GUSTIN TOWNSHIP – ALCONA COUNTY

The Regular Meeting of the Gustin Township Board was called to order in the Village of Lincoln, on September 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Ashford.

Present: Supervisor Ashford, Clerk LaVergne, Treasurer Somers, Trustee Procunier and Trustee Brege. Guests: Adam Brege; Zoning Administrator. See attached guest list.

Motion by Somers, seconded by Procunier to approve the agenda with additions. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dana Ramus read her letter and provided it for the records, Jamie Smith had a signed petition for the board for a moratorium consideration. She listed several cities, townships, villages and counties that have current proposed moratoriums or have expired. She noted the townships master plan is from 1994. She would like the township to enact a moratorium for the zoning ordinances to meet what the township needs. She said many residents want to know how to get their questions answered. She would like the board to notify them how to get them answered. Natalie Goldstrum spoke. She lives in Hawes Township. She mentioned other places that have put in data centers and solar panels and have regret it later on. She said there should be a plan put together for modern things that are going on in our community. Amy Mills requested the board talk to the lawyer about the 5 year extension because the ordinance only allows a 1 year extension. If the 5 years is not legal then the board could correct the mistake, before the constituents can take it to the court themselves. Steve Yokom said he owned a business in Gustin Township and his grandchildren spend time in the township. He said the CEO of the prior Viking Energy was Wes Hamilton. He said it was pending dissolution and their standing was bad. National Energy is in Lincoln; National Salvage and Service. National Salvage is a company not a power company. He noted the railroad ties here are not being picked up and thinks they will be used there in the future. He said there is P fas here from the prior company. He said the government is paying to have these systems installed. He said if the data center is placed there Lincoln Lake will disappear as well as the other water around. The water usage is a lot for a data center. He is not in favor of them. Peter from Consumers spoke on the ordinance. They want to continue to work with the township. They fully intend to comply with the ordinance. They have clear project commitments and the local approval is the best path. If local approval is not available they will go thru the legal process if it is not approved. Josh Whitten would like to know why the exception was made? Catherine MacMaster; planning commission member said Sapling Solar project has not started and was concerned some of the members thought it was. She is concerned about the bond and it needs to be posted in full before the construction starts. She is concerned about that and she questioned whether the township can in fact support this scale of a project. Administratively it will require a lot of time overseeing what is going on. Charlene Allen from Kilmaster said she signed a land contract on her house 3 years ago. She said there was 1 solar field near her and now she is seeing on the map she will be surrounded by solar. She doesn't see a reason to stay. She said the other neighbor is benefiting from it and she is not seeing any money for it. She enjoys her peace and quiet and that will all be gone with the panels. Said it was a shame and was hoping it could be reversed. Annette Brueggeman lives on Sunday Drive. Said they will be 200 feet from her house and she will hear them. Would like the township to do a moratorium. She said she can't live there with them and she will have to figure out what to do. She can't handle this it will be way too close to her back door. Doesn't know what she will do. Sam Megli noted of the people making the money off of the solar; 60% of them are absentee land owners. They don't live here. Mary Phillips said she knows someone who works closely connected to the solar power. They work to do weed management under the solar panels. He takes care of 2000 acres. She doesn't want them in her back yard. He said there are contaminants and there won't be any bugs, birds or mice. The township needs to look into it more. Once the solar panels are gone the land can't be reused.

Motion by Procunier, seconded by Brege to approve the August minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer Somers discussed with the board the Treasurer's report thru August 31, 2026. He noted the expenses and the deposits. He balances with the Clerk and the bank.

Motion by Ashford, seconded by Brege to approve the August Treasurer's report as presented. MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE OR OFFICER REPORTS:

Zoning: Administrator Brege reported he had 2 new land use permits. He has been contacted by Consumers and they are working on a 2nd special land use permit to submit to the planning commission in October. He mentioned the planning commission meeting business. He has been checking on the Kilmaster campers and there has been no one there when he was there to see what is going on.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Sheriff's report: Not received
- Letter from Jamie Smith to the board on file.
- Planning Commission Memo from Attorney Tim Gulden read and placed on file.
- Naloxone Training flyer received. It will be held at the Alcona Senior Center 807 N. Barlow Rd. on 10/6/26 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

BUSINESS:

December BOR dates and times set for: Tuesday, December 15th at 5:30 pm. Supervisor Ashford will need to post on the Township Hall door 18 hours prior.

Received an invoice from NEMCOG for FY 2027.

Motion by Somers, seconded by LaVergne to approve NEMCOG FY 2027 invoice for $772.00. Roll call: Ashford, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Procunier. No. None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Bauer, Florip and Wojda PLC invoice was received.

Motion by Somers, seconded by Procunier to approve the Bauer, Florip & Wojda PLC invoice in the amount of $6,875.00. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Received an invoice from the Alcona County Road Commission for street signs and brackets installation.

Motion by Brege, seconded by Procnier to approve the Alcona County Road Commission invoice in the amount of $497.25. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Gustin Township FOIA procedures and guidelines were discussed.

Motion by Ashford, seconded by LaVergne to adopt the Gustin Township FOIA procedures and guidelines. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Gustin Township Fax machine was discussed. The township does not have a fax machine. Michael Suiter said we could get one and use it over email for approximately $10-$15 per month.

Motion by Somers, seconded by Ashford to have Michael Suiter research and set up a fax line for the township. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Resignation letter received from Trustee Hannah Brege. She will fill her term until the end of 2026.

Motion by Ashford, seconded by Somers to accept Hannah Brege's resignation letter with regret. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The township trustee board position will need to be filled.

Motion by LaVergne, seconded by Ashford to advertise in the local newspaper for a Trustee. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

NEMCOG Master Plan proposal was received. Discussion on the Master plan and the need to have it updated.

Motion by Ashford, seconded by Somers to accept the NEMCOG proposal for a Master Plan for $20,000.00. Roll call: Yes-Procunier, Somers, LaVergne, Brege and Ashford. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Clerk LaVergne noted the budget amendment.

Motion by Brege, seconded by Somers to approve the budget amendment #26-09 to increase the Township Computer Expense 1102802 for $515.00 and increase the Attorney Fee (Planning and Zoning) 1248802 for $4,875.00 using money from the General Fund Balance. Roll call: Yes: LaVergne, Ashford, Somers, Procunier and Brege. No: None. MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Motion by Ashford, seconded by Procunier to approve payment of the bills in the amount of $8,004.55 check numbers 12351-12373. Roll Call: Yes- Brege, Ashford, Somers, Procunier and LaVergne. No-None.
MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The meeting was adjourned by Ashford at 7:26 p.m., seconded by LaVergne until the next regular meeting on October 19th at 6:30 p.m.

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Clerk Supervisor