

**Yates Township Board
Special Meeting Minutes, Thursday, June 13, 2026
Yates Township Office Building
In person and Zoom
6437 S Nelson Rd., Idlewild, MI 49642**

Call to Order: Supervisor Grier called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- ☒ P __ Supervisor Grier
- ☒ A __ Clerk Gregory (excused)
- ☒ P __ Treasurer Patterson
- ☒ P __ Trustee Tate (Late 10:30am)
- ☒ P __ Trustee Coffey

Public comments limited to 3 minutes

Motion to approve meeting agenda with changes. Move item 11b to become item 12f under new business. Remove Items 10b, c, and g; allow Lake County Prosecuting Attorney candidate Cameron Harwell address the body.

Motion by Treasurer J. Patterson Seconded Supervisor C. Grier

Voice Vote: Yea - 4; Nay - 0; Motion Carried.

Motion to approve the consent agenda (meeting minutes, monthly bills to be paid, treasurer 's financial reports and other items added) by Treasurer J. Patterson and Seconded by Trustee S. Coffey

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried

Motion to approve the 2026 Brining Agreement by Treasurer Patterson and read by Deputy Clerk Garrett. Seconded by Trustee Tate. **Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried**

Fire Department report from Chief Eric Meehan read by Treasurer Patterson

Henrietta Summers Senior Center presented by Director William Diggs

Director Diggs expressed concerns about the HVAC system requesting an evaluation on the repair of replacement of the unit.

Zoning Enforcement report presented by Zoning Enforcement Officer, Carmen Grier

Supervisor Grier announced that Yates Township was award a \$10,00.00 Consumers Energy Foundation Grant to fund the Idlewild Black Heritage Trail and an additional \$2,000.00 grant was received to cover the first five of twenty-five historical signs to be created.

Motion was made by Trustee E. Tate to add MTA Core Competencies for Township Officials to the Yates Township Administrative policies. Seconded by Supervisor Grier, **Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried**

Motion to table Item 12, Yates Township Public Meeting Decorum Policy, was made by Supervisor Grier. Seconded by Treasurer Patterson.

Voice Vote: Yea-4; Nay-0; Motion Carried

Motion made by Supervisor Grier for Trustee Tate and Supervisor Grier to attend the July 14-15, 2026 Professional Development training in Bay City, MI. **Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried**

Motion made by Supervisor Grier for Zoning Administrator Eric Cody for Professional Development Certification training through the MSU Extension Zoning Administrator Program. Seconded by Treasurer Patterson. **Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried**

Motion by Supervisor Grier to approve the Fir Pro's quote and contract for Fire Suppression equipment for HSSC. Seconded by Trustee Coffey, **Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried**

Motion by Supervisor Grier for Yates Township to participate in the Yates Township July 4th Parade. Seconded by Trustee Tate.
Voice Vote: Yea-4; Nay-0; Motion Carried

Supervisor Grier acknowledged the celebration of the 103rd Anniversary of Tabernacle-AME Church and requested a resolution be prepared from Yates Township.

Supervisor Grier opened discussion of **the Ethical Complaint and investigation Report** regarding Trustee Shawn Coffey which was read into the records. Trustee Coffey recused himself from the Board to speak on his own behalf. Zoning Enforcement Officer Carmen Grier was also invited to the podium to address her complaint. Other interested parties were allowed the opportunity to address the Board before deliberations and review of possible actions based on the findings of the investigation. Supervisor Grier read MCL 15.321, 15.341, 15.351, and 15.351B which spoke to issues in this investigation. Supervisor Grier also shared the statement prepared by Attorney Patrick Sweeney of Bloom and Sluggett used to assist the Yates Township Board in the proper dispensation of this complaint. Yates Township Board members discussed in detail all points of the investigation. Supervisor Grier reported that the Township Ethics Policy (Code of Ethics 3.1) was used in part while determining the outcome of this investigation. Actions that could be taken in this investigation against Trustee Coffey could be *A) Removal from duties as Maintenance Supervisor, B) Removal as Ex-Aficio from the Yates Township Planning Commission, and C) Letter of Censure identifying the conduct cited and placed as a permanent record in Township minute.* Also provided as information were the (only) three ways and elected official may be removed from office. They were as follows; *A) Resignation or death, B) Recall, and C) Decree by the Governor.* Discussion followed with Supervisor Grier stating bluntly that, we the Board must act.

Motion was made by Treasurer J. Patterson to Publicly Censure Trustee Coffey. Seconded by Trustee Tate Point of Order was called before the vote. Trustee Tate offered and amended motion to Treasurer Patterson's motion.

Trustee Tate made a motion that a written letter of censure be produced and placed in the township minutes addressing Trustee Coffey's actions. Seconded by Treasurer Patterson.

Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Grier – Abstained, Trustee Tate – Yes, Trustee Patterson – Yes, Motion Carried

Public Comments in person and on zoom (limited to 3 minutes per person).

- Kyle Grier expressed displeasure with Trustee Coffey's actions and he hoped the Board would do what was best.
- Carmen Grier asked for a Resolution to ask Trustee Coffey to Resign.
- Carmen Grier asked why was the Township Ethics Policy remove?
- Dr. Fenobia Dallas commented that she had not seen the Facebook post mentioned early in this investigation
- Dr. Micala Cochran (on zoom) voiced her support of Trustee Shawn Coffey.
- Colleen Carrington-Atkins spoke in support of Trustee Coffey.

Board Comments:

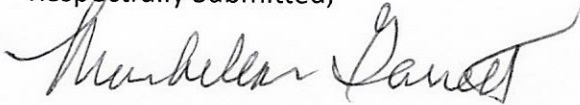
- Treasurer Patterson stated that people have the right to comment or make a statement of their beliefs.
- Trustee Tate remarked that everyone is entitled to his/her own opinions
- Supervisor Grier explained that the Township Ethics policy used during this investigation has been rescinded as it does not apply to elected officials and "has no teeth". It will be worked on to change to something that has more metal.

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Grier, Seconded by Trustee Coffey

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Motion Carried.

Adjourned 12:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Marshelean Garrett, Deputy Clerk

Yates Township