

**MINUTES OF GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
FOR THE REGULAR 7:00 PM MEETING
January 12, 2026**

Present: Supervisor Terpstra, Clerk Brew, Treasurer Lemke, Trustees: DeWard, Fryling, Vander Stel

Staff: Manager Weersing, Community Development Director Wells

Absent: Trustee: Haagsma with notice

Opening prayer was given by Board Member Terpstra and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. The meeting was called to order at 07:02 p.m. by Board Member Terpstra.

2. Question of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Review of the Consent Agenda.

No items were removed for in-depth discussion

4. Meeting Agenda

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and supported by Board Member Lemke to approve the published agenda.

VOICE VOTE: 6 Aye. 0 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

5. Communications ~ Non-action Informational Items

- a) **2025 4th Qtr. Kent County Sherrif Dept. Crime Report**
- b) **December 2025 Community Policing Officers' Report**
- c) **Building Department December 2025 Revenue Report**
- d) **Kent County Digest**
- e) **Public Comment regarding Data Centers**
- f) **Service Recognition – Brian Koster**
- g) **Service Recognition – Chris Melton**

6. Scheduled Speakers

Joe Agostinelli – Dutton Center Brownfield TIF Request.

7. Recognition of Individuals and/or Delegations for agenda and non-agenda items.

A citizen requested the Township to begin a discussion about completing sidewalks where some properties have them and adjacent properties do not.

8. Public Hearings

None

9. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and supported by Board Member Lemke to approve the Consent Agenda including the December 08, 2025 draft minutes; the Treasurer's November 2025 Financial Report; General fund expenditures from 12/01/2025 through 12/31/2025 totaling \$254,596.61; Public Safety Special Assessment District expenditures totaling \$348,654.69; Building inspections totaling \$10,563.33 and Water and Sewer expenditures totaling \$677,603.05.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Board Member Vander Stel - yes, Board Member Lemke - yes, Board Member DeWard - yes, Board Member Fryling - yes, Board Member Terpstra - yes, Board Member Brew - yes. Motion carried by roll call vote.

10. New Business

A. Dutton Center Brownfield TIF Request

General question and answer discussion.

B. Rescind Chapter 32, Section 32-23 Waste Haulers; Licenses from Code of Ordinances

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Fryling to set a public hearing for February 9, 2026 to rescind Chapter 32, Section 32-23 Waste Haulers from Code of Ordinances.

VOICE VOTE: 6 Aye. 0 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

C. Sec. 4-26(C) Alcoholic Liquors Ordinance – Annual Renewal Fee

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and supported by Board Member DeWard to approve the Resolution changing the fee structure for Sec. 4-26(C) of the alcoholic liquors ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE Board Member Vander Stel - yes, Board Member DeWard - yes, Board Member Lemke - no, Board Member Terpstra - yes, Board Member Brew - yes, Board Member Fryling - no. Motion carried by roll call vote.

D. Amendments to Fire Prevention and Projection (Chapter 20) of the Code Of Ordinances

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Vander Stel to set a public hearing for February 9, 2026 to change amendments to Fire Prevention and Projection (Chapter 20) of the Code Of Ordinances.

VOICE VOTE: 6 Aye. 0 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

E. Signage Request – Parks and Trail Committee

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and supported by Board Member DeWard to approve the Parks and Trail Committee sign requests not to exceed \$25,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Board Member Vander Stel - yes, Board Member DeWard - yes, Board Member Terpstra - yes, Board Member Fryling - yes, Board Member Lemke – yes, Board Member Brew - yes. Motion carried by roll call vote.

F. Branding

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Vander Stel to approve the purchase of materials to add branding to the Board Chambers, main conference room, and lobby areas and to provide to each employee a copy of the mission and vision statements.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Board Member Lemke - yes, Board Member Vander Stel - yes, Board Member Brew - no, Board Member DeWard - yes, Board Member Fryling - yes, Board Member Terpstra - yes. Motion carried by roll call vote.

G. Committee Assignments

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Vander Stel to remove the Committee Assignments off the table.

VOICE VOTE: 6 Aye. 0 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Vander Stel to approve the 2026 committee assignments as presented.

VOICE VOTE: 5 Aye. 1 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

H. Water and Sewer Annual Utility Bill Relief Report

General report from the Water and Sewer Department of 2025 activity as required.

I. Water and Sewer Year-End Payment Plan Balances

General report from the Water and Sewer Department of 2025 activity as required.

J. IAFF Local 4385 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Fryling to meet in closed session at 08:47 pm, during their regularly scheduled January 12, 2026, 7:00PM, meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.268 *et seq.*, in regard to confidential attorney-client privilege legal advice presented in a written legal opinion..

VOICE VOTE: 6 Aye. 0 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Vander Stel at 09:12 pm to reenter open session.

VOICE VOTE: 6 Aye. 0 Nay. Motion carried on voice vote.

Motion by Board Member Lemke and supported by Board Member Vander Stel to accept the IAFF Local 4385 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE Board Member Lemke - yes, Board Member Vander Stel - yes, Board Member Terpstra - yes, Board Member Brew - yes, Board Member DeWard - yes, Board Member Fryling - yes. Motion carried by roll call vote.

11. Public Comments

No one spoke

12. Manager's comments

A new Township facebook page was started.

Emergency Management classes have been attended.

13. Supervisor's comments.

A February open house is being planned.

February 9 is the next Gaines Charter Township Trustee Board meeting.

February 12 is the Planning Commission meeting at South Christian High School. Members decided who will be attending so as to not violate the open meetings act (OMA).

February 26 is the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department new fire engine push event.

14. Trustees comments

No one spoke.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Michael Alex Brew
Michael Alex Brew, Clerk

Robert Terpstra, Supervisor