

Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
March 19, 2026
Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:02 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 revision: add New Item 26: “Parks and Recreation Committee: Approve application for a \$97,000.00 Recreation Passport Grant, a 25% matching funds grant.” (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Public Hearing (Powell Township Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget)
 - a. **Motion** to open the Public Hearing (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Public Comments – None.
 - c. Board Comments
 - Levi Ellis discussed the Parks and Recreation Committee donated funds and funds allotted for veterans’ events for clarification. He also thanked everyone who participated in budget workshops this year and said that he greatly appreciated their assistance.
 - Daryl Wilcox seconded this sentiment and thanked all Parks and Recreation Committee members including Kelly Cain and Heidi Shatz for their hard work and assistance with their portions of the budget.
 - d. **Motion** to suspend the Public Hearing at 6:12 P.M. and resume the Public Hearing no later than 7:00 P.M. (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
 - e. **Motion** to resume the Public Hearing at 6:57 P.M. (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
 - f. **Motion** to close the Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve the February 2026 Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

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7. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve the February 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve the February 2026 Budget Amendments Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Treasurer’s Report - **Motion** to approve the February 2026 Treasurers Report (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
10. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve the Bills to Be Paid (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). 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. We will be looking into CPR courses for the community.
 - b. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/Emergency Manager:
 - i. The Marquette County Emergency Manager did call before this last major winter storm, we appreciated the preemptive call, and we were able to report to that we were set with all supplies and facilities needed. We also got a call after the storm; the Emergency Manager plans to put out a statement on why Marquette County did not request a state of emergency.
 - ii. The Food bank is still in use and is extended to include April 1 and April 15.
 - c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
 - i. There were three (3) calls since the last meeting.
 - ii. Fire training is going well, and the four (4) trainees’ motivation is evident. We are very happy with the progress so far.
 - iii. We are looking to replace some fire house door locks soon.
 - d. Parks and Recreation Department: K. Cain/Chair:
 - i. Dotty Lajoie updated us on grant requirements while we push to complete a potential submission by April 1, 2026.
 - ii. We are working on several items before this fiscal year ends to ensure budgets and resources are fully and properly utilized.
 - iii. The Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled due to cold season logistics issues. Also, due to winter conditions, we did not have a safe backup spot to relocate it.

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- iv. We are looking at transferring ownership of the school basketball courts back to the township and currently coordinating with the school staff on this potential change.
- v. Marcia Gonstead reported that this year's Honey Bear Classic was the largest ever, with 114 participants. She is gearing up for the Big Bay Relay. Please let her know if you would like to volunteer (note: initial contact information for Parks and Recreation staff is at the Contacts page of powelltownship.org if you do not have her number).

- e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee Liaison: The next regular meeting will be in May 2026.

- f. Sewer Department: S. DeMoulin:
 - i. There is one (1) line that still needs to be checked to confirm the blockage that was cleared in the fall was a success. It will be checked once the snow clears.
 - ii. Everything else is going well.

- g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:
 - i. The annual pump and cross-connect reports were recently submitted.
 - ii. The Consumer Confidence Report is the next report due (in June 2026).
 - iii. More maintenance and checks are planned once the ground thaws, but things so far look normal/ nominal.

- 12. Correspondence:
 - a. Tonight's correspondence is in summary format. Further details are at powelltownship.org, on public bulletin boards, on the table in town hall or the town hall offices, or at the links or numbers mentioned.

 - b. From the Department of the Army:
 - i. The Public Notice for Nearshore Placement of Dredged Material, Big Bay Harbor, Marquette County, Michigan was posted along with placement maps on February 26, 2026. An environmental impact report is also available.
 - ii. Interested parties can view and comment on the environmental impact reports and plans.
 - iii. The 30-day review and comment period ends in a week.

 - c. From the Marquette County Road Commission:
 - i. Seasonal load and speed restrictions began on March 5, 2026.
 - ii. Normal legal loads are permitted on all roads designated as "all season".

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- iii. More information is on their site or at 906-486-4491 extension 2.

- d. From Powell Township:
 - i. A Transfer Station update:
 - 1. The Transfer Station roof collapsed recently.
 - 2. A reminder that the temporary drop-off location for trash and recycling is behind the fire hall (ENTRANCE) and town hall (EXIT).
 - a. Please ensure you enter from the fire hall lot (ENTRANCE), then leave (EXIT) through the town hall lot.
 - b. Hours for drop off remain the same: only on Tuesdays (3 – 6 P.M.) and Saturdays (8 A.M. – 12 P.M.).
 - c. There is no large item drop-off until further notice.
 - 3. Supervisor Levi Ellis spoke with the insurance company this morning.
 - 4. We may have to demolish the facility down to the footing, so a call for bid packages is underway.
 - 5. Once/if the facility is demolished to the footing, we still may be able to use the Transfer Station facility without the walls or roof since the rest of the equipment is intact.
 - 6. It will be up to three (3) weeks to receive bids. The board will likely choose a bid in April 2026.
 - 7. We will then look at the feasibility of using the space until construction starts.
 - 8. If there are any questions for the Supervisor, please call, stop by, or send an email.
 - ii. A township phone line update:
 - 1. Fax & emails still work, but the primary township phone number is not in operation due to multiple phone service provider issues.
 - 2. Service and upgrades are scheduled for Monday, March 23.
 - 3. We expect this to resolve the issues.
 - iii. The next Board Meeting is April 28, 2026 (NOT April 21) due to scheduling issues.
 - iv. If you lead a township committee, commission, or board, please review your upcoming November through January meeting dates, and get any changes to the township clerk's office ASAP (due to holidays).

- e. From the Parks & Recreation Committee:
 - i. The Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled due to cold season logistics issues. It is still an item on the annual township calendar for future years.
 - ii. The Dash for Trash is on May 9 and will include trail cleanup and the 550 corridor.

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- iii. The Big Bay Relay is on May 16.
- f. From the Ambulance Department: The American Heart Association released new heart and basic lifesaver training standards. We are coordinating CPR training opportunities for township residents. More to follow once dates are set.
- g. From Emergency Management:
- i. The Bill Dionne (Halfway) Fire Hall Food Bank is extended. The next dates are April 1, 5 to 7 P.M., and April 15, 5 to 7 P.M.
 - ii. Food Bank items are also available for residents' emergency needs at any time on request.
 - iii. Boxes for Food Bank donations are in Town Hall. Dry goods and toiletries are also welcome/accepted. Any donations are greatly appreciated.
- h. From the Marquette County Senior Center: The next Senior Services Days in Powell Township Hall are April 2, 8 A.M. - 3 P.M., and May 7, 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.
- i. From the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (U.P.S.E.T.): U.P.S.E.T. thanked Powell Township for the annual \$600.00 donation. You can call U.P.S.E.T. at 906-228-1002 with any questions about them.
- j. From Recycle906: The FREE household hazardous waste drop off days for Marquette County residents are May 7, June 4, July 9, August 6, September 10, October 1, and/or by appointment. Drop off location is the Marquette County Landfill, not our Transfer Station.
- k. From the Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee: 2026 committee meeting dates are posted, and they occur on the third Thursday of each month.
13. Presentations: None.

Public Comment:

- Kelsey Wermager (Big Bay Stewardship Council) – The Dash for Trash is May 9. We are giving out large item passes again this year. There will also be tires, electronics, and vapes recycling options, and extended cleanup all the way down County Road (CR) 550 to Marquette. We are working with partners to “adopt” certain mile stretches of CR 550. Regarding the recent Season of Sharing, we are currently distributing the food and donations collected and

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were able to get food to all students as planned. The Salvation Army has taken an interest in Powell Township and its community food sharing efforts. They extended an invitation for up to eight (8) people from Powell Township to attend a gala related to the topic. I am not sure of what food security metrics they use, and whether or not those metrics fully represent the township and community needs, so I am looking into that and into the gala.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. **Motion** to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Powell Township Budget (L. Ellis, S. Girard). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
2. **Motion** to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Powell Township General Appropriations Act (Budget) (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
3. **Motion** to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Powell Township Resolution for Sale and Purchase of Real Estate (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
4. **Motion** to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Powell Township Resolution for Summer and Winter Tax Collection (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
5. **Motion** to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Powell Township Resolution for Powell Township Treasurer to Invest Funds (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
6. **Motion** to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Powell Township Resolution to Establish Salary (L. Ellis, S. Girard). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
7. **Motion** to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 wage increases for Powell Township (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
 - a. Maintenance Supervisor (\$2.00 increase per hour)
 - b. Parks & Trails Manager (\$2.00 increase per hour)
 - c. Deputy Treasurer (\$2.00 increase per hour)
 - d. Deputy Clerk (\$2.00 increase per hour)
 - e. Fire Department Chief (\$300.00 increase per year)

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- f. Ambulance Coordinator (\$600.00 increase per year)
 - g. Assistant Ambulance Coordinator (\$100.00 increase per year)
 - h. Ambulance Billing Clerk (\$100.00 increase per year)
 - i. Sanitation Attendant (\$1.00 increase per hour)
8. **Motion** to approve a budget amendment to move \$150.00 from trustee training funds to trustee payroll wages funds (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Motion** to approve a budget amendment to move \$336.00 from deputy supervisor payroll wages funds to deputy clerk payroll wages funds (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
10. **Motion** to approve a budget amendment to move \$223.13 from clerk travel funds to deputy clerk payroll wages funds (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Motion** to approve a budget amendment to move \$30.88 from treasurer office supplies funds to deputy treasurer payroll wages funds (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
12. **Motion** to approve a \$247.00 payment to Bensinger, Cotant, & Menkes from other functions professional services funds for tax tribunal and AT&T dispute legal services (D. Wilcox, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Motion** to approve a \$9,130.00 payment to Accident Fund Group for annual insurance policy premium payments (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
14. Buildings and Grounds Department: **Motion** to approve a lump sum payment to the Maintenance Supervisor for all Fiscal Year 2025-2026 unused vacation time (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
15. Buildings and Grounds Department: **Motion** to approve timed door code locks (on all township doors with punch codes) for enhanced security (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
16. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$563.00 payment to Fire Station Software LLC from professional services funds for annual software license renewal fees (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
17. Ambulance Department: **Motion** to approve a \$500.00 payment to Magnum Electronics from vehicle maintenance funds for an ambulance charger (D.

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Wilcox, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

18. Ambulance Department: **Motion** to approve up to \$1,000.00 in purchases from training funds for training materials with the newly released American Heart Association standards (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
19. Ambulance Department: **Motion** to approve up to \$600.00 in purchases from equipment funds for CPR training mannequins (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
20. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the Resolution to Support the Transfer of Ownership of the School Tennis Court Property to the Powell Township Municipality (L. Ellis, S. Girard). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson – Aye, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
21. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$250.00 purchase from trail services funds for a plaque required to close out the Burns Landing Trust Grant (D. Wilcox, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
22. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve an additional \$800.00 payment from equipment funds for 2 bits for a skid-steer auger due to a quote and shipping cost increase (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
23. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to reappoint Coty Sorby to the committee as a member effective April 10, 2026 (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
24. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve \$800.00 in purchases from donated funds for the upcoming meat raffle (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
25. Planning Commission: **Motion** to appoint Bob Suess to the commission as a member effective March 19, 2026 (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
26. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve application for a \$97,000.00 Recreation Passport Grant, a 25% matching funds grant (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

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Board Comment:

- S. Mattis – A reminder that during emergencies, we are posting details to the powelltownship.org website and throughout town as soon as possible.
- L. Ellis – A thank you to Bob Suess for volunteering to serve on the Planning Commission. We also still have four township openings which are posted on the website and throughout town. Also, once received, I will relay the Marquette County Emergency Manager’s statement/ justification as to why the county did not request a state of emergency declaration following the latest storm.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, April 28 (1 WEEK LATER THAN USUAL), 2026, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 7:50 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Deputy Clerk