Powell Township Board Meeting
P.O. Box 319, 101 Bensinger Street, Big Bay, Michigan 49808
October 20, 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) absent; 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 #17: Application for employment of Gene Champagne for a Board of Review alternate. (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to approve agenda. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes
   I. **Motion** to approve the September 15, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
   II. **Motion** to approve the October 01, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes (L. Ellis, S. Girard), motion carried.

6. Revenue & Expenditure Report – **Motion** to approve the September 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Report (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

7. Budget Amendments Report – **Motion** to approve the September 2026 Budget Amendments Report (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

8. Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve the September 2026 Treasurer's Report (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

9. Approval of Bills – **Motion** to approve the Bills to Be Paid (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

10. Committee & Department Reports:
    a. Ambulance Department: J. Boudreaux/Ambulance Coordinator:

        i. EMS attended Fall Festival enjoyed engaging and answering questions from the community.
        ii. There were (7) seven calls in the past 30 days.
        iii. The ambulance will be out of service Wednesday, November 4th, and again for a few days in the month of November. EMS will respond to calls until an UPHS ambulance arrives from Marquette. Updates will be posted on the fire department's Facebook page.

iv. A spaghetti dinner will be held for Jackie Park-Burns on November 6th from 4-7:00pm at the Presbyterian Church to assist with medical/travel expenses.
v. There will be a state inspection on Friday, December 4, 2026.
vi. Volunteers are being recruited by the Ambulance Department, please contact Josh Boudreaux or Levi Ellis.

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

i. The EMD would like to commend our Fire Department for a job well done with the wildfire on 510, and the county, state and federal firefighters that responded to the fires in the UP.
ii. The food bank will be open on the posted dates. Thank you to all that have donated supplies and funds.
iii. Sending get well wishes to Patty Chapman, our food bank volunteer.

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

i. There was one (1) call for service, a brush fire on October 11, 2026. Cleanup at the site was completed on October 12, 2026.
ii. The Fire Department received a good response for assistance from the Negaunee Fire Department and The Huron Mountain Club with Sam Desmet providing their fire truck.
iii. The landowner of the fire used his Bob Cat to help contain the fire, making a fire line.
iv. Volunteers are being recruited by the Fire Department, please contact Matt Anderson or Levi Ellis as training will be starting in January 2027.

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

i. Ideas were discussed on how to honor Darlene Turner Wilcox.
ii. Trails are being worked on.
iii. The school is helping with the native garden.
iv. Preliminary grant report shows parks & recreation will not be getting the Passport recreation grant, other plans are being made to finish Draver Park without the grant.
v. Fall Fest cookshack went well and was a learning experience.
vi. Ideas for revisions in the rental agreements were discussed.
vii. Lights are needed for the Draver Park flagpole.

viii. Trick or Treating will be on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 4:00-8:00 pm with houses that have porch lights on.
ix. Christmas Tree lighting will be on Saturday, December 5, 2026, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

e. Planning Commission: D. Hudson/Trustee Liaison: The Planning Commission meets the third Wednesday of the month.
The next Planning Commission meeting is at 7:00pm on October 21, 2026
i. The planning commission met on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.
ii. B. Hutchinson reported his research findings on a range of topics.
iii. B. Hutchinson distributed a copy of research notes on Accessory Dwelling Units and Levi Ellis agreed to serve on the committee.
iv. Support for a one-year moratorium on new data center permitting and construction was discussed. There will be a Data Center meeting on November 10, 2026.
v. D. Hudson shared information on upcoming meeting dealing with human trafficking.

f. Sewer Department: S. DeMoulin:
Nothing to report this month.

g. Water Department: C. Sorby/Water Operator:
i. The dosing chamber was pumped by North Country Disposal then cleaned and inspected by the Powell Township water/sewer departments.

11. Correspondence:

a. From the Powell Township Supervisor
i. Powell Township will hold a public hearing on November 17, 2026, at 6:00pm to discuss the proposed ordinance to reduce the number of Powell Township Planning Commissioners from seven (7) to five (5). Following the public hearing the Township Board will meet at 7:00 pm to discuss and vote.
ii. Our Powell Township Assessor, Dylan Jurasin has advised us he will be in the office on Monday's from 10am to 1pm, no longer on Thursday's. This will be effective on Monday October 26, 2026.
iii. The letter for the Township of Powell household garbage and recycling services new millage proposal went out last week to all voters of Powell Township.

iv. The (CUPMMPC) The Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at the Delta County Service Center, Escanaba, Michigan. This meeting will include a review and approval of the materials management plan and adoption timeline update.

b. From the Powell Township Clerk
   i. The public accuracy test was held on October 15, 2026, and went very well.
   ii. Early voting begins at Marquette Township Hall on October 24 – November 1, 2026, from 8:00-4:00pm.
   iii. The revision to the Marquette County Master Plan is now available for the public to review and can be found at: mqtcoplan.org.
   iv. There will be an election inspector meeting held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 9:30am in the Powell Township Hall.
   v. Powell Township Hall will open on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 7:00am to 8:00pm for voting on election day.

a) From the Big Bay Stewardship Council:
There will be a Season of Sharing held at The Thunder Bay Inn, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, on Friday, December 11, 2026.

b) From Emergency Management
   I. The Bill Dionne (Halfway) Fire Hall Food Bank is for everyone, and openings are extended.
   II. It will open from 5:00 to 7:00 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.

Presentations: None.

Public Comment: **Not to exceed three (3) minutes**

i. Adam Chalmers, who is new to the community, gave his viewpoints and concerns on data centers.
ii. Mr. Derek Swajanen is running as a non-partisan candidate for judge in Marquette County and gave his qualifications and viewpoints on why he is running for the judgeship position.

iii. Heidi Satz mentioned the importance to the community of showing the movie, Ring of Silence, that will be shown in the Northern Center Ballroom at Northern Michigan University on Monday, October 26, 2026. Reception at 5:00pm. Showing at 5:30 pm and Q & A to follow..

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

i. Water & Sewer Operations**: Approval** for USPS postage paid envelopes from postage for $509.00. (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
ii. Building & Grounds: **Approval** for USPS postage paid envelopes from postage for $ 1,013.00. (L. Ellis, S. Girard) All in favor, motion carried.
iii. Sanitation Department: **Approval** for USPS postage paid envelopes from postage for $ 505.00. (S. Mattis, S. Girard). All in favor**,** motion carried.
iv. Election postage: **Approval** for USPS postage stamps from postage for $ 235.00. (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
v. Building & Grounds**: Approval** to pay for Carousel checks for Accounts payable & Tax checks from office supply for $324.00. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
vi. Fire Department: **Approval** to seek funding opportunities to replace the Halfway Firehall. (S. Girard, L. Ellis). All in favor, motion carried.
vii. Fire Department**: Approval** to seek funding opportunities for battery powered extrication equipment and/or turnout gear, if funding is not received through the fire equipment grant. (S. Mattis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
viii. Fire Department: **Approval** for $7500.00 to have R & R Fire Truck Repair, Inc. perform pump testing, annual DOT inspections, oil changes and maintenance on the fire trucks from maintenance funds. (S. Mattis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.
ix. Fire Department**: Approval** for 5 locks at $ 233.54 each from the Repairs - Building. This cost will be shared with the Ambulance Department. This was re-motioned.to include the cost of each lock. (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.
x. Fire Department: **Approval** for 12 hard hat headlamps for wildfire helmets for $800.00 from equipment. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.
xi. Fire Department: **Approval** for $1,080.94 to The Summit Fire Protection Co. for fire extinguisher recertification maintenance fund. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

xii. Powell Township Hall Library: **Motion** to approve the grant pass-thru funding from Community Foundation of Marquette County for $2100.00 for the purchase of the library shelves for the Powell Township Hall. A reimbursement will be made in the amount of $2100.00 to Clare Lutgen. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

xiii. Emergency Services: **Motion** to approve the Emergency Services Interlocal Response Agreement for the "Receiving Townships" operating within Powell Township located within Marquette County to update the costs to reflect current operating costs. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

xiv. **Motion** to approve a payment of $ 2,286.00 to Bensinger, Cotant & Menkes, P.C. for legal services, from other functions- professional services. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion carried.

xv. **Motion** to accept the resignation letter from Marti Mramor dated September 15, 2026. (L. Ellis, D. Hudson). All in favor, motion carried.

xvi. Supervisor: **Motion** to approve budget amendment for $300.00 from the office supply to deputy wages. (L. Ellis, S. Girard). All in favor, motion carried.

xvii. Supervisor**: Motion** to accept the application of employment for Gene Champagne to be a board of review alternate. (L. Ellis, S. Mattis). All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment:

Heidi Shatz commented that the information shared regarding a sexual assault program at The Medical Urgent Care, in Marquette, Michigan is working with the Women's Center of Marquette serving the Marquette and Alger Counties. They provide survivors with access to specialized nursing care, including a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), privacy, medical services, and support resources for both women and men. UPHS Marquette offers a sexual assault evidence kit. This is the MQT MED website for sexual assault information: https://www.mqtmed.com/reproductive-health/.

Board Comment:

Denise Hudson commented on the importance of the Ring of Silence event, being held at Northern Michigan University, on Monday, October 26, 2026.

Levi Ellis commented that Denise Hudson can arrange for the Ring of Silence event to be held at The Powell Township Hall. Levi encourages everyone to attend the event at Northern Michigan University on October 26, 2026.

Levis Ellis encourages anyone interested in joining the Planning Commission Board, The Fire Department and/or EMS Department to please see himself or any of the department heads.
Levi Ellis announced that the Board will meet for a Public Hearing on Tuesday November 17, 2026, at 6:00pm.
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Next Public Board Hearing Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

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

Adjourn 7:45P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Deputy Clerk