



**Township Board Minutes**  
**Monday, June 8, 2026 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Township Board Meeting Room**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Steve Grimm, Clerk James Alles, Treasurer David Spencer  
Trustees Cy Balk, Henry Betten, Jessica Gutowski-Slaydon  
**ABSENT:** Trustee Todd Olson

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. INVOCATION - BALK**

**D. ROLL CALL**

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 11, 2026**

Motion: Alles, Support: Spencer, to approve the minutes as presented. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.

**G. APPROVAL OF BILLS - General Fund # 19995 - # 20038, EFT # 962 - # 971**

Motion: Betten, Support: Alles, to approve the bills as presented. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.

**H. RECEIVE REPORTS**

1. **May Building Permit Report - (Grimm)**
2. **Treasurer's Report - (Spencer)**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gina Johnsen who is a candidate for State Senate spoke to us. She has helped us get money for law enforcement. She will help us with EGLE regarding the North Kent Sewer Authority. She will also work with Consumers Energy on the problem with 7 Mile Road and the trees.

**J. PENDING BUSINESS**

**1. 7 Mile Road Trees - (Grimm)**

Bob Jennings of 5894 7 Mile Road is filing a formal complaint with the Michigan Public Service Commission. He is submitting this with assistance from a lawyer.

Allen McAvoy of 5721 7 Mile Road is working with an engineer from Consumers Energy on moving a pole on his property 2 feet. Without Bob Jennings, he wouldn't have any information.

Lora Sokol of 6311 Blakely Drive submitted an article from Consumers Energy regarding wiring from overhead to underground. The article is attached to these Minutes.

**2. RESOLUTION R2026-09 Cannon Township Employee Policy Manual – (Alles)**

Motion: Alles, Support: Betten, to adopt **RESOLUTION R2026-09** approving the Employee Policy Manual. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.

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3. **Balk Family Park Artist Update - (Olson)**  
 Katie Reitemeier of 8422 Kreuter Road spoke and explained that there are 4 different proposals from 4 different artists that the Facilities Committee will go over at their meeting. They will then make a recommendation.
4. **Dykema Excavators Change Order No. 2 - (Grimm)**  
 Motion: Grimm, Support: Betten, to approve Change Order No. 2. Voice vote : Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.
5. **Dykema Excavators Application for Payment No. 2 - (Grimm)**  
 Motion: Grimm, Support: Betten, to approve Dykema Excavators Application for Payment No. 2. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.
6. **Visser Brothers Payment # 5 - (Grimm)**  
 Motion: Grimm, Support: Betten, to approve Payment # 5 to Visser Brothers. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.

**K. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Silver Lake Association Fireworks Permit - (Alles)**  
 Motion: Alles, Support: Gutowski-Slaydon, to approve the Silver Lake Association Fireworks Permit. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.
2. **Bostwick Lake Fireworks Permit - Contingent on Proof of Insurance - (Alles)**  
 Motion: Alles, Support: Gutowski-Slaydon, to approve Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Permit contingent on receipt of their liability insurance. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.
3. **Sheriff's Office Tip & Non-Emergency Reporting Link - (Gutowski-Slaydon)**  
 The communication team put this together so our residents can talk directly to the Sheriff.
4. **Public Safety Grant - (Grimm)**  
 We received \$8986, with 75% going for more overtime that the Sheriff's Department will be working this summer to keep our community safe. The other 25% will go to the Fire Department.

**L. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **Email from Steven Nastaj**

**M. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Gutowski-Slaydon told us that there will be no Planning Commission Meeting tomorrow night.

Supervisor Grimm is going to meet with EGLE and Representatives Wooden and Posthumus in Lansing Wednesday. He will try to work something out regarding the 30 million dollars they want us to spend. He will report back at the next Board Meeting.

**N. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Trustee Betten updated us on the trunk repairs for Belding Road Sewer.

Treasurer Spencer tells us about the Rockford Area Community Foundation Recognition Dinner on May 8. The 4 individuals that they recognized are: Gordon Pickerd, Roger Morgan, Denise Bradley and Dr. Michael Shabler.

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Clerk Alles stated that about 6 months ago we approved spending \$32,000 to look at developing a cemetery to the east of the Township. The next step is the RFP development.

**Motion: Alles, Support: Betten, to approve moving forward with the RFP. Voice vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Clerk Alles stated that a few years ago old dead trees were removed in Bostwick Lake Cemetery. There is a resident who would like to plant some trees and would like us to donate 2 spots for her to plant the trees. Supervisor Grimm agreed this is a great idea.

Trustee Balk asks if there are any issues with the cemetery land.

Trustee Balk informed us that over \$12,000 has been raised with the sale of bricks for the new community center at Balk Family Park.

Supervisor Grimm stated that he may have the oldest tree in Cannon Township on his property.

**O. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**P. ADJOURNMENT - 7:55 PM**



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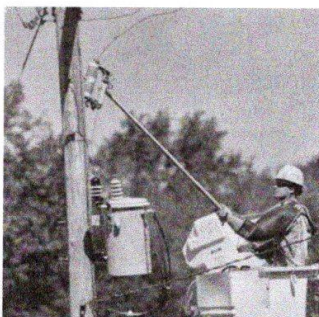
## From Overhead to Underground

**How can we increase electric reliability, provide additional safety measures for humans and animals, and support a community's economic development?** By burying electric lines.

One of the most common causes of power outages and restoration delays is weather. Buried power lines are protected from lightning, high winds, tornadoes, heavy snow, ice and falling tree limbs. With fewer overhead lines to repair after storms, crews can respond faster to other outage areas, leading to improved emergency preparedness.

"We can't control the weather, but we can control how we prepare for more extreme storms," said Chris Laird, Consumers Energy Vice President of Electric Operations. "Burying the lines is just one tool we can use in our growing toolbox to prevent outages from impacting our customers." As trees are another leading cause of power loss, our forestry team uses a variety of vegetation management methods to care for **trees and your power (outages-and-safety/trees-and-power-lines)**. Moving below ground reduces tree trimming and makes room for more or larger trees. The improved aesthetics and reliability can lead to the attraction of new businesses or homeowners to an area.

Reducing wear and tear from weather and tree impacts by shielding lines underground lowers maintenance costs. Furthermore, maintenance can be coordinated with road repair activity (when applicable) to reduce excavation costs.



**Out of sight – out of reach!** When they can no longer be damaged by wildlife and humans, power lines are less likely to need repair. Buried electrical equipment improves public safety and saves wildlife by reducing or eliminating downed wire electrocutions, fire hazards, vehicle collisions, falling poles, entanglement hazards (drones and low flying aircraft), vandalism, theft, illegal connections and sabotage.

While underground lines are less prone to damage, when there are issues it can take a bit longer to repair them. Yet, based on results from other energy providers that have moved overhead lines underground, we estimate that we can improve resiliency 90 percent along circuits where lines are buried.

It's no surprise that **work to bury electricity is gaining momentum** (<https://www.consumersenergy.com/news-releases/news-release-details/2023/07/05/12/59/consumers-energy-proposes-new-program-to-explore-burying-power-lines>) as part of our continued focus on strengthening Michigan's power grid.

Working to **ensure future reliability from coal to clean energy** (<http://about-us/sustainability/our-hometown-stories/balance-act>) includes determining how to best deliver the energy to you. With approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), **our targeted undergrounding pilot program** (<https://force4michigan.com/pilot->

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[program-explores-burying-power-lines-to-improve-reliability/](#)) will help us better understand the most cost-effective way to bury lines. This pilot studies real-world resiliency and improvements that result from burying electric lines compared to other approaches for nearly 2 million Michigan homes and businesses. Circuits targeted in the pilot have frequent, lengthy outages with dense trees in areas of Genesee, Livingston, Allegan, Ottawa, Montcalm, and Iosco counties.

**What does the future of moving overhead lines underground look like?** After thoroughly evaluating where burying the higher voltage electric distribution between the poles will provide the most benefit, we're aiming to underground about 400 miles of line annually. Neighborhoods will receive communications before, during and after construction to minimize impact, provide advance notice of any planned outages and restore property. This process begins with getting permission from various property owners for access to evaluate and perform the work.

Overhead power lines are moved underground and buried at least 24 inches deep. Depending on the project, this includes converting the primary and/or secondary electrical system but does not move the service wires attached to your home or business underground. If you are interested in paying to convert your property's service wires, contact 800-477-5050 (tel:8004775050). In some instances, poles will be removed while others will remain in place if they are owned or used by other services (cable, telecom, fiber). During construction, crews (<https://force4michigan.com/focused-on-a-successful-fulfilling-career/>) will be in the area, there may be lane closures and equipment along roadways or on your property. Similar to other reliability and resiliency projects ([https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/who-we-are/world-class-performance?utm\\_campaign=force-of-change&utm\\_source=countonus&utm\\_medium=vanity-url&utm\\_content=countonus](https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/who-we-are/world-class-performance?utm_campaign=force-of-change&utm_source=countonus&utm_medium=vanity-url&utm_content=countonus)), recovery of costs spread out among all customers goes through a rigorous approval process through the MPSC that ensures practical investments.

**Regardless of whether your area is underground or overhead, always dig safe!** It is the law for you to contact MISS DIG at least 3 days before any digging project. (This includes even routine jobs, such as planting shrubs and trees, replacing a mailbox post or installing a fence, deck or a basketball pole!) Call 8-1-1 (tel:811) or fill out the online form at [MISSDIG811.org \(https://www.missdig811.org/\)](https://www.missdig811.org/) to have electric and natural gas facilities marked. This free service marks lines with stakes, flags or paint. Within 4 inches of the markings, hand dig to avoid causing damage, outages or injury to yourself.

Even if you don't think there is damage, if you hit or nick a line, stop and call us immediately at 800-477-5050 (tel:8004775050). If you see someone digging without markings and believe facilities exist below ground, contact MISS DIG to place a Concerned Caller Ticket.

Always plan ahead to dig safely and plant responsibly – away from overhead and underground facilities to ensure your vegetation reaches its full potential, without risking future interruptions to your services.

**How do you decide what lines to move underground first?** It's important to convert from overhead strategically so that we bring the most value to customers. While the underground cost per mile is now equivalent to above-ground costs, the pilot program (<https://force4michigan.com/pilot-program-explores-burying-power-lines-to-improve-reliability/>) will help us learn even more about how to bury facilities in ways that keep costs as low as possible. The increased frequency of severe weather during the last few years has also made undergrounding more appealing and cost effective. With all this in mind, we strategically evaluate:

- **Outage history:** those of frequent or long duration and causes.
- **Constructability:** assessments on obstructions, materials, and cost.
- **Tree density:** environmental impact and tree trimming maintenance.
- **Quantity** of customers served.
- **Electrical load** required and anticipated growth of the area.
- Other planned area projects that we could partner with in parallel to limit disruption.

Today, about 15 percent of our lines are underground, and most are located in subdivisions and areas with high population density. Unfortunately, it will **never be feasible to put all wires below ground**. (<https://force4michigan.com/hey-consumers-energy-why-dont-you-just-bury-the-lines/>)

"It is important to remember burying our lines might be the right solution for some areas but not others. We will use a strategic approach and do it in the most cost-effective way for our customers. And by using a few different strategies to strengthen the grid, we will be able to deliver a brighter future for all the communities we serve," said Greg Salisbury, Consumers Energy Vice President of Electric Distribution Engineering.

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**With power underground, will there still be outages?** While it will certainly help protect service during storms, the underground lines ultimately connect to areas above ground that could cause an outage. In addition, just like any other infrastructure, there is a natural lifespan for the equipment below ground so it will require repairs and maintenance. To avoid outages from digging damages, before starting a project, remember that it is the law to call 8-1-1 or visit [missdig811.org](http://missdig811.org) (<http://missdig811.org/>) for underground lines to be marked. **Dig safely! (/outages-and-safety/work-safe/safe-digging)**



As Michigan's largest energy provider, we know our number one job is to keep the lights on for customers. We are committed to delivering more reliable, resilient, clean and affordable energy for every customer 24/7. To fulfill our commitment, we're exploring different methods to improve the resiliency of the grid, including putting power lines underground where it is feasible and beneficial to do so.

Our overall \$5.4 billion electric reliability plan is a blueprint for serving Michigan today while investing and innovating to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Investments are being made **to install new technology and automation**, (<https://force4michigan.com/providing-the-reliable-safe-service-our-customers-expect/>) trim trees, replace aging equipment and upgrade key equipment such as substations.

Undergrounding is one of several tactics we are employing to improve electric service for customers and to help us reach our reliability goals of:

1. No event impacting more than 100,000 customers.
2. All customers are restored within 24 hours.
3. No customer will have more than 3 outages per year.

Our goals reflect our commitment and pride in serving 6.7 million of the state's 10 million residents with electricity and/or natural gas in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

We look forward to continuing to implement superior technologies to reduce the frequency and duration of outages throughout Michigan. We'll keep you updated as plans progress.

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### GENERAL/RESIDENTIAL

M-F: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### BUSINESS

M-F: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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**Respectfully submitted:**  
**James Alles, Cannon Township Clerk**

**Sheri Alman, Recording Secretary**