

Yates Township Board

Regular Meeting

Tuesday – February 17, 2026

Yates Township Community Building

In person and Zoom

6437 S. Nelson Road

Idlewild, MI 49642

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Supervisor Grier called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Chris Grier, Supervisor – Present

Barbara McGregory, Clerk – Absent - Excused

Jacqueline Patterson, Treasurer --Present

Erica Tate, Trustee – Present

Shawn Coffey, Trustee – Absent

Public Comments limited to 3 minutes

Approval of the Agenda

Supervisor Grier requested a motion to amend the agenda as follows:

- Item 6.5 - Board to convene in a closed session to discuss a complaint brought to the Township
- Item 6b – Commissioner Welford
- Item 10d Travel mileage rate increase
- Item 10e MTA Conference attendance by Board members
- Add a closed/executive session pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h)

Motion made by Treasurer Patterson, Seconded by Trustee Tate

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

Lake County Officials:

Lake County Sheriff Rich Martin not in attendance.

Lake County Commission Clyde Welford asked for support in his bid for re-election

Clerk's Report Approved, Unanimous consent to include the following;

- Prior Meeting minutes January 20, 2026 and November 18, 2025
- Monthly Bills

Treasurer's Report: Approved, Unanimous consent

Motion made by Treasurer Patterson, Seconded by Trustee Tate

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

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A complaint has been filed under the Township's Ethical Code of Conduct by Carmen Grier against Trustee Shawn Coffey. The Township has received an opinion letter from its attorneys regarding the complaint.

Supervisor Grier hereby moves to amend the agenda for this meeting to add a closed/executive session pursuant to Section 8(1)(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h), for the sole purpose of discussing the privileged and confidential legal opinion letter dated February 16, 2026, from Bloom Sluggett PC. I further move for the board to go into a closed session excluding Trustee Shawn Coffey because he is the subject of the complaint.

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0 Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved to reopen Board meeting at 5:45 pm

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0 Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved pursuant to Section 3.6 of the Yates Township Policy Manual to open an investigation into the allegations made in Carmen Grier's complaint against Trustee Shawn Coffey. I further move that the Township's attorneys, Bloom Sluggett PC, assist in the investigation and preparation of a report to be presented to the Township Board at a public hearing.

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0 Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved to rescind Chapter 3 of the Yates Township Handbook, the Code of Ethical Conduct, effective as of today. For clarity, the rescission of the Code of Ethical Conduct will have no impact on the investigation or resolution of the complaint previously made by Carmen Grier against Trustee Shawn Coffey.

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0 Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 8 Reports from department heads with the exclusion of Items 8b, e, & g.

Seconded by Trustee Tate

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0 Absent/Abstained Clerk B. Gregory and Trustee Coffey

Motion Carried

- a. **Assessor: Absent – Report on file.**
- b. **Fire Department:** Fire Chief Eric Mehan – New Yates Township Fire truck has arrived and is on display. An offer is pending for the purchase of the old fire truck following disposal guidelines of the Township. Fire Department has acquired six new radios through FEMA.
- c. **Henrietta Summers Center:** William Diggs, absent, report on file.
- d. **Maintenance:** Trustee Coffey, absent, no report.
- e. **Planning Commission:** Planning Commissioner Amy Ellis provided date of PC meeting February 19, 2026 at 5:00 pm.
- f. **Zoning administration:** Eric Cody, absent, no report
- g. **Ordinance Enforcement:** Reported and read by Ordinance Enforcement Officer Carmen Grier.
- h. **Parks and Rec:** Trustee Tate – No report

Pending Business:

Supervisor Grier presented applicants for Planning Commission vacancies. Applicants Colleen Carrington-Atkins and Dorian Walls

Supervisor Grier moved to appoint Colleen Carrington-Atkins to complete term previously held by Kyle Greene. Seconded by Trustee Tate.

Voice Vote: Yea – 2; Nay – 1

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. Gregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

New Business:

Supervisor Grier ask for a motion to approve Poverty 2026-R02 Resolution of Guidelines for Applications Requesting Consideration for Poverty Exemption for 2026

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. Gregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. Gregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved to approve upgraded Paychex Flex package for employee payroll function providing for Direct Deposit and other record services.

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved to reschedule the March 17, 2026 Yates Township Board meeting to Wednesday March 18, 2026.

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

Treasurer Patterson moved to increase the travel mileage for Yates employees to 72.5 cents, matching the current federal travel mileage rate.

Seconded by Trustee Tate

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0

Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier moved to approve the attendance of Treasurer Jackie Patterson, Trustee Eric Tate, Deputy Clerk Marshelean Garrett, and Supervisor Chris Grier at the MTA Annual Conference April 20-23, 2026 in Traverse City, MI.

Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 3; Nay – 0 **Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey**

Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier recognized on ZOOM, Nicolena Stubbs, Idlewild About Art curator's request to extend current exhibit on Williams Island.

Supervisor Grier moved to extend the current exhibit for six months until approximately August 31, 2026.

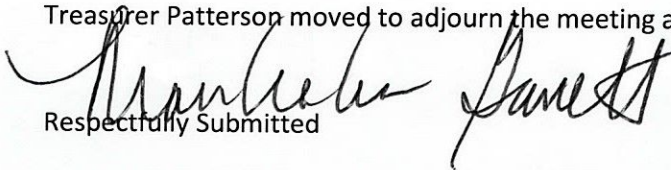
Seconded by Treasurer Patterson

Voice Vote: Yea – 2; Nay – 1 **Absent/Abstained Clerk B. McGregory and Trustee Shawn Coffey**

Motion Carried

Public comments were made.

Treasurer Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm seconded by Supervisor Grier.


Respectfully Submitted

Deputy Clerk Marshelean Garrett