Elk Rapids Township
Regular Meeting Minute September 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St., Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amos at 9:00 am. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.
Present: Supervisor Dorance Amos, Clerk Deb Husband, Trustee Richard Hults and Trustee Matt Soper. Treasurer Kelly Jensen is absent.
Also Present: Sherriff Hoch, Commissioner Hefferan, Chief Williamson, Attorney Thad Morgan, and 3 audience members.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Public Comments:** 2 property owners on Shore Drive expressed concerns about the use of a residence in the area possibly being used not in compliance with the zoning ordinance.

3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**: **MOTION/S: Hults/Soper-** To approve the agenda as stated. All voting Yes, 0 No. **MOTION APPROVED.**

4. **Consent Agenda**:
   MOTION/S: Soper/Hults - To approve all the items on the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Hults, Soper, Amos, and Husband, all voting Yes, 0 No. Jensen is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

5. **Sheriff/Commission Report:** Incident report presented. 4 new deputies are on patrol

6. **Ambulance Department**: **Ambulance and EMS Report (MMR):** August had normal calls and response times.

7. **Fire Department**: Incident report presented and staffing is at 18 members. Proposed NFPA-certified "Support Personnel" position designed to recruit younger candidates and provide retention/step-down options for veteran members was presented. After Fire Board approval, the Township Board will vote on adding position. Harbor Days had Whitewater Township suppression collaboration. New Apparatus plan is to target the purchase of a new combination pumper and rescue unit in the next 12-18 months with budgeting considerations. ISO testing will be addressed with the Village Manager per the annual required reports.

8. **Cemetery Update:** Jonathan Schmidt, resident of the area had approached the Township about repainting the metal sign that has graced the Cemetery since 1910. He dismantled the work and transported it back to Indiana, sandblasted, and powder coated. The sign was reinstalled last weekend and is expected to adorn the cemetery for years to come. Husband would like to send a thank you and letter of donation to Schmidt for his personal contribution. Fencing was approved at the Special Meeting earlier this month. Cemetery fence installation starts early October. Clean up will continue on the east side of the property.

9. **Government Center Update:** Landscaping is complete, parking lot and exterior lighting is scheduled for the fall. Drain cleaning research and air handler filter replacements planned for fall. Fire building irrigation will possibly be needed to be added during the replanting process.

10. **Zoning and Planning:** Zoning Administrator Scheel addressed the request that seeks interpretation of the existing ordinance, that spoke in public comment, not new restrictions. The Board acknowledged

the request; the attorney and zoning administrator will provide a written determination and outline compliance steps. Poniatoski development needs to correspond with Mr. Scheel directly. Liquor store request for gas station is seeking an extension on their permit due to financial situations. Blight on Townline is being addressed to the satisfaction of the administrator. Birch Lake shoreline protection is being handled.

11. **Attorney's Report:** Attorney summarized a 17-page inquiry; is developing a process to ensure R1 compliance and will present it at the next meeting. Cairn Highway Sewer Program: one parcel noncompliant; prior deadline was last year. Recommendation: seek a circuit court order to compel connection and fund expenditure, rather than the township fronting costs. Attorney will initiate a legal letter to the noncompliant sewer parcel detailing obligations, deadlines, and consequences; prepare for circuit court filing if no compliance by the specified deadline. State Revenues are ahead of projections.

12. **Township Updates:** Ballots expected within 1–2 weeks; mailings to follow; routine preparation underway.

Adjourned: 9:55 am.

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Debbie Husband Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333
Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting