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 O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci

Also present were Township Manager Mike Luce, Public Works Director Scott Hable, and Finance Director Susan Dryden.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Move to approve the agenda for the August 5, 2026, Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.
Motion made by Trustee O'Connell, Seconded by Trustee McMullen.
Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci
Voting Nay: None

5. Call to the Public

Scot Sorenson came forward and stated he was here regarding the water rate increase. He stated he understands that maintaining the water system is essential and that costs increase over time, and his concern is not just the rate increase but how the situation was managed. He stated the commodity rate increased from approximately \$1.40 to \$4.50 per one thousand gallons, an approximately 220% increase without any notification. He did state he understands it is always in the minutes and he could attend Board meetings to monitor the process the Board goes through but not everyone has the time to do that. He stated he reviewed the chart that is now on the website showing increases through 2031 and he feels this is unacceptable. He stated he needs to have water, and he has no recourse for this. He questioned why, if the maintenance needs have existed for so long, this process was not started years ago so increases were made on a more periodic scale. He stated he feels this is a lack of communication on the part of the Board and he stated that though the Board may have discussed this in detail there was no direct communication or notifications of this to residents encouraging us to attend meetings to provide public input on these types of issues and that the magnitude of this increase is great on residents. He stated he understands there is no rule or law that you have to notify residents, but common sense should be used when someone has to pay for a service that they be notified in advance. He stated no one he talked to in his neighborhood that was on the water system heard of this until they got their bill. He respectfully asked the Board to review the process that they went through and consider a policy to provide proactive direct communication to residents and businesses whenever significant utility rates or other changes are being considered. He believes the residents of the Township deserve that type of respect. Trustee Petrucci provided Mr. Sorenson with his contact information to discuss this further with him. Supervisor Fountain stated he can also reach out to Manager Luce for further information. Mr. Sorenson stated he did talk to Public Works Director Scott Hable with his initial questions and Mr. Hable was very helpful.

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Move to approve the consent agenda for the August 5, 2026 Hartland Township Board meeting as presented.
Motion made by Trustee Petrucci, Seconded by Clerk Ciofu.
Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci
Voting Nay: None

a. Approve Payment of Bills
b. Approve Post Audit Disbursements Between Meetings
c. 07-21-26 Hartland Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes

7. Pending & New Business

a. Public Works Coordinator Job Description Change

Public Works Director Scott Hable stated this was update to the job description for the position formerly know as Public Works Specialist. Director Hable stated the recent retirement of the Finance Clerk who oversaw all of the utility billing for the Township led to an evaluation of this function and it was determined that this would be an opportune time to shift this responsibility to the Public Works Department. He stated the current Public Works Specialist deals with many of the programs related to utilities but had never done the actual utility billing. Manager Luce stated that with this addition of utility billing, and the associated customer communication and the recording of changes in homeowners, warranted an increase in pay and it was decided to change the position title to Public Works Coordinator to cover the full responsibilities of the position. Clerk Ciofu inquired as to the role of the Finance Director upon the transfer of utility billing to the Public Works Department. Finance Director Susan Dryden explained it is still her role to ensure that the utility billing is done correctly, so the financial impact responsibility still resides with her, but the management of utility billing system, customer service requests, and the daily maintenance of the utility billing would be maintained by Public Works.

Move to approve the updated job description and title change for the position, Public Works Coordinator as presented.
Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee Petrucci.
Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci
Voting Nay: None

b. Short-term Finance and Accounting Consultant

Finance Director Susan Dryden stated the Board has previously approved the job description change and pay increase of the Finance Clerk position to an Accountant and with the retirement of the former Finance Clerk she is asking for assistance with the finance and accounting function until a replacement Accountant can be hired. She stated she and Manager Luce identified four different audit firms that have a government accounting practice area in their firm or available consultants for accounting and finance. She stated she was familiar with each audit firm through her work with the MGFOA and she had an initial conversation with all of them and requested proposals from each firm. She then met with each firm to meet the Manager in charge, the Associate, and the staff member that would be doing the actual work that would be needed. She stated that she and Manager

Luce sat down to discuss who would be the best fit for what we have to accomplish in the next four to five months. She stated her primary areas of focus right now are that the payroll gets done and the vendors get paid. She then listed areas of her position that are in process that need to be completed and future short-term functions that need to be addressed. Director Dryden stated that the budget season is approaching and that the former Finance Clerk was heavily involved in this process and she will need help with the budget preparation. She stated that she and Manager Luce felt Maner Costerisan had the best staff to help out with the budgeting process. She stated that the Accountant position has been posted and that she has only received two applications at this time. She stated she is requesting a significant sum of funds for this temporary consultant and hopes not to have to use the entire amount. The requested funds would be reallocated from the former Finance Clerks salary, potential additional staff salary, and contingency funds. Trustee Lubeski inquired as to the amount requested, the rates, and how much help is needed and Director Dryden stated it is based on the the proposal rates and the time she estimated for various processes, such as time to get caught up currently, hours to maintain processes such as budgeting, and help with training.

Move to approve Maner Costerisan for temporary financial and accounting consulting services in an amount not to exceed $50,000 and to approve the corresponding budget amendment.

Motion made by Clerk Ciofu, Seconded by Trustee McMullen
Voting Yea: Supervisor Fountain, Clerk Ciofu, Treasurer Horning, Trustee Lubeski, Trustee McMullen, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Petrucci
Voting Nay: None

8. Board Reports

Trustee Lubeski - No report.

Trustee McMullen - Stated she attended the Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority (HDFA) Building Committee tours of two fire stations and stated it was highly informative as to how fire departments are run.

Trustee Petrucci - Stated he just wanted to thank the voters that came out and approved the HDFA Fire Millage yesterday to allow for the continuation of our quality fire services.

Clerk Ciofu -Provided statistics on last night's Election stating voter turnout for Hartland was 36.8% which is normal for a Primary Election and slightly higher than the overall County turnout of 35.8%. He stated we had 4872 voters, with 339 voting in the Early Voting period, 2813 voting by Absentee Ballot out of the 3929 Absentee Ballots that were sent out for a return rate of 71.6% which is about normal for a Primary Election, and we had 1720 voters at the Precincts on Election Day. He stated the Fire Millage passed with 2869 yes votes and 1729 no votes. He also thanked the 15 chairs and co-chairs that ran the election process from Early Voting through Election Day and the Election Inspectors that really make the election process safe, secure, and accurate. He also gave special thanks to the Clerk department staff, Nina Ishmael and Carly White, for all their work in keeping the election process running smoothly. He stated that he did not have enough words to express the appreciation for the outstanding work of Deputy Clerk Heather Cosgrove during this election. Her dedication to details and her attention to the things required by election law was outstanding and she made this election run very smoothly and very accurately, much more than she ever gives herself credit for, and he he thanked her so very much.

Treasurer Horning - Stated that they recently started back investing with Michigan CLASS and that they put in the water construction money and in the first month they made $9300 in interest and as of June 25 we have earned $10,500 in interest. She stated the best feature of the Michigan Class is that it is liquid, and we can access the funds as needed. She also provided an update on the Livingston Materials Management Planning Committee's July 28th meeting. She stated EGLE needs every County to create or update their Materials Management Plan which includes waste, recycling, and reuse. She said many topics were discussed such as Plastic bags, batteries, food waste, and mandating curbside

recycling. She stated the County put together a committee last fall to create this plan and that she is the Local Representative on this Committee. EGLE has a template and the committee is charged with coming up with goals that at least meet EGLE's minimum requirements, and they will create measurable, objective goals and ways to show progress. This plan will be voted on by the County Commissioners along with the Cities, Townships, and Villages. She stated parts of this plan will likely be included in the County Emergency Plan. She stated there is a discussion of creating a "Waste Authority". Livingston County has no landfill and having an Authority would allow them to sign a long-term contract (20 years) with Grand Blanc or another landfill. She stated that on September 22nd the Committee will have a guest speaker at the County Board Chamber at 10:00 a.m. She stated Bob Davis will be speaking on Regional Waste Authorities. She stated that in this plan we can make the landfill standards high to keep our residents safe and dissuade people from putting a landfill here. The same for Compost and Recycling facilities. She stated that the next Committee meeting will be on August 25 at 10:00 a.m.in Conference Room 1 in the County Administrative Building. She also stated Supervisors and other interested people are attending to keep apprised of the planning and stated she would send out a reminder e-mail to Board member if interested.
Trustee O'Connell - No report.
Supervisor Fountain - Inquired of the Clerk to provide statistics regarding Early Voting participating voters and the overall cost of Early Voting as to whether we could shorten this period from the nine days. Clerk Ciofu explained that this is constitutional law and it would be a very difficult process to change and explained several alternatives to reducing costs such as a Countywide Early Voting location, or a Regional Early Voting location, that would require each participating Township to share in the overall nine-day Early Voting expense.

[BRIEF RECESS]

9. Information / Discussion

a. Manager's Report

Manager Luce gave a brief update on the conversion of IT services from VC3 to Black Rock stating that we have heard that VC3 is making municipalities that are leaving them pay the final amount of the contract and that he has requested a final billing from VC3 and requested them to begin transferring data to Black Rock. He also stated the water main project on the north side of M-59 kicked off this week and they are getting ready to cut out bore pit areas where hydrants will be placed and they are fusing and boring one thousand feet at a time. Manager Luce stated that he, Public Works Director Scott Hable, and Jeremy Schrot from Spaulding DeDecker met with two residents on Deer Path Lane regarding the location of the proposed water tower in Heritage Park as to whether we had looked at other sites and if we did our due diligence regarding costs. He stated we responded that we had done so and that this site requires very little prep work. He stated the residents may not like the location, but we hoped they understood the issues as to the decision. He stated SDA will help in providing them with information on sites we did look at for the water tower. Manager Luce stated he sent out invites to the Board for the All Partners, Partners in Progress meeting on August 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hartland Education Support Service Center Board Room. He also stated the State of the Community has been scheduled for October 21st at 5:00 p.m. at the Hartland Music Hall. Trustee O'Connell stated that the Music Hall needs a new roof, and it will be expensive. A brief discussion was held on what the Township could do to help out with this project. Manager Luce will get estimated costs for the project. Manager Luce also stated that Chuck Hughes will be retiring and that Stefanie Furge has resigned from her position at Hartland Living so there will be some changes coming to the Partners in Progress group. Manager Luce provided a brief update of the HERO Center agreement we have with the Howell Parks & Recreation to manage the day-to-day operations of the HERO Center stating the individual that was doing this has accepted a position with the State Parks in Lansing so we are basically reverting back to having three individuals from the HERO center take over managing the day-to-day operations. He commended Director Hable and his staff for resolving some computer issues at the HERO center recently for upcoming registration for the Teen Center. Clerk Ciofu inquired as to the latest on the road Special Assessment Districts (SAD's) and Manager Luce stated that San Marino has around 68% of verified yes votes and Dunham Lakes Estates has around 66%. He stated San Marino's estimated cost was around $4.1 million, and Dunham Lake Estates was around $675 thousand and that we would bond for these projects should they go forward. He stated both of these projects would be 2027 projects. He did state that the County would contribute some funds to the Dunham Lake Estates project. Clerk Ciofu inquired as to how the Board feels about going forward at these percentages. Trustee O'Connell stated she thought we needed 100% at some level of cost per our policy. Manager Luce stated we set a policy based on certain thresholds related to individual homeowners SAD assessments, but that we would work with residents on a case-by-case basis.

10. Adjournment

<u>Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.</u>

Motion made by Treasurer Horning, Seconded by Trustee McMullen.

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

Voting Nay: None

Submitted by;

Larry N. Ciofu, Clerk