



MASON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MASON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2026

The Mason Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Mason Township Hall.

Supervisor Charlie Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Clerk Kristin LeVan called roll:

Board of Trustees Present: Supervisor Charlie Arnold, Clerk Kristin LeVan, Treasurer Arlene Chew, Trustee David Allen, Trustee Debra Cloud

Board of Trustees Absent:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident(s) are concerned with noise and other problems on Metcalf Court.

J. Blosser concerned with Data Centers, what's happening in Penn Township. Also asked questions concerning Prosecutor Victor Fitz resigning.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA

M-2026-05-12-01 Trustee Allen moved, seconded by Trustee Cloud, to approve the consent agenda, which included tonight's agenda, April 14, 2026 regular meeting and the April 21, 2026 and May 2, 2026 special meeting of the Mason Township Board of Trustee minutes, Clerk's Payables for Approval, and Treasurer's General Fund report. Supervisor Arnold instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (5): Supervisor Arnold, Clerk LeVan, Treasurer Chew, Trustee Allen, Trustee Cloud

No (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

REPORTS

Supervisor Arnold- May 2, 2026 the township board unanimously approved a one-year moratorium on Data Centers, which went into effect on May 8, 2026. It was posted in the Elkhart Truth. Trustee Cloud will explain more in the Planning Commission report. Cass County Road Commission has finished all road projects in Mason Twp. MDOT will be working on US 12 this summer.

Clerk LeVan/Office Manager- Ballot bags were inspected and certified for the upcoming elections. Landscaping at the township is finished. Improvements to the entrance/exit to the township parking lot are complete and much improved. The old bike rack has been removed, and the new bike rack has been installed.



MASON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Treasurer Chew- Gave a report on Public Safety Revenue. Mason received \$3,311.00. Discussed where this money could be used for public safety.

Trustees Allen and Trustee Cloud- None.

Cass County Commissioners Marchetti and Lee- Attached.

Building Department- Permits issued: 11 building, 5 electrical, 2 mechanical, and 1 plumbing.

Zoning Department- None.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer- Helping to provide Data Center updates and information to townships they serve.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on April 21, 2026. Gary Sanders has resigned from the Planning Commission, we are thankful for his service to the township. There is now an open seat on the Planning Commission. There was discussion concerning Data Centers and steps that need to be taken. John Hanson made the motion, seconded by Doreen Escovedo to have the township attorney draft a temporary moratorium for Data Centers.

Debra Cloud, Trustee and Planning Commission Secretary explained the following concerning the moratorium on Data Centers representing both the Planning Commissions' and Township Board of Trustees' understanding:

Mason Township does not currently have a zoning ordinance that addresses Data Centers. Because of that, the only responsible way to proceed was to adopt a temporary moratorium. The moratorium gives the township time to write the necessary zoning ordinance(s). Without it, if a developer submitted a Data Center proposal, the township would not be able to retroactively apply new rules once the process had already begun.

The township board felt it was important to act quickly so the moratorium would be in place before any potential developer approached the township. Because of this, the township board called a special meeting, providing more than the required 18 hours notice.

Any updates to the Zoning Ordinance cannot outright ban Data Centers, nor can they be written so restrictively that they effectively target a single type of business. Instead, the goal is to use the year-long moratorium to create zoning standards that protect water resources and farmland, address light and noise pollution, and ensure that future development does not come at the expense of residents' quality of life, public health, safety and welfare.

The Planning Commission will work with the township's attorney to draft a zoning ordinance(s) that complies with Michigan law. This will not be a simple task. Under Michigan's Zoning Enabling Act, local governments cannot use exclusionary zoning to completely prohibit legitimate land uses such as Data Centers when those uses otherwise meet zoning requirements.

SEPSA- None.

Sextons- None.



MASON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M-2026-04-21-01 Trustee Allen moved, seconded by Trustee Cloud, to approve the contract with Zoning Solution for Blight/Code Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Arnold instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (5): Supervisor Arnold, Clerk LeVan, Treasurer Chew, Trustee Allen, Trustee Cloud

No (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

M-2026-05-12-02 Trustee Allen moved, seconded by Treasurer Chew, to approve the contract renewal with EMC Insurance. Supervisor Arnold instructed the Clerk to call roll:

Yes (5): Supervisor Arnold, Clerk LeVan, Treasurer Chew, Trustee Allen, Trustee Cloud

No (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

UPCOMING DATES

MASON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING: TUESDAY, June 9, 2026, AT 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Cloud moved, seconded by Trustee Allen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Supervisor Arnold adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Clerk Kristin LeVan on 05/13/2026

Approved by the Mason Township Board on: 06/09/2026

Kristin LeVan, Mason Township Clerk

Charlie Arnold, Mason Township Supervisor