Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
September 15, 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) present.

4. Approval of Agenda – **Motion** to approve Agenda (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes
   I. **Motion** to approve the August 3, August 6 and August 18, 2026, Special and Regular Board Meeting Minutes (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve the August 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried.

7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve the August 2026 Budget Amendments Report (D. Wilcox, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.

8. Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve the July 2026 Treasure's Report (S. Mattis, L. Ellis) and the August 2026 Treasurers Report (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). 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. We had nine (9) calls for service, although we did not have adequate staffing to respond to them all.
       II. We are seeking EMT and MFR applicants.
       III. We plan to have the ambulance onsite for the Big Bay fall fest on Saturday, September 19, 2026, for the community to engage with the staff and to view the new medical equipment.
       IV. The EMS liner jackets and caps are completed. These will help the crew to be more easily identified in emergency situations.
       V. Alexis is working with Darlene at the assisted living and has EMS knitted hats for sale at a cost of $25.00.

b. Emergency Management: K. Bourgeois/Emergency Manager:

Kim reported the food bank is receiving very light use.
Patty Chapman is willing to continue volunteering to open and operate the food bank throughout the winter months. (5-7pm the first and third Wednesday of each month through December 2026.

c. Fire Department: M. Anderson/Fire Chief:

i. They had three (3) calls for the Fire Department since the last meeting.
ii. Matt is working on the Grant application for the 2026 fire department equipment and will have paperwork ready for Levi Ellis to sign.

d. Parks and Recreation Committee: K. Cain/Chair:

I. The Bear Mountain loop on the Big Bay pathway is having work completed and is open again after a two-year closure.
II. The Thomas Rock railings are stained, and post caps are being serviced. Still on the agenda is the moving of the fence to expand for parking.
III. The last concert was well received, and we are in discussion to move the concerts to Saturdays for the 2027 season.
IV. The Labor Day softball tournament went well, and the township concession stand was a great success. The committee would like to thank all the volunteers for their time, energy and dedication. The players complimented all the great improvements to the field.
V. The Give Butter QR code as a form of cashless payment system at the softball tournament was well received.
VI. There are some minor issues in the rental agreements for the different parks. These will be addressed and brought to the board for discussion.
VII. The Burns landing sign needs repairs.

e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee Liaison: The Planning Commission meets the third Wednesday of the month.
The planning Commission elected its officers as follows:
Chairman; Bruce Hutchinson, Vice-Chairman; Mike Kantola, Secretary; Bob Seuss, Board Liaison; Denise Hudson. All members except one (1) attended the meeting.

I. The guest attending was Alex Berrrones from “Citizens for a safe and clean Lake Superior”.

II. The Planning Commission needs to update their permits and for the Zoning Administrator, Howard Robare to review.
III. Requesting that if members do not attend the meeting, please let someone know.
IV. Discussion of the Bylaws and timely notices.
V. Short-term rentals: Bruce and Denise Hudson will research.
VI. Data Centers: Denise Hudson and Bob Suess will research.
VII. The accessory dwelling units, maps, and zoning districts need further discussion with the Zoning Administrator, Howard Robare.

The next Planning Commission meeting is October 21, 2026.

f. Sewer Department: S. DeMoulin:

i. Transfer Station septic was pumped on September 15, 2026.
ii. Scott is training for the new recording system and State certification.
iii. EGLE inspected the drain field.

g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:

The 10-year mark on wireless recording meters is 2026.

A case of service feeders and batteries has been ordered with funds from the water department fund.

Leaks were fixed in the township and there has been a 60% recovery.

11. Correspondence:

From the Powell Township Clerk: Letter from Gene Champagne regarding the election on November 3, 2026, addressing the mail in absentee ballots.

I. From the Election Commission
II. Absentee ballots are available starting on September 24th and will be mailed out after we receive the programming from the County Clerk and can perform a pre-accuracy test to make sure the ballots will be read by the tabulator.
III. The Public Accuracy Test will be performed on Thursday, October 15th starting at 10:00 am in the township hall.
IV. The clerk's office will be open on October 31st from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm for anyone wishing to register to vote.

V. There will be a meeting of the Election Commission on Thursday, October 8th at 10:00 am to appoint the election inspectors for early voting, election day voting, and counting of absentee ballots.
VI. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. Polls open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm.
VII. Early voting for Powell Township voters will be held at the Marquette Township Hall, 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette from Saturday, October 24th to Sunday, November 1st from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

b) From the Big Bay Stewardship Council: The BBSC is sponsoring the Fall Festival this Saturday, September 19, 2026, and the cook shack will be run again by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

c) From Emergency Management
I. The Bill Dionne (Halfway) Fire Hall Food Bank is for everyone, and openings are extended.
II. It will open from 5 to 7 P.M. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month through the end of 2026.
III. Food Bank items are also available for residents' emergency needs at any time by contacting Powell Township offices or the township Emergency Manager.

d) From the Township
I. The Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 1:00 pm in the board room of the Delta County Service Center, Escanaba, Michigan and online. This meeting will include discussion of the Materials Management Plan and the UPACC conference presentation.
II. The DNR's Forest Resources Division asking for public input online or at a public Open House to be held on September 17, 2026, between 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the Gwinn Field House. Your input will be used to make final decisions on forest management actions.
III. Gene Champagne will be submitting his resignation from the Powell Township Board of Review effective this December 2026. He has enjoyed his time serving the township.
IV. There will be a data center seminar hosted by the Michigan Township Participating Plan and will have a section titled "Development Moratorium: getting it right". This event will be held in Marquette, Michigan on November 10, 2026. For more information and registration forms reach out to Jennifer Venema at: parplan@tmhcc.com.

V. The Michigan Townships Association has worked with its legal counsel to develop a sample data center zoning ordinance now available on MTA's "Data Centers" webpage (MTA-member login required).

Presentations: None.

Public Comment: **Not to exceed three (3) minutes**
Gene Champagne announced he is organizing early voting transportation to the poles, and he will be helping with the election through 2028.
Gene is recruiting more inspectors to work the elections.

Barb Schultz had (3) comments:
1). Concern of the number of personnel in the Ambulance Department.
2). Food Bank hours for 2027.
3). Is there service with Highline internet in Draver Park.

Levi Ellis responded:
1). The Ambulance Department has hired 1 EMT and 1 MFR and is recruiting more volunteers. The Marquette Ambulance service takes all calls when Powell Township is unable to respond.
2). The Food Bank will be open through the end of December 2026 and will resume the same schedule in January 2027.
3). Highline Internet service has internet at the Big Bay tower at Draver park. They are in the process of running the wiring to the building.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. **Motion** to approve the $45.00 payment to P3-Marquette County Economic Exchange for a supervisor seminar. (S. Mattis, D. Wilcox). All in favor, motion carried. Four(4) ayes, One(1) abstain.
2. Building and Grounds Department: **Motion** to approve the $3,306.28 payment to Pomp's Tire Service for F-350 truck repairs.. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
3. Transfer Station: **Motion** to approve the $1,000.00 to North Country Disposal to pump the septic tank. (D. Wilcox, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

4. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve the change order for $2,283.15 to Hall Contracting, Inc for the door at Draver Park. (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
5. Parks and Recreation Committee: **Motion** to approve $157.48 from the donated operating funds for flowers by the flagpole. (D. Hudson, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
6. Parks and Recreation Committee**: Motion** to approve purchases up to $800.00 from the donated concession funds to restock the concession stand for the Fall Festival. (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Motion** to approve the transition from the audit company Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC to the audit company A,, Cedric, & Michaels, CPA's, PLLC (ACM). (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Motion** to approve the $11,500.00 payment to Anderson, Tackman, & Company from professional services funds for the March 31, 2026, audit fees. (D. Hudson, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Board Comment:

1. Levi gave an update on the transfer station.
2. The Health Department extended use permit fee at a cost of $ 187.00
3. The bathroom at the transfer station needs to be ADA compliant.
4. The septic was pumped and exposed on September 15, 2026, and the Health Department gave approval.
5. The Bid meeting was attended by 3 contractors.
6. The contractor bids are due October 1, 2026, at noon and the Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. to review and approve a contractor for the transfer station.
7. The Engineer was in town to draw the footings for the Transfer Station.

Next Meeting: Special Board Meeting Thursday, October 1, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn 8:15 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Deputy Clerk