MINUTES OF GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
FOR THE REGULAR 6:00 PM MEETING
August 11, 2025

Present: Supervisor Terpstra, Clerk Brew, Treasurer Lemke, Trustees DeWard, Haagsma, Vander Stel
Staff: Manager Weersing, Community Development Director Wells

Absent: Trustee Fryling

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 06:02 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

<u>Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and seconded by Board Member Haagsma to approve the published agenda.</u>

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

5. Communications ~ Non-action Informational Items

- **a) July 2025 Gaines Charter Township Fire Department Run Report**
- **b) July 2025 Community Policing Officers' Report**
- **c) Township Focus: Think Globally; Act Locally**
- **d) Parks & Trails Meeting Minutes**
- **e) Building Department July 2025 Revenue Report**

6. Scheduled Speakers

Kent County Brownfield Authority – Josh Spencer

Natural Resources Inventory – Online Update from Michael Liptak and Anna Piazza

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

No one spoke

8. Public Hearings

A. **Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Allow Electronic Changeable Message Signs in Residential Zoning**

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to open the public hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment allowing electronic message signs in residential zoning areas.

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

No one spoke

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and seconded by Board Member Lemke to close the public hearing for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment allowing electronic message signs in residential zoning areas.

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

B. **Township Code of Ordinances Section 22.136 – Multifamily Early Starts**

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to open the public hearing concerning changes to Township Code of Ordinances Section 22.136 allowing multifamily early starts.

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

No one spoke

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and seconded by Board Member Haagsma close the public hearing concerning changes to Township Code of Ordinances Section 22.136 allowing multifamily early starts.

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

9. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to approve the Consent Agenda including the July 14, 2025 and July 28, 2025 draft meeting minutes; Treasurer's Financial Report; General fund expenditures from 07/01/2025 through 07/31/2025 totaling $219,284.80; Public Safety Special Assessment District expenditures totaling $498,333.49; Building inspections totaling $1,301.41 and Water and Sewer expenditures totaling $1,292,388.23.

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

10. New Business

A. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Allow Electronic Changeable Message Signs in Residential Zoning

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Brew to deny the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment allowing Electronic Changeable Message Signs in Residential Zoning.

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

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Brew to send the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment allowing Electronic Changeable Message Signs in Residential Zoning back to the Planning Commission to revise the restrictions on the special use permits.

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

B. Township Code of Ordinances – Section 22.136 – Multifamily Early Starts

Motion by Board Member DeWard and seconded by Board Member Haagsma to change the Township Code of Ordinances, Section 22.136 to allow the board to approve multifamily early start contracts with developers for early starts.

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

C. Prairie Wolf Station – Planned Unit Development (PUD) / Consent Judgement Site Plan Amendment

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to approve the Prairie Wolf Station PUD / Consent Judgement Site Plan Amendment as presented.

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

D. Blain Cemetery Water Expansion

Motion by Board Member Lemke and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to approve the expenditure to expand the amount of water faucets in Blain Cemetery.

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

E. Columbarium

Motion by Board Member DeWard and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to arrange the columbaria at Blain Cemetery.

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

Motion by Board Member Lemke and seconded by Board Member Haagsma to purchase 2 additional columbaria placing one at Blain Cemetery and one at Dutton Cemetery.

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

F. The Rapid – Annual Contract Renewal

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to renew The Rapid contract as presented.

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

G. Fiscal Year 2026 Public Safety Special Assessment – Set Public Hearing

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Lemke to set the public hearing for September 8, 2025 regarding the 2026 Public Safety Special Assessment with a discussion of utilizing the maximum value of 1.5 mils.

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

H. Township Office Business Hours

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to change the Township Office business hours to 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Friday starting January 2, 2026.

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

I. Branding

Motion by Board Member Vander Stel and seconded by Board Member Lemke to choose a township logo (identified in the meeting as example B) and to choose a township motto of "Gain more . . .".

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

J. Hanna Lake Sidewalk bids

Motion by Board Member Haagsma and seconded by Board Member Vander Stel to approve allowing staff (Manager Weersing) to award a winning bid to the company recommended by the township engineer.

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

11. Public Comments

Zachary Abbott, candidate for Michigan 79th District State Representative, introduced himself to the board

12. Manager's comments

Hanna Lake sidewalk may need to be placed on an August 25, 2025 trustee meeting

Prairie Wolf Station early start contract may need to be placed on an August 25, 2025 trustee meeting.

13. Supervisor's comments.

Wants to start an official Gaines Charter Township Facebook page.

Wants all trustees to attend the Taste of Gaines event.

Trustee meetings will revert back to a 7:00 pm start time starting in September

14. Trustees comments

Movies in the Park will be on August 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm with the movie **Dogman**

National night out was expressed to be fantastic by Board Member Lemke

A call for a detailed list of items that are being placed in the budget

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Michael Alex Brew

Michael Alex Brew, Clerk

Robert Terpstra

Robert Terpstra, Supervisor