

Gourley Township Menominee County Michigan Minutes of February 10, 2025 Regular Meeting

Supervisor Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. and then, asking all to stand, Steve led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Steve Wery, Supervisor
Stephanie Walechka, Treasurer
Ivy Netzel, Clerk
Dan Cordy, Trustee
Jesse Wery, Trustee

Absent:

Also Attending: Brain Mack, Fire Chief

Agenda: Steve presented the agenda and after review, Ivy made a motion to accept the agenda as amended with Stephanie supporting the motion; it carried.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Stephanie made a motion to accept the minutes. Steve supported the motion; it carried.

Treasurer & Clerk Report:

NOTE: The clerk checks the tax fund check book monthly.

- The Financial Report for January 2025 was reviewed and there was \$522,3821.07 in the General Fund and \$338,016.96 in the Fire Fund. Stephanie made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.
- Bank Accounts
 - Consolidate of bank accounts: Stephanie recommended that the ARPA account be considered closed because all the ARPA grant money will be disbursed with tonight's payment of the bills.
 - The township has had a checking account at the Embers Credit Union (formerly Delta County Credit Union) for several years to manage the Hannahville 2% grants for the township and fire department. A separate account is required to ensure that the money is used for its intended purpose and not for general township purposes.

Embers has notified Stephanie that they will no longer process our checks from the old Delta County Credit Union and require the township to purchase new check. The township writes very few checks from this account, approximately 2-3 checks per year.

Stephanie recommended that the existing State Bank Grant Fund – ARPA (which will show a \$0 balance in the February financial reports next month) be re-dedicated to manage the Hannahville 2% grant money and be re-named the State Bank Hannahville

2% Grant account or something to that effect. The grant money in the Embers Credit Union checking would be transferred to the State Bank Hannahville 2% Grant account and the Embers Credit Union checking account would be closed. When a grant payment is needed, funds would be transferred from the State Bank Hannahville 2% Grant account into the State Bank checking account (General Fund) and the check would be written from our normal general fund. This action would simplify the township's banking because all three accounts (General Fund, Fire Fund and Hannahville 2% Grant Fund) would now be at the UP State Bank.

- Stephanie recommended that the balance of the Embers Credit Union savings account, which currently serves as the Hall Rental account, be managed within the general fund at the UP State Bank as well. There is no requirement to have a separate account for this fund. This would allow closure of the Embers Credit Union savings account. Again, this would serve to simplify township banking.
- Steve made a motion to close out the Embers Credit Union account (checking and savings) and move the Hall Rental account and the Hannahville 2% account to UP State Bank. Dan supported the motion and it carried.

Fire Chief Report:

- There was 1 fire call for the month: CO detector alarm at a township residence.
- The Menominee County Fire Chief's Association meeting was held at the Gourley Township Hall.
- Both the pumper truck and the tanker truck were repaired and maintenance performed. Some additional maintenance will be required to be done this spring. The DOT inspection was completed satisfactory.
- SCBA Air pack tanks were received, along with boot chains and fire truck maintenance items. Payment for these items will come from the two outstanding Hannahville grants for the Fire Department with any remainder to be paid by the Fire Fund.
- A Regular Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor's Report:

- Steve and Jesse attended the MTA meeting.
- Steve and Dan attended the Menominee County Road Commission on January 29th at 8:00 a.m. in Stephenson. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Road Commission work in Gourley Township in 2025. Steve proposed to the commission that County Road 551 from County Road 374 south to the township line be repaved within the new 5-year road commission millage that just passed.

- Shed Dormer Project: Steve provided an update on the township and fire hall shed dormer project. The shed dormers are almost finished.
- Steve received one more veterans' exemption to be forwarded to the Assessor.

New Business:

- Hannahville 2% grant requests for March 2025: the board recommended that the fire department submit grant requests for this upcoming March grant cycle.
- Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA): Stephanie provided the board with a draft ESTA policy. The policy will be formalized at the next board meeting.

The State of Michigan passed ESTA in 2018. The purpose of ESTA was to award paid sick time for employees. The bill was in a deferred status by the state until recently. As of February 21st, the township will now be required to track employee hours worked and when enough accumulated hours are worked, one hour of sick time is earned.

The state legislature is currently working on amendments to this legislation because it is considered unworkable by many businesses in the state, as well as government entities like townships. However, until the legislation is clarified further, employees of the township will need to track the number of hours they have worked per month and provide that information to the Clerk. This law does not apply to elected officials (Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk and Trustees) but likely applies to the Fire Chief, Custodian, Board of Review and possibly Election Workers. More information is needed to implement this new requirement.

It is expected (hoped) that the clarified legislation will result in exempting small entities like Gourley Township, but until that happens, we have to track work hours.

Old Business:

- 2025-2026 Draft Budget: Ivy distributed copies of the 2025-2026 Draft Budget for the General Fund and the Fire Fund.

Public Comment

- none

Correspondence:

- none

Pay the Bills:

- Ivy made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by Steve. The motion carried.

Adjourn:

- Steve moved to adjourn. Jesse supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm CDT. The next meeting will be March 10th, 2025. The Budget Public Hearing meeting will begin at 6 pm CT, with a brief intermission and the township board meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,



Ivy Netzel, Clerk

3-10-2025
Date Approved