

HARTLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING FINAL MINUTES  
April 21, 2026 – 7:00 PM

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Fountain at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

PRESENT: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee Petrucci

ABSENT: Trustee Denise O'Connell (listened in from Georgia)

Also present was Finance Director Susan Dryden.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

**Move to approve the agenda for the April 21, 2026 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.**

Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee Petrucci.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustee O'Connell (listened in from Georgia)

**5. Call to the Public**

No one came forward.

**6. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Clerk Ciofu stated the were two minor corrections in the draft minutes in the Board Report section that were updated in the Board Packet included today.

**Move to approve the consent agenda for the April 21, 2026 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.**

Motion made by Trustee Petrucci, Seconded by Treasurer Horning.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustee O'Connell (listened in from Georgia)

- a. Approve Payment of Bills
- b. Approve Post Audit of Disbursements Between Board Meetings
- c. 04-07-26 Hartland Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes

**7. Pending & New Business**

- a. Resolution Authorizing Ballot Proposal for the Funding of Fire Services

Joe Colaianne of Clark Hill PLC and Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority (HDFFA) Chief Adam Carroll came forward to present the Fire Millage Ballot Initiative. Mr. Colaianne thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent the Township on this matter and stated Clark Hill has previously

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provided bond council services related to financing projects in the Township. He stated he was asked to assist with the funding related to the HDFA and was asked to prepare a ballot proposal. He stated it was his understanding that a subcommittee, and then the Board, looked at what a proposal may look like, and he stated he prepared the language that would appear on the ballot for this proposal. Mr. Colaianne stated that to get on the August 4, 2026 ballot it requires that a resolution be adopted approving the ballot language and that the ballot language be submitted to the County by May 12, 2026. He stated that the ballot language for proposals under the Property Tax Act has certain requirements and the proposed language meets those requirements. He stated that this is a new millage that states the amount of the mills that the Township electors are being asked to approve, that it is a five-year millage from 2026 to 2030 inclusive, and it discussed the purpose for which the millage is for, which is to provide funds for operating, equipping, constructing, and purchasing for the HDFA and for any other purpose authorized by law for fire service purposes. He stated the estimated revenue, based on the tax levy of 2.3 mills, in the first year, 2026, would be \$2,489,835 based on \$2.30 per \$1,000 of taxable value. Mr. Colaianne stated this is technically not a renewal, it is a new millage, however it is a millage that is greater than the previously authorized millage of 2.06 that expired in 2025, that was subject to the Headlee rollback provision. He stated this would be an authorization of a new millage that is greater than the previous millage that has expired with an increase of 0.24 mills. He stated the resolution, if approved, would authorize the Township Clerk, the Township Attorney, and any other Township official to take whatever action is necessary to make sure this gets on the August 4, 2026 ballot.

Supervisor Fountain asked Fire Chief Carroll to give a review of the process in working with Steven Burke of MFCI in getting to this point. Chief Carroll gave a brief overview of the process stating Mr. Burke was instrumental in arriving at the millage rate number. He stated it was pulling together a lot of the financial plan forecasts, specifically with the five-year planning for both operations and capital requirements for the HDFA and for Hartland Township's contribution share of that for the HDFA. He stated Mr. Burke was very helpful in keeping the millage rate as low as possible by using some financing techniques for capital expenses. Supervisor Fountain asked Chief Carroll to provide a brief overview of the relationship between Deerfield Township and Hartland Township and Chief Carroll gave a brief overview of the formation of the HDFA and the shared services between Deerfield Township and Hartland Township. He provided a brief overview of the shared services based on a usage formula that measures the usage hours every year spent by firefighters delivering services in Hartland and Deerfield Townships and uses a three-year average to determine the percentage share each Township contributes to the budget. Trustee Petrucci stated he met with the Deerfield Supervisor with regards to this nominal increase to the millage and they would be increasing theirs to match.

Supervisor Fountain asked Trustee Petrucci and Finance Director Susan Dryden to comment on the role of the Township with regards to the HDFA. Trustee Petrucci stated that the Township collects a millage for fire services that is used to fund the operations of the HDFA and each year the HDFA prepares a budget to provide fire services, and they come to the Board to approve the request for the funds to provide these services. He stated the HDFA Board is comprised of two trustees from Hartland Township, two trustees from Deerfield Township and a fifth at-large trustee from the community. The HDFA Board monitors the budget throughout the year to ensure they stay within budget for fire services. He stated they have been within budget every year except last year due to unusual inflation factors. These inflation factors are the reason they are seeking this nominal increase to 2.3 mills and stated he believed we are still below our neighboring communities fire millages. Director Dryden stated that the fire millage has been something the Township has approved for many years even prior to the formation of the HDFA in 2003. Most of the funds from the fire millage are used to fund the operations and capital of the HDFA, but it also funds the maintenance and improvements of the buildings, which are owned by the Township, and other

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items such as the maintenance of the fire sirens in the Township. Clerk Ciofu inquired as to whether the ballot language needs to be limited to 100 words and Mr. Colaianne stated that was only for State ballot proposals. Supervisor Fountain stated that between the HDFA, MCFI, and Clark Hill we have vetted this issue at length and the consensus was proposing a 2.3 mil fire services millage to put before the voters.

**Move to Adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Ballot Proposal for the Funding of Fire Services, as amended.**

Motion made by Clerk Ciofu, Seconded by Trustee Petrucci. Roll call vote taken.  
Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski,  
Trustee McMullen, Trustee Petrucci  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: Trustee O'Connell (listened in from Georgia) Motion passes: 6 - 0 - 1

**8. Board Reports**

Treasurer Horning - No report.

Trustee Lubeski - No report

Trustee McMullen - No report but stated that the communications postcard she received looked very nice and she has hers on her refrigerator, so she knows what is going on in the community.

Trustee Petrucci - Wanted to remind everyone that the Veterans Memorial Dedication Day is Saturday, May 2, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m. He stated there will be a lot of dignitaries and community participants and he hopes to see our residents there supporting out Veterans.

Clerk Ciofu - Stated they have posted the Receptionist position and have received over 40 applications and will be doing phone interviews next week and will follow up with in person interviews the following week. He also stated they posted the Clerk Assistant - Election position and have received over 15 applications. He stated they are still accepting applications for this position and plan to start phone interviews during the week of May 5th. He distributed the article that will go into the Memorial Day Parade booklet on the Veterans Memorial Dedication Day to the Board and stated that Dick Krueger, a long-time resident and active community member, called him regarding the event postcard that was recently sent out and stated this was something he was waiting to see for a long time and complemented the Township on getting this done.

Supervisor Fountain - No report.

[BRIEF RECESS]

**9. Information / Discussion**

a. Manager's Report

There was no Manager's Report for this meeting as he was attending the Michigan Township Association Conference.

**10. Adjournment**

**Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.**

Motion made by Trustee Petrucci, Seconded by Trustee McMullen.

Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee Petrucci

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Trustee O'Connell (listened in from Georgia)

Submitted By:  
Larry N. Ciofu - Clerk