

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
January 20, 2026
Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:07 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 (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes
 - a. **Motion** to approve the December 16, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Motion** to approve the January 9, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve the December 2025 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve the December 2025 Budget Amendments Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Treasurer's Report - **Motion** to approve the December 2025 Treasurers Report (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve the Bills to Be Paid (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Public Hearing
 - a. **Motion** to open the Public Hearing (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Public Comments
 - i. Heidi Shatz mentioned that some wording changes regarding the Heritage Trail on page 33 may be considered in future revisions, particularly from “maintain and enhance” to “establish and maintain.”

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- ii. Coty Sorby mentioned that some of the major long-term goals need prioritizing soon, so that we can tackle some of it this year and find and apply for grants, specifically for items such as land acquisition and trail enhancement. Also, a thank you to all those who have helped with so many things with the parks and trails.
- c. Board Comments
 - i. Daryl Wilcox thanked all Parks and Recreation Committee members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.
 - ii. Sharon Mattis and Levi Ellis seconded this sentiment.
- d. **Motion** to close the Public Hearing (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

11. Committee & Department Reports:

- a. Ambulance Department: J. Boudreaux/Ambulance Coordinator:
 - i. There were four (4) calls since the last meeting.
 - ii. Isaac Varty completed the main certification requirements and will be up to speed and part of the crew soon.
- b. Emergency Management: L. Ellis for K. Bourgeois/Emergency Manager:
The next Food Bank opening is tomorrow night, January 21, 2026, from 5 to 7 P.M. at the Bill Dionne/Halfway Fire Hall.
- c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
 - i. There were six (6) calls since the last meeting, and most were to do with storms and power lines.
 - ii. Training is currently underway. Four (4) trainees have been attending, and we greatly appreciate their motivation.
 - iii. We were awarded a State of Michigan grant which will give us \$4,500.00 in matching funds. This will help us replace outdated wildland gear.
- d. Parks and Recreation Department: H. Shatz/Chair:
 - i. The Honey Bear Classic Ski and Snowshoe Event is February 14, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. This event helps pay for trails and maintenance. We need about ten (10) volunteers. If anyone is interested, they can email Heidi or email the event staff from the Honey Bear Classic website.

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- ii. We are also in need of general trail grooming volunteers. We have had a great season already with all the snow. Grooming help is always needed.
- iii. We did have two (2) people interested in joining the Committee, and they came to the last meeting to check it out.
- e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee Liaison: The next regular meeting is tomorrow night, January 21, 2026, at 7 P.M. in Powell Township Hall.
- f. Sewer Department: C. Sorby for S. DeMoulin: All is well.
- g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:
 - i. Respectfully request that residents be careful not to snowplow into their water sensors. We are losing connections with those that are hit.
 - ii. Other than that, and some resets following loss of power during storms, all is well.

12. Correspondence:

- a. From Powell Township:
 - i. Current township job postings are available at the powelltownship.org main page and on community boards. The postings are for:
 - 1. General Office Clerk
 - 2. Recording Secretary
 - 3. Election Inspector
 - 4. Planning Commission Member
 - ii. There is also an open Parks and Recreation Committee member position. If interested, please inquire with Heidi Shatz, Kelly Cain, or township staff.
 - iii. The township installed an automated payment system that will be available beginning January 26, 2026. The system sits in the township office at the front desk.
- b. From Emergency Management:
 - i. The Bill Dionne (Halfway) Fire Hall Food Bank opens the first and third Wednesday of the month from 5 to 7 P.M. through March

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2026. The upcoming dates are January 21st, February 4th and 18th, and March 4th and 18th.

- ii. Boxes for Food Bank donations are available in the township hall and office areas. Dry goods and toiletries are also welcome/accepted. Any donations are greatly appreciated.
- iii. In March we will decide on openings for any further spring dates.

c. From the Marquette County Senior Center:

- i. There is still a part-time Big Bay Homemaker Aide job available.
- ii. Notices are posted in town hall and offices, and throughout the township.
- iii. If interested, please use the contact information on the job posting, or call the center's office at 906-228-0456.
- iv. We also have a presentation tonight from the Senior Center's staff, who can also answer questions.

d. From Highline:

- i. Under Michigan law and federal regulations, you have the right to reduce unwanted marketing calls on your phone.
- ii. If not already done, you can register your number for free with the National Do Not Call Registry. You can also find out if your number is already on the list or file a complaint if you still get calls.
- iii. A letter with the details on how to check or register your number, or file a complaint, is available in township offices and on the hall table.

13. Presentations:

a. Marquette County Senior Services Center

- i. Maureen McFadden gave a public outreach services presentation.
- ii. The full presentation is posted under attachments of the January 20, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes at powelltownship.org (or we can print or email it on request).
- iii. All Powell Township residents who meet senior status qualify for free services from the Senior Services Center (because residents fall under

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- the millage supporting Senior Center funding). This includes using the gym and facilities at the Center in Marquette.
- iv. We will also have more free senior services days in Powell Township Hall here in Big Bay. There were two (2) days recently and more are planned. If a resident is unable to attend, the Senior Center staff can also work with people via phone, email or online, or scheduled home visits.
 - v. There are also free tax assistance appointments available at the Marquette Senior Center. There is a discussion on the potential for next year's tax assistance appointment availability here in Powell Township.
 - vi. During the Questions and Answers session, Sven Gonstead asked about potential coordination on a community center, which is a large goal in the next five (5) years as part of recreation planning. Maureen mentioned that there are some ideas already generated including potentially funding or sharing funding for a health and wellness, or recreation, specialist who could work locally. Brainstorming is currently underway at the Senior Center to create and fund this without increasing any taxes or change millage rates. She is open to any ideas the township may have and is open to any discussions, coordination, shared funding, etc.
 - vii. Matt Anderson asked about helping residents apply for home heating assistance. We will send him the information for people to apply and who they may need to contact if not the Marquette Senior Center (e.g. Ishpeming). This information is also at the Senior Center site, or on request, or in the senior services packets available at the town hall. The Senior Center will also be sending more
 - viii. Maureen also mentioned the high costs of incontinence supplies. The Senior Center can help apply for reduced cost and/or free supplies. These forms are also available in the senior resource packets available here in the hall. We can also print forms on request.
- b. Treado Engineering Services
- i. Matt Treado gave a formal water system update and discussed the requirements and goals for 2026.
 - ii. Matt is working directly with Water Operator Coty Sorby on the major eco-regulatory compliance requirements for the town.
 - iii. This includes a water system master map update.
 - iv. It also includes compliance with the Lead-Copper Rule (LCR) for all township service lines. The purpose of the LCR is to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water. We

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submitted samples and received Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) confirmation of compliance.

- v. A fire flow analysis and models are also a priority. We are currently testing hydrants and gathering field data.
- vi. We continue to preemptively gather information on the whole of the water system, in case there are additional EGLE requests.
- vii. Regarding an asset management plan, we are coordinating on capital improvements and larger-scale items that may be necessary over the next twenty years.
- viii. Funding projections are based off of the last five (5) years of trends. The primary goal is water system reliability and cost-effective sustainability.
- ix. During questions and answers, Sharon Mattis asked how much engineering services time will be used on these projects? Matt Treado answered that the range is 6,000-10,000 hours, and the fire flow analysis will take the largest amount of time. There are lower cost implications for the other focus items.
- x. Levi Ellis asked if the capital improvements will focus on identifying critical infrastructure needs so that we are never spending more money on fixing items that are likely more suited to a lower-costing replacement. A primary concern is the Dump Road water line. Matt Treado answered that the Dump Road improvement almost, but not quite, made it to the 2015 infrastructure improvement plan. It is currently the primary criticality under scrutiny due to its length and age.
- xi. Daryl Wilcox asked about galvanized lines and any issues. After lengthy research, EGLE concurred that lead goosenecks were not an issue since they are not an applicable construction method in Powell Township.

Public Comment: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. **Motion** to approve a budget amendment to move \$800.00 from sewer repairs and maintenance funds to water and sewer payroll wages funds (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

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2. **Motion** to approve a budget amendment to move \$1,400.00 from deputy supervisor payroll wages funds to deputy clerk payroll wages funds (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
3. **Motion** to approve a \$362.00 payment from other functions professional fees funds to Bensinger, Cotant, & Menkes for tax tribunal legal services (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Motion** to approve a \$468.00 one-time information technology (IT) switch and port systems installation fee payment from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) town hall funds to 906 Technologies (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Election Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$1,230.00 annual fee payment from election maintenance funds to Election Source for the voting equipment service and support contract (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Buildings and Grounds Department: **Motion** to approve the 2026 Perkins Park winter plowing agreement for signature (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the resignation of Heidi Shatz as chairperson (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the appointment of Kelly Cain as chairperson effective January 13, 2026 (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to adopt the Powell Township Five-Year Recreation Plan, 2026-2030, as its official recreation planning document (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: D. Hudson – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, L. Ellis – Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Board Comment:

- L. Ellis – Thank you very much Heidi Shatz; we have enjoyed working with you as the Parks and Recreation Chair, and we greatly appreciate your commitment. Thank you as well to Kelly Cain for stepping up to help the Committee.

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Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 8:16 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: M. Mramor, Deputy Clerk