

**Powell Township Board Meeting**  
**P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808**  
**April 28, 2026**  
**Minutes**

1. Call to Order at 7:00 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) absent.
4. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve Agenda (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve the March 19, March 24, and April 16, 2026, Special and Regular Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve the March 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve the March 2026 Budget Amendments Report (D. Wilcox, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Treasurer’s Report - **Motion** to approve the March 2026 Treasurers Report (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). 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. Committee & Department Reports:
  - a. Ambulance Department: J. Boudreaux/Ambulance Coordinator:
    - i. There were two (2) calls since the last meeting.
    - ii. We investigated cardiopulmonary (CPR) course options for the community and will likely have one in May (or so) that will include heart saver CPR for adults, children, and infants, plus first aid.
    - iii. Once any community courses are scheduled, we will post them to the Emergency Management page and put out flyers.
  - b. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/Emergency Manager:
    - i. All is well and we had minimal issues with the recent storms.
    - ii. We did have one residence reach out for water issues that they were able to solve on their own before any big crises.

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- iii. We did meet with other emergency managers and the Army Corps of Engineers at the Lake Independence Dam during the flood watch preparations. It seemed stable and they did have suggestions on what to do if it gets to a certain level (if the water begins going up over the dam sides). The water did not rise and began dropping the day after the meeting at the lake.
  - iv. The Food bank is still in use and is extended to include May 6 and 20 (5 – 7 P.M. each night).
- c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:
- i. There was one (1) call since the last meeting. It was a downed power line.
  - ii. Fire training is going well, and the trainees test at the end of May, so we are looking forward to four (4) new township firefighters in June.
- d. Parks and Recreation Department: K. Cain/Chair:
- i. The Passport Grant was submitted and we are waiting until August to find out if we receive the grant funds.
  - ii. Volunteers are needed for several events this season and we have an announcement on our Parks & Recreation Facebook page.
  - iii. To prep for the June 6 Draver Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, some of us met at the park and checked the snack shack. We took measurements on what else is needed to include counters, and we are working on materials pricing. Jim Miller is leading a lot of the effort and is also researching getting his food preparation license.
  - iv. The parks are thawing well and we have materials prepped for maintaining Thomas Rock railings for preservation & maintenance purposes. There is no restructuring or any other similar major repairs needed.
  - v. We registered with signupgenius online to get volunteers to help with some of the little tasks around town for the numerous warm season events.
  - vi. Also accepted Kelli Santilli's resignation reluctantly. Alita Miller stepped up and volunteered to be the committee's secretary.
  - vii. There was a Father's Day Meat Raffle prep hiccup. We had to re-qualify with the state and so some holdup but we think it will still happen.
- e. Planning Commission: L. Ellis for D. Hudson/Trustee Liaison:
- i. We have one new member and still need one more.
  - ii. The next regular meeting is May 20, 2026.

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- f. Sewer Department: C. Sorby for S. DeMoulin:
  - i. There is one (1) line that still needs 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. We are currently busy checking meters and looking for grants.
  - ii. We are also doing some leak detection work but nothing to report so far.
  - iii. We would like to talk to the Fire Department in a sidebar regarding hydrant operation and clearing the lines; it could be an opportunity for training or process/procedures refinement.
  - iv. More maintenance and checks are planned once the ground thaws, but things so far look normal/ nominal.
  
- 11. Correspondence:
  - a. From the Powell Township Supervisor
    - i. Regarding the Transfer Station demolition, we received four (4) bids for review, all local contractors, and we took the bid that will enable the bid price along with the dump transport/ disposal/ hauling fees to all fall within the \$50,000.00 insurance reimbursement amount. The intent is for everything to be covered by insurance. The bid was awarded to 550 Maintenance. The work is pending permitting between Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Marquette County. We are looking at May 11 or later to begin. We had planned for May 4, but permits are causing delays. Following the demolition, we will put out a call for bids for the rebuild.
    - ii. All phone lines and numbers are working now. We also received a large phone company refund due to the weeks of issues that impacted township communication lines.
  
  - b. From the Fire and Ambulance Departments
    - i. There is a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, May 24, 8 A.M. to noon, in Town Hall.
    - ii. We should be able to transport orders throughout town, similar to the last pancake breakfast.
    - iii. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee, and juice.
  - c. From the Parks & Recreation Committee
    - i. The Dash for Trash is on May 9 and will include trails and 550 corridor cleanups.
    - ii. The Big Bay Relay is on May 16.

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- iii. The Big Bay Cemetery Memorial Day Tribute event is Monday, May 25.
- iv. The Draver Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is Saturday, June 6.
  
- d. From Emergency Management
  - i. The Bill Dionne (Halfway) Fire Hall Food Bank is extended. The next dates are May 6, 5 to 7 P.M., and May 20, 5 to 7 P.M.
  - ii. Food Bank items are also available for residents' emergency needs at any time on request.
  
- e. 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".
  - iii. More information is on their site or at 906-486-4491 extension 2.
  
- f. From the Marquette County Senior Center
  - i. The next Senior Services Day in Powell Township Hall is May 7, 8 A.M. – 3 P.M.
  - ii. This is a free service to assist seniors with administrative-type needs. It is essentially a Marquette County Senior Services "satellite office for the day".
  - iii. For more information or to make an appointment, you can check the Marquette County site or call 906-228-0456.
  
- g. From Recycle906
  - i. Free household hazardous waste drop off days for Marquette County residents start in May.
  - ii. All 6 dates are: May 7, June 4, July 9, August 6, September 10, October 1, and/or by appointment.
  - iii. Drop off location is the Marquette County Landfill, not our Transfer Station.
  
- h. From the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
  - i. The organization "Michigan Saves" partnered with EGLE to create the Septic Replacement Loan Program (SRLP).
  - ii. The SRLP provides low-interest financing for residents to replace failing or near-failing septic systems and connections to the municipal sewer system.
  - iii. Flyers are posted online and throughout town.
  - iv. For more details, visit [michigansaves.org/septic](http://michigansaves.org/septic), email [info@michigansaves.org](mailto:info@michigansaves.org), or call 517-484-6474.

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- i. From the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA)
  - i. MCSWMA staff will propose an \$11 increase to the tipping fee effective July 1, 2026.
  - ii. This is due to costs for the wastewater treatment plant, final closure for a portion of the landfill, new perpetual care requirements soon, and cost of living increases.
  
- j. From Marquette County Planning
  - i. As a county resident, there are several chances for you to provide input to the Marquette County 2040 Master Plan Update.
  - ii. Flyers are posted throughout town with dates, venues, and opportunities to discuss economy, housing, recreation, health services, environment items, and transportation.
  - iii. All details are online at [mqtcoplan.org](http://mqtcoplan.org), via email at [mqtcoplan@gmail.com](mailto:mqtcoplan@gmail.com), or by calling Marquette County Planning at 906-225-8198.
  
- k. From the community (regarding local jobs, term appointments, community service, and volunteering)
  - i. Four Powell Township positions are posted online and throughout town
  - ii. Volunteers are also needed for parks, recreation, trail grooming, and other township items
  - iii. Drury's General Store and Cash's Corner Café are hiring part-time (please contact Drury's directly)
  - iv. The Big Bay Stewardship Council is hiring a new Director (please call or check their site directly until flyers are posted)
  - v. The Powell Township School Board will have three seats up for election during the November 3, 2026, General Election. There are two (2) 6-year full terms available and one (1) 4-year partial term available

12. Presentations: None.

Public Comment:

- Kelsey Wermager (Big Bay Stewardship Council)
  - o 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.

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- Regarding the recent Season of Sharing, we are currently distributing the food and donations collected and 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 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 attendance and up to \$250.00 in additional registration fees for staff attendance at the May 2026 Marquette County Townships Association Spring Banquet (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
2. Buildings and Grounds: **Motion** to approve a \$2,320.00 payment to Business Software & Analytics from BS&A technical services funds for annual financial software service and support fees (D. Wilcox, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
3. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$421.91 payment to Trudell Plumbing & Heating from facilities maintenance funds for boiler igniter replacement and services (S. Mattis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
4. Fire Department: **Motion** to approve a \$233.92 payment to Superior Lock & Security from facilities maintenance funds for fire hall door lock and key system troubleshooting and service (S. Mattis, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). Roll call vote: L. Ellis – Aye, D. Wilcox – Aye, S. Mattis – Aye, D. Hudson - Absent, S. Girard – Aye, motion carried.
6. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve a \$675.00 payment to Signs Now from Powell Township Recreation Network operating funds for Powell Township Recreation Area signs and maps (D. Wilcox, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

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7. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to accept the resignation of Kelli Santilli effective April 10, 2026 (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.
8. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the \$15,500.00 “Spielbauer Fireworks” Contract for signature and payment for the July 11, 2026, Fire on the Bay events (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
9. Election Commission: **Motion** to approve a \$1,280.00 payment to the United States Postal Service from postage funds for August and November 2026 election correspondence (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Board Comment: S. Mattis – Thank you to Kelli Santilli for all her years of service and dedication to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 7:34 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Deputy Clerk