

**FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 18, 2026 FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP HALL**

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor, S. Nelson, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Members present: S. Nelson, D. Brown, J. Church, R. Valentine and A. Wagner

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

William Taylor: STR
Joe Lasnoski: STR
Jill Benard: STR
Mary Harrington: STR
John and Gail Toonen: STR
Jack Ham: STR
Christine Williams: STR
Mark Miller: STR
Mary Myrick: Last Board Meeting

5. AGENDA

Trustee Church added 14e: Fire Department accounting policy and 14f. Conduct at last meeting
Supervisor Nelson added 14g. Culvert
Amy Fudala spoke about DATA

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by J. Church CARRIED to approve the agenda.

6. MINUTES

- a. Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes-April 20, 2026

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by A. Wagner CARRIED to approve Township Board Regular Meeting minutes April 20, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARING WITH MDOT

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to open the public hearing with MDOT. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Church, Valentine, Brown, Wagner, Nelson Nays: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

The following people spoke with MDOT (via Zoom) Ben Feldhausen and Dan Kari with traffic concerns on M35 between Escanaba city limits and the Ford River Bridge:

Todd Myrick
Mary Beth Miller
Jim Hansen
Alan Odell
Amy Chown
Gail Bradley
Marry Harrington
Jack Ham
Jill Benard
Mr. Kirkpatrick
Denise Young
Mike Eugate
Kathleen Creten

Christine Williams
Joe Kaplan
Maggie Hodge
Kim Fleming
Nichole Fitch

A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD WITH NO DECISIONS MADE

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to close the public hearing with no action taken. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Church, Valentine, Wagner Nelson, Brown Nays: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

7. CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Assessor report
- b. Fire report
- c. Water Systems report
- d. Water billing register
- e. Financial reports
- f. Payment of bills

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to approve the consent to agenda items.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Fire Department minutes April 2026
- b. Ford River Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes April 2026
- c. Zoning Administrators Report. April 2026
- d. Federal ADA Compliance Deadlines extended
- e. Delta County Township Association Meeting Minutes March 2026
- f. Congressional Grant response
- g. City of Escanaba Master Plan notification
- h. Notice of work session meeting of the Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee.

9. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- a. Fire Department. Fire Chief Nelson was present and gave updates.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation to add Austin Stevens to the Fire Department.

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to approve the Fire Chief to apply for a DNR Grant.

- a. The Water Operator was absent.
- b. Zoning. Zoning Administrator, Brett Jenshak was present and gave updates.
- c. Assessor.
- d. Maintenance.

10. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

Commissioner Williams was present and gave County updates.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Agreement for Equalization services.

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to sign the agreement for Equalization services.

b. Speakers and microphones TABLED. No action was taken.

12. CURRENT LITIGATION UPDATES

a. Bateni. The supervisor gave updates. TABLED. No action taken.

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to table until the next meeting.

13. VIOLATION UPDATES

3880 K Road and 4312 10.75 Lane were given an extension of 30 days for clean up

14. NEW BUSINESS

a. i. Short Term Rental Ordinance

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to adopt The Ford River Short term Rental Ordinance.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Church, Valentine, Wagner, Brown, Nelson Nays: NONE Absent: NONE Abstain: NONE

ii. Ford River Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine FAILED to adopt the Ford River Zoning Ordinance Amendment as presented.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Church, Valentine. Nays: Wagner, Brown, Nelson.

b. Millage Reduction Fraction for 2026

Motion, J. Church, supported by A. Wagner, CARRIED to approve the Millage Fraction for 2026

c. Michigan Association of Planning Annual Membership renewal

Motion, J. Church, supported by A. Wagner, CARRIED to approve the Michigan Association of Planning Annual Membership renewal.

d. Cemetery

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church CARRIED to offer the job of digging graves to Brian Werner

e. Fire Department accounting. NO ACTION TAKEN

f. Conduct. NO ACTION TAKEN

g. Culvert

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachael Branstrom: STR

Christine Williams: suggested contacting the Drain Commissioner on the Culvert

Jill Bernard: commented on Event planning

Steve Godfrey: Thank you for efforts made

? Creten: commented on a community get together

Russ Nelson: Has invoice for cemetery veteran flags at home.

18. BOARD COMMENTS

NONE

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by J. Church CARRIED to adjourn at 10:07pm.

Debbi R. Brown, Township Clerk

Date