

Georgette Peterson, Supervisor
 Susan Wilson, Clerk
 Jeff Douglas, Treasurer

Ted Swanson, Trustee
 Rob Zantello, Trustee

ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP
 52022 34th Avenue, Bangor, Michigan
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2026

Georgette Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Ted Swanson, Jeff Douglas, Susan Wilson, & Georgette Peterson were all present.

Absent: Rob Zantello

Others Present: Scott Graham, Arlington Township Attorney

Budget Presentation: Jeff Douglas

- 2026-2027 budget posted on website.
- Highlights of budget presented:
 - Budget is tight and Rev Share is down.
 - Some salaries were increased.
 - Road funding increased by 27%.
- Resident's questions answered.

Georgette Peterson closed the open budget meeting and initiated the regular monthly meeting.

Approval of Agenda: CR 376 to be added under old business.

Ted Swanson made a motion to approve the agenda with the above addition, supported by Susan Wilson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approved Consent Agenda Reports:

Assessor's Report

Supervisor's Report – Georgette Peterson:

- Monthly meetings scheduled for 3rd Wednesday of each month (except for December, which will be the 2nd Wednesday) at 7:00 pm for 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.

Clerk's Report

Motion was made by Jeff Douglas to approve the Consent Agenda Reports, supported by Georgette Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Corrections needed for February 18, 2026, meeting minutes:

- Page 1 under Senior Service's Report – pass should be passport.
- Page 3 under Transfer Station Attendant – discussion took place after the motion.
- Page 4 under IT TeamLogic – During the motion, dollar amounts were not stated. Financials were stated on proposal in board packet.

Motion was made by Ted Swanson to approve February 18, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes with the above noted changes, supported by Susan Wilson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports

Law Enforcement: Deputy Daniel

- 41 calls for February.
- Starting work on blight issues.
- While on patrol, noting properties that could be condemnable.
- Fireworks ordinance needed to enforce any restrictions. Attorney Graham will provide the ordinance.
- Patrol car parked in pole barn (fire house). During electrical outages, emergency pull cord not reachable to reconnect. Need pole barn connected to generator or have ladder available.

Fire Departments:

Arlington, Bangor City, and Bangor Township (ABB): Derek Babcock

- 48 total calls for February. 14 calls for Arlington Township (all medical). 92 YTD.
- Pancake breakfast last Saturday in May.
- Refurbished engine hopefully ready next Tuesday.
- Derek elected as County's training coordinator.
- CPR classes being held. Call Derek to schedule.
- Budget meeting next Wednesday.

Lawrence Township Emergency Services (LTES): Bill Featherstone

- 31 total calls for February. 9 calls for Arlington Township. 81 YTD.
- 2 fire academy students graduate in May.
- Arranging EMT/EMR classes with fire chief in Hartford. Bill to teach classes.
 - EMR is a first responder.
 - EMT is a 16-week course with clinicals. Licensure exam is given by the State of Michigan.

Senior Service's Report: Nothing new to report.

Commissioner's Report: Kurt Doroh

- Annual audit had no findings.
- Mike Toth will complete Randy Peat's term of office as county commissioner.
- VBC Sheriff's department has received DNA technology to be used 'on scene.'

Road Commission (RC) Report: Brett Witkowski

- RC took over roadside mowing. Coverage area is mowed 2 or 3 times per year.
- Received 2.4 million in grants to help offset cost of projects.
- Grant was received to study 'best practice' in Seal Coating and Fog Sealing.
- Hiring more staff. 7 – 8 people are eligible to retire.
- Will meet with area fire chiefs and county sheriff regarding plowing and salting roads in weather related emergencies.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Douglas

- Approval is needed to pay the February 19, 2026, to March 18, 2026, expenses. Generally, checks with 3/18/26 dates are post board approval payments; checks dated prior to this date were issued prior to board approval per township policy, or were previously approved by the board.

Ted Swanson made a motion to approve payment of the above expenses. Georgette Peterson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The Lawrence Fire Department's 2025-2026 contract is \$20,000.

Ted Swanson made a motion to approve payment for the above expense. Georgette Peterson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Amendments to the budget are needed. (Amendments are delineated at the end of the minutes.)
Georgette Peterson made a motion to approve the budget amendments as reported in the board packet. Ted Swanson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Jeff discussed Reserve Fund Strategies:
 - State revenue sharing is decreasing annually. \$12,000 in State Equalization funds no longer available. The proposed 26-27 budget is tight.
 - Road repair and maintenance funding increased by 27% in proposed budget.
 - Long-term road strategy – Form Citizen’s Advisory Committee to evaluate roads and report findings to board. VBCRC estimates repair costs. 80% of road millage to be used for road repair.
 - Assessment of Blight/Condemned property. Each property requires a \$20,000 condemnation deposit. Deposits to be recouped through property taxes.
 - Emergency Management/Disaster Assistance for debris clean up, tree removal, road repair, potable drinking water, etc.
 - Drain fee cost above and beyond the millage rate property owners are assessed for.
 - Reserve 3 to 6 months of operational costs if funding source is disrupted.

Planning Commission (PC) Report: Peggy Douglas

- Public Hearing on Draft Master Plan held on March 4th – 4 people attended.
- Additional statements were added to the plan and approved by the PC. The additions were not substantial and do not change the overall plan.
- The master plan will be voted on by the PC on April 1st and then forwarded to the Board.
- Additional meeting dates were added for the PC to review the Zoning Ordinance in sections.
- Each section will go to the Board after PC’s review.

Marijuana Coordinator’s Report: Georgette Peterson

Ground Control License Renewal

- Currently undergoing a Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) complaint. The allegations are serious. Attorney recommends tabling license renewal pending resolution of the CRA and allow them to continue operating for 1 month.
Georgette Peterson made a motion to allow Ground Control to continue business and table the license renewal for 1 month, until the next board meeting (3rd Wednesday in April), and forward any new information Ground Control receives as soon as possible to Georgette. Susan Wilson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

- Planning Commission thanked for Master Plan work.
- Trustee position questioned.
- Coverage areas of fire departments discussed.

New Business:

Evaluation of Fire Departments’ Coverage Area and Contracts: Jeff Douglas

- In the best interest of Township residents, the Board evaluated fire and medical coverage areas (mileage, routes, response times, etc). No decision by the Board was made.
Ted Swanson made a motion to keep the same fire coverage area, possibly open this up for discussion with the residents, address this again next year, if needed, and review the pros and cons. Georgette Peterson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Lawrence Fire Department previously received \$32,000 per year and now receive \$20,000. What happened with the difference - \$12,000. Discussion ensued regarding ABB bylaws and funding formula.

Georgette Peterson made a motion to table the discussion. Jeff Douglas supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Derek Babcock suggested a meeting to discuss the subject further.

Resolution for Board to Approve Master Plan: Georgette Peterson

- The resolution gives the Board the final say in approving the Master Plan. Marcy Hamilton from SWMPC thought this needed Board approval.

Georgette Peterson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1: Resolution to Assert the Township Board the Right to Approve the Master Plan. Ted Swanson supported the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ted Swanson, Jeff Douglas, Susan Wilson, and Georgette Peterson all in favor. Motion carried. Georgette Peterson declared the resolution adopted.

Vendor Selection for MSHDA Grant: Georgette Peterson

- 14 Request's for Proposal (RFP) were submitted to vendors from a list provided by MSHDA. Two were received (Vital Works and Market One) – one proposal had complete information and the other did not.

Georgette Peterson made a motion to approve the RFP from Market One for the MSHDA Grant. Ted Swanson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Transfer Station Attendant: Ted Swanson

- Georgette Peterson had not heard back from people interested in the position. Georgette contacted Vo-Tech Center to see if any older students or recent graduates would be interested. She has not heard back from them.

The Transfer Station will remain closed until an attendant is selected to man the station.

VBCRC Project Sheet for West Side of Park Lane: Georgette Peterson

- The project sheet is to complete the ditching and stump removal on the west side of Park Lane for \$40,372.26. (Estimate is valid through 12/31/26.)

Ted Swanson made a motion to pay \$40,373.26 to continue the work on the west side of Park Lane, project # 489.2851. Georgette Peterson supported the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ted Swanson, Jeff Douglas, Susan Wilson, and Georgette Peterson all in favor. Motion carried.

County Road 376: Georgette Peterson

- Original agreement allocated 50% of the Township Rev Share to VBCRC annually for 3 years to fix CR 376. VBCRC agreed to commit \$25,000 annually for 3 years.
- Due to RC millage renewal in 2026, agreement was amended to add 2 more years and further funding (\$25,000 for each additional year).
- RC now requests a revision of the current 5-year agreement for an additional up-front cost of \$86,000 from the Township. Or extend the current Rev Share agreement to 7 years, which would also cost the Township an additional \$86,000 only if the millage passes.
- RC cannot complete CR 376 with the current Rev Share agreement.

Ted Swanson made a motion to discuss the proposal for CR 376. Georgette Peterson supported the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Further discussion ensued:

- The Township has already provided adequate funding to fix CR 376 and is not responsible for any additional costs.
- The original agreement was initiated to assist residents living on CR 376.
- Contributing more money to a County road detours funds set aside for Township roads.

Georgette Peterson made a motion to not allocate additional funding to fix CR 376. The Township will abide by the original agreement but not allocate further funding for the project. Since the current agreement will not pay for the project and the project may not be completed, the decision to cancel or proceed is up to VBCRC. Ted Swanson supported the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ted Swanson, Jeff Douglas, Susan Wilson, and Georgette Peterson all in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Ted Swanson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm. Seconded by Jeff Douglas. All in favor. Motion carried.

DRAFT

Budget Amendments 03/18/2026

Gen Fund

From 101-101-955.000 (2,487.00) Twp Board, Misc Exp
 To 101-000-804.000 2,487.00 Non-Dept, Accounting/Audit Fee

From 101-528-801.000 (450.00) Rubbish Coll, Contracted Serv
 To 101-528-930.000 450.00 Rubbish Coll, Repairs and Main

From 101-101-955.000 (20.00) Twp Board, Misc Exp
 To 101-253-727.000 20.00 Treasurer, Office Supply

From 101-257-955.000 (1,200.00) Assessor, Misc Exp
 To 101-247-702.000 1,110.00 BOR, Salaries & Wages
 To 101-247-715.000 90.00 BOR, Payroll Taxes

MBL Fund

From 213-000-961.000 (550.00) Non-Dept, Liability Ins.
 To 213-000-727.000 550.00 Non-Dept, Office Supplies

From 213-000-804.000 (2,000.00) Non-Dept, Accounting & Audit Fees
 From 213-101-707.000 (2,000.00) Twp Board, Salary and Wages-Coordinator
 From 213-701-801.000 (2,000.00) Plan and Zone, Contracted Services
 To 213-000-802.000 6,000.00 Non-Dept, Legal and Prof Fees

From 213-101-801.000 (1,400.00) Twp Board, Contract Services
 To 213-265-920.000 800.00 Buildings and Grounds, Utilities
 To 213-265-930.000 600.00 Buildings and Grounds, Repairs and Main

GEN to MBL**Fund****Transfer**

101-265-955.000 (4,100.00) Buildings and Grounds, Misc Expenses
 213-265-971.000 4,100.00 Buildings and Grounds, Capital Outlay