# Elk Rapids Township
# Regular Meeting Minute October 13, 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 Trustee Richard Hults at 9:00 am. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.
**Present**: Trustee Richard Hults, Clerk Deb Husband, Treasurer Kelly Jensen and Trustee Matt Soper. Supervisor Dorance Amos is absent.
**Also Present**: Sherriff Hoch, Commissioner Hefferan, Chief Williamson, Attorney Thad Morgan, Administrator Scheel, Representative John Roth and 3 audience members.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

2. **Public Comments:** None.

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

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

5. **Sheriff/Commission Report:** Stats for September 2026 were presented. Grant for mental health officer is being applied for. This position would be a cross trained Deputy/Mental Health worker. Final 2027 budget is being discussed as Commissioner Hefferan reported. The County Clerk budget was reduced by just under $4,400 to adjust for the unnecessary mailing that occurred. Charlevoix County has agreed to join the SAD for the upper chain dam repair. Grand Traverse County still has not replied to the request to join the lower district, which is the only unit that has not responded. Flock cameras are not in the County budget, so the County has no say. The government unit that finances them are the appropriate groups to express your concerns to.

6. **104th District Representative John Roth:** He expressed disappointment with the water/sewer grant support from Lansing. Infrastructure grants are on both parties' agenda in the Governor's office race. Antrim County Court separation is still in progress. After a discussion, it will still take one year to implement. Some changes may occur regarding Early Voting, and property tax options. Representative Roth explained that Flock cameras can limit access to the information that is collected. Data Storage facilities are much different that the Mega Data Centers and that large companies are building Data Storage facilities that do not create the environmental issues of the large centers in the Grand Traverse region.

7. **Ambulance Department**: **Ambulance and EMS Report (MMR):** One response time will be researched that took a little longer than usual.

8. **Fire Department**: Proposed NFPA-certified "Support Personnel" position designed to recruit younger candidates and provide retention/step-down options for veteran members was approved by the fire Board. The drone was used in a water rescue on Torch Lake. Painting and landscaping are in final stages, and the camera system is installed and active. Library pressure testing has been completed, and the hydrant by the Island house has been repaired. ISO testing has been discussed with the Village Manager David Tait, and he is arranging the testing with Gosling Czubek. **MOTION/S:**

**Soper/Jensen:** To create the support Personnel position as approved by the Fire Board. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Hults, Husband, and Soper all voting Yes, 0 No. Amos is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

9. **Cemetery Update:** Historical Society Fall Cemetery Walk was well attended. Fence along Elk Lake Road will be installed this week. East lower side has been groomed and seeded. Building painting has been completed. Large branches have been falling, Husband suggested having trees reviewed for dead limbs and then begin to plant new maples and other trees for the beauty of Maple Grove to continue. There are plans for bench and tree sponsorship to occur in the future. Jensen reminded the Board these improvements have occurred because of the funds from the sale of HERTH.

10. **Fire Station:** New irrigation bids will be discussed for spring installation.

11. **Zoning and Planning:** Zoning Administrator finalized letter to STR owner, response to the concerned group is being reviewed by attorney before mailing. Preliminary revitalization plan for cement plant on Birch Lake Road is being reviewed. It is an upgrade of what is there and will be reviewed by Planning Commission soon. Request to extend permit for site plan bond that has expired was received from the proposed gas station at the liquor store south of town. Administrator Scheel advised there is no set date they have provided and suggested denying the request until they have appropriate material to submit. They can bring a new site plan once that is supplied. **MOTION/S: Jensen/Soper:** Applicant did not meet the timeline and will need to resubmit a new site plan once all the requirements are met. All voting Yes, 0 No. Amos is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

12. **Attorney's Report:** One resident on Cairn Highway will need to be pursued to comply with the State mandate to connect to the public sewer. **MOTION/S: Hults/Soper:** To proceed with the Circuit Court to enforce the sewer ordinance. Roll Call Vote: Husband, Soper, Jensen and Hults, All voting Yes, 0 No. Amos is absent. **MOTION APPROVED.**

13. **Township Updates:** Early voting starts October 24th. Parking lot will be striped soon.

**Adjourned: 10:05 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