Bee session tomorrow, 17 September. We will meet at the Big Bay Trailhead. It starts at 5:30 P.M., but we will be there as early as 5 P.M.
 - iv. The Tree Planting event is also on September 18. There are flyers online and throughout the town bulletin boards with all details. Volunteers will meet in the Marquette County Road Commission parking lot.
 - v. The holiday tree lighting is on December 6.
- e. Planning Commission: L. Ellis for D. Hudson/Trustee Liaison: There is a meeting tomorrow at 7 P.M. in the Township Hall.
- f. Sewer Department: L. Ellis for S. DeMoulin:
 - i. We had the septic system pumped this year.
 - ii. Seven (7) loads were pumped, and all looks good following the removal.
- g. Water Department: L. Ellis for C. Sorby/Water Operator:
 - i. The water tests for lead, copper, and nitrates were completed and submitted this month, and results will be available soon.
 - ii. On Thursday there will be a new fire hydrant installation to replace the leaking hydrant adjacent to the cemetery.
- 11. Correspondence:
 - a. From Hall Construction and Spark Grant meetings and correspondence: A monthly Draver Park construction progress report is as follows:

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

- i. Thursday we will be doing a substantial completion walkthrough. This is not the final signoff on everything; this is a walkthrough to check that major items are complete.
- ii. We are still expecting two pieces of playground equipment. They will be placed in the park next spring. They are still in port and will arrive late. The special rubber pad placements for them are best installed in the spring with the warmer weather.
- iii. There was vandalism on the door of the new building. There was a police report filed and we are in the process of working that out.
- iv. There was another incident with a name written on the new playground bear in permanent ink. Thank you to Anne Carey for taking the time to clean and remove the marks.
- b. From "Frontline Strong Together" organization: Please see our flyers throughout town for free, confidential, and secure support and training programs for first responders and their families.
- c. From the Presbyterian Community Church:
 - i. There is an annual Harvest Dinner on October 4, 2025. It is open to everyone with purchased tickets. The meal will be turkey, stuffing, trimmings, dessert, coffee, tea, and milk. Please see the flyers posted at Town Hall and on community boards for all details.
 - ii. Monthly Free Community Dinners resumed on Tuesday, September 9 and are also open to everyone. There will be no Community Dinner in October due to the October 4 Harvest Dinner.
- d. Second reminder from Marquette County Equalization Department: Marquette County will mail Winter Tax Bills on or after November 28, 2025.
- e. From Powell Township Election Department:
 - i. A second reminder that the Powell Township School Millage Special Election is on November 4, 2025, 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
 - ii. The Township Clerk's office extended hours for election registration are Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 - iii. The Public Accuracy Test for the election is on Monday, October 20, 2025, 10:00 A.M., at Town Hall.
 - iv. There will be a job posting for additional Election Inspectors soon. Until then, if interested, please inquire at the township office or call 906-345-9345 extension 10.
 - v. For all current Election Inspectors: please update your application if you wish to remain in place for any elections after January 1, 2026.
- f. From Powell Township:
 - i. There is still an open Planning Commission Member job posting on the town website and on community boards.

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

- ii. Job postings for a Recording Secretary and an Office Administration position will also post soon.
- iii. Until then, please inquire at the town office if interested.
- g. From 906 Recycling: A new recycling brochure is available on our 906 Recycling website, and printed versions are available on the table inside Powell Township Hall or on request.
- h. From the Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee (CUPMMPC): There is a meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 3 P.M., in the boardroom of the Delta County Service Center, 2920 College Avenue, Escanaba, Michigan. CUPMMPC creates the Materials Management Plan regulating solid waste disposal, recycling, and composting in this county. More information is available at CUPPAD's site: www.cuppad.org/materials-management.
- i. From Planning Commission: Dottie Lajoie from Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) and Jane Fitkin from the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy will both be presenting at this month's Planning Commission meeting, which is tomorrow night, September 17, at 7 P.M. Jane will be discussing wetland protection zones.

12. Presentations: None.

Public Comment:

- D. Savitski - Regarding Powell starting to maintain and gravel the alleys, here are some issues and suggestions. Gravel kicks up dust and encourages unwanted traffic. Weeds also grow in gravel. Wondering what the purpose is of opening the alleys. A more nuanced approach is to focus on the problems within certain alleys more. Maybe the township should just target the alleys that have issues or are not maintained and leave the others alone.
- D. Turner – There is no monthly free community dinner in October due to the October 4 Harvest Dinner.
- H. Shatz – Someone previously made a presentation about Highline and there are questions about when they are coming back and what the progression of the rural fiber placement is. (L. Ellis responded that Highline's goal is to have things running sometime in November, and we expect them to come back sometime before that. He will get some more details soon.)
- K. Wermager –
 - o Fall Fest is this Saturday in Draver Park, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

- The Big Bay Stewardship Council (BBSC), in partnership with Travel Marquette, made new local map-brochures. Stacks are available throughout town and in the town hall for anyone to check out or possibly use if you have rentals or guests.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. **Motion** to approve a \$592.83 payment for additional County Road KK overband crack sealing repairs (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Motion** to approve the L-4029 2025 Tax Rate Request Form for garbage, operating, street, and road tax rates (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Motion** to approve a \$1944.28 payment to 906 Technologies for township Office 365 and email upgrades (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Motion** to approve a \$13.13 monthly business rate charge per user to 906 Technologies for Office 365 use and maintenance (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Transfer Station: **Motion** to approve an \$814.50 payment from repair funds to JP Electric for emergency compactor repairs (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Ambulance Department: **Motion** to approve a maximum \$4,000.00 payment for ambulance repairs and potential headlight upgrades (D. Hudson, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve five (5) firefighter candidates as named below.
 - a. Scott DeMoulin (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Levi Ellis (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). Four (4) in favor, one (1) abstain, motion carried.
 - c. Caden Reed (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. Devin Santilli (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
 - e. Isaac Varty (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

8. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve \$2,000.00 in payments to the Upper Peninsula Health Systems – Occupational Medicine for MIOSHA-required pre-employment physicals (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
 - a. Five (5) total employment candidates
 - b. Each physical costs \$400.00
9. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$75.00 increase in total purchases for Fire Prevention Week school kids' materials (D. Hudson, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve purchasing all Fire Prevention Week school kids' materials (totaling \$425.00) from donated funds instead of training funds (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
11. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$1,120.00 payment from maintenance funds to MacQueen for biennial Hurst extrication tool maintenance (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
12. Buildings and Grounds: **Motion** to approve a \$665.20 payment from vehicle repairs funds to Fox Ford for windshield diagnosis and right-side window replacement (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
13. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve up to \$400.00 in purchases from maintenance funds for paint and paint supplies to update Draver Park's bleachers prior to Fall Fest (D. Hudson, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
14. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$150.00 payment for Big Bay Pathway Trailhead Native Garden tree protectors (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
15. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$2,100.00 purchase for two signs to place at trailhead and Draver Park locations (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
16. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$2,500.00 purchase for a Draver Park flagpole (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
17. **Motion** to approve the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) trail Memorandum of Understanding with Powell Township for signature (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 16, 2025
Minutes

Public Comment:

- D. Savitski – Regarding New Item 3, there are a lot of free items such as Google Suite and other options you may want to consider, to save money.
- M. Anderson – The money for the physicals will go to UPHS Occupational Medicine in New Item 8.

Board Comment:

- L. Ellis – Thank you to Fire Chief Matt Anderson for coordinating local firefighter training options. This helped us get all our new firefighter candidates who could not train anywhere else due to time and distance.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 7:50 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk