

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
March 2, 2026
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Supervisor Stanula called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. to pay bills for the month of February and transact any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees. The meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached. Stanula led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

Present: Supervisor Mike Stanula **Trustees:** Tracy Heldt and Mark Herlitz

Absent: Paul Goldrick and George Obradovich

Other Officials present:

Commissioner Mike Smith, Clerk Joe Burgess and Assessor Patricia Peters

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated February 2, 2026:

Supervisor Stanula asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 2, 2026, Board meeting minutes as presented. Being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2026, board meeting as presented. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote.**

Public Commentary: None

Reports:

1. **Road Commissioner** - Commissioner Smith reviewed his written report (attached). Additionally, Smith indicated that he is considering selling the township's road grader because there are very few stone roads left in the township, and he could always borrow one from a neighboring township if it became necessary. Also, Smith is considering replacing the district's 1988 Mack truck and explained the lead times for a fully outfitted new vehicle is almost two years. A new truck with the correct specifications could cost over \$250,000 and he needs to review the district's 2026-27 budget and look for finance options.
2. **Assessor** - Assessor Peters presented a new pamphlet she will make available for residents and make available at township and community events. The county will be sending out exemption letters to qualified residents starting around April 10th and Will County's Annual "Tax Exemption" event at the township center will be held on May 28th this year.
3. **Clerk** - Clerk Burgess reviewed his written report (attached). Burgess also reported that 10 residents voted early on the first day of voting (March 2).
4. **Supervisor's Report** - Supervisor Stanula had no report but had additional comments to make under new business.
5. **Trustees Report** - No report.

6. Transportation Report – The Dial-a-Ride service provided 42 trips in February.
7. General Assistance Report – There were no General Assistance payouts in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Revised Washington Township Employee Handbook – Clerk Burgess has begun reviewing the handbook.
2. Consideration and Approval of the Washington Township Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy – Our attorney is still reviewing the proposed policy updates from our January meeting, and no action was taken on this item.
3. Approval of QuickBooks Intergovernmental Agreement with Crete Township – The Board reviewed the “Intergovernmental Agreement Between Crete Township And Washington Township For Shared Software & Payroll Services”. The agreement shares the cost of the QuickBooks accounting software equally between the two townships.

Motion:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve the “Intergovernmental Agreement Between Crete Township And Washington Township For Shared Software & Payroll Services” as presented. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Pending Zoning Applications – Earthrise Energy has applied for a special use permit to construct a 2400-acre solar energy facility. The 2400 acres includes 44 parcels located in Crete, Monee, Washington and Will Townships. They are asking that the number of mowings be reduced from five times a year to one and to increase the maximum ground cover height from 13” to 36”. The Board reviewed the application and various properties in Washington Township. The hearing for the Special Use Permit is scheduled for March 18 in Joliet.

Trustee Heldt said she and the entire Board have repeatedly indicated that they are against any solar farm being built anywhere within Washington Township and this proposal is no different. Supervisor Stanula indicated he will draft a letter expressing the Board’s opposition to solar farms and to Earthrise’s Special Use Permit request.

Commissioner Smith reported that a representative from Earthrise Energy visited him last week and requested if he could take core samples of the roads within the township that would be affected by the construction of the new solar facilities. Smith said he denied the request because the map that was provided last week did not include any parcels located within the township. The Earthrise representative indicated that Earthrise was willing to repair any roads that were damaged during construction. Smith has since learned there are township properties included in the proposal. Earthrise has been offering cash incentives to local entities affected by these solar facilities including funds to the Villages of Beecher and Crete and to the Beecher fire district. The Board has been against accepting any incentives being offered and solar projects are going forward regardless of township objections because the state is aggressively pushing for a clean energy program.

Trustee Heldt asked if the township is at the “tipping point” to consider listening to what Earthrise wants to offer the township. Heldt said if Earthrise is damaging township roads and willing to repair and improve them, it’s a positive proposal and a savings to the taxpayers. Commissioner Smith said repairing roads is very expensive and whatever roads Earthrise improves would save the road district the time and costs associated with those repairs. The Board asked Commissioner Smith to contact the representative from Earthrise and request more details regarding what Earthrise is willing to offer towards road repairs.

2. Approval of 2026 - 2027 Meeting Dates – The Board reviewed the proposed meeting dates for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Motion:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to approve the “2026-2027 Meeting Dates” as presented. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

3. Approval of the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Agenda - The Board reviewed the proposed 2026 Annual Town Meeting Agenda. There were no agenda items requested by the public and the Board had no changes to the agenda.

Motion:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion to approve the “2026 Annual Town Meeting Agenda” as presented. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

4. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated March 23, 2010 - See agenda item #9.
5. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated January 7, 2013 - See agenda item #9.
6. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated July 1, 2013 - See agenda item #9.
7. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated February 3, 2014 - See agenda item #9.
8. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated January 4, 2016 – See agenda item #9.
9. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated July 7, 2025 - The Board determined that all the closed minutes as listed should remain closed and only one motion be made that would include all the minutes under consideration.

MOTION:

Trustee Herlitz made a motion that the Closed Session minutes dated March 23, 2010, January 7, 2013, July 1, 2013, February 3, 2014, January 4, 2016, and July 7, 2025, remain closed to the public. Trustee Heldt seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration and Approval of the 2026-2027 Town Budget (Approve in May/June) – The budget must be approved by the end of June, and statute requires a 30-day public inspection period from when the budget is “tentatively” approved and the final approval. Clerk Burgess presented the Board with a list of “major” expenses the township had incurred this fiscal year and asked about potential “capital” projects they may be considering for next year. The Board reviewed the items and discussed funding for the mental health program, parking lot improvements and the two 20-year old furnaces in the building. Clerk Burgess will prepare the draft budget and have it available for the Board at the March 30th meeting.
11. Consideration and Approval of the 2026-2027 Road District Budget (Approve in May/June) – Commissioner Smith will be reviewing his budget and presenting it to the Board at the March 30 meeting. The same 30-day public inspection period is required for the Road District’s budget.
12. Sikich CPA LLC Audit Agreement – Supervisor Stanula has received an engagement agreement from Sikich for them to continue as the township’s auditing firm for the next three years (2026-2028). The cost for the 2026 audit would start at \$12,900 and go up \$1,300 over the next two-years. Stanula said he is satisfied with Sikich’s performance, and he has priced other firms in the past, and the pricing was all similar at that time, however, he would make some calls to other firms and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Road & Bridge Bills

The board reviewed the Road District’s **February** bills as reviewed by Commissioner Mike Smith and presented by the Clerk.

Motion:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits from the Road & Bridge Account for the month of **February** totaling **\$59,853.94**. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

Town Account (including Transportation Fund)

The board reviewed the **February** bills as reviewed by the Supervisor and presented by the Clerk. There were no questions regarding the bills.

Motion:

Trustee Heldt made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits, and appropriate transfers from the Town Account for the month of **February** totaling **\$27,583.31**. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings

- **March 30** - Monthly Board Meeting @ 7 pm at the Washington Township Center (WTC)

Announcements:

- **March 19** – Senior Movie Night @ 6:30 pm
- **Early Voting** – March 2 -13 (Monday – Friday) from 9 am – 3 pm at the WTC

Adjournment:

Being no additional business to discuss Trustee Heldt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Herlitz seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion, and the motion was **unanimously approved by voice vote**. The Board Meeting adjourned at **7:55 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Burgess - Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: 3/30/26

Washington Township

Highway Department

30200 Town Center Dr.

Beecher, Illinois 60401

708- 946-6459 Fax 708-946-6459

Michael Smith Highway Commissioner

1. We are busy with patch work. Tis the season.
2. I had to purchase a remanufactured engine for our John Deere 772 grader. The original engine block cracked between the cylinder liners.
3. I am considering replacing our old International single axle. After talking with some of the local truck builders, it seems that 2 years is about the norm for completion. I am working on getting numbers together but I will have to get it in the upcoming budget.

Michael Smith

Highway Commissioner



Clerk's Report – March 2, 2026

- Early Voting has started and will continue Monday thru Friday until March 13. Voting hours are from 9 am – 3 pm. We have a helper from the county on site to assist with voting.
(10 VOTERS ON MARCH 2)
- There will be Senior Movie Night on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm.
- Sollitt Tap will be catering the Senior Spring Breakfast on April 18th. They assisted with the Lions Club “Breakfast With Santa” and will do a great job.
- We have purchased copies of the 2026 Edition of TOI’s Laws & Duties Handbook. Currently the Supervisor, Assessor, Clerk and office staff have a copy. There are two extra copies available.
- Statements of Economic Interest have been emailed, and the filing deadline is May 1, 2026. All elected officials are required to complete this document.
- First Community Bank is nearly finished setting up the ACH information for the township.
- I have received a FOIA request from a news reporter representing “Judiciocracy” LLC and their affiliate organization the Coalition Opposing Governmental Secrecy. They are requesting copies of all invoices from our attorney for a specific time period. I sent the request to our attorney for some clarification regarding this request. I have learned this FOIA request has been sent to multiple government entities all over Illinois.

Respectfully,
Joe Burgess - Clerk

**Washington Township
Board of Trustees
Meeting Schedule 2026 - 2027**

Location

Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road
Beecher, IL 60401

All meetings start at 7:00 PM unless indicated otherwise.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekday</u>
May 4, 2026	Monday
June 1, 2026	Monday
July 6, 2026	Monday
August 3, 2026	Monday
September 2, 2026	Wednesday
October 5, 2026	Monday
November 2, 2026	Monday
December 7, 2026	Monday
January 4, 2027	Monday
February 1, 2027	Monday
March 1, 2027	Monday
March 29, 2027	Monday

Any person requiring special accommodations should notify Supervisor Mike Stanula at (708) 946-2026, prior to the meeting date to make necessary arrangements.

Approved: 3/2/2027 - Joseph Burgess - Clerk



**Washington Township
2026 Annual Town Meeting
April 14, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Agenda**

1. Call to Order – (Clerk)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome
4. Election of Meeting Moderator
5. Public Commentary
6. Clerk Administers “Oath of Moderator” to Moderator
7. Approval of Minutes from 2025 Annual Town Meeting
8. Clerk presents Supervisor’s Annual Financial Statements
 - Consolidated Funds
 - Town Account
 - Insurance Fund
 - General Assistance
 - Road & Bridge
 - Joint Bridge
 - Community Building
9. Set Hour for 2027 Annual Town Meeting
10. Consider Motion to Pay Meeting Moderator
11. Motion to Adjourn

**Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
Road & Bridge Account**

State of Illinois)
Will County) ss.
Washington Township)

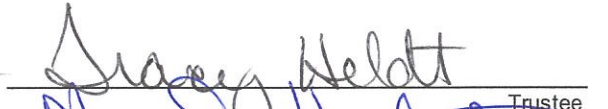
We the undersigned, comprising the Board of Trustees of
Washington Township, having duly met at the Clerks office on **March 2, 2026**, for the
purpose of auditing the Road & Bridge account, do hereby certify that the following claims or demands
against said township were presented, and examined, were allowed at said meeting, to wit:

Claim #	Date	To Whom Allowed	Ck #	Nature of Claim	Amount
9477	2/6	Dahlberg Accounting Solutions	9925	Professional services (Jan) - Inv # 458	\$ 741.76
9478	2/6	NICOR	9926	Acct #58285823769 / Bill date 1/9/26	\$ 533.47
9479	2/6	Surf Internet	9927	Internet service - Acct # 93011007437 - Bill date 2/1/26	\$ 69.95
9480	2/6	Chicagoland Cloud	9928	Software Licenses - Inv # 3381	\$ 110.00
9481	2/17	Berkot's Foods	9929	Supplies - # 012686	\$ 103.27
9482	2/17	Bricks, Blocks & Rocks	9930	Propane - Inv # 21823	\$ 84.00
9483	2/17	Cintas Uniforms	9931	Uniforms - Acct # 14943430 (Jan)	\$ 478.88
9484	2/17	DeJong Equipment	9932	Parts - Inv # CR70529 / 70479 / 70660 / 70708	\$ 1,064.50
9485	2/17	E.D. Etnyre & Co.	9933	Pump drive - Inv # 734893	\$ 1,596.24
9486	2/17	Interstate Battery	9934	Batteries - Inv # 493163	\$ 351.96
9487	2/17	Jean's Septic Service	9935	Cleaned basins - Inv # B26-1331	\$ 575.00
9488	2/17	Kankakee Truck Equipment	9936	Truck parts - Inv # 181500	\$ 798.89
9489	2/17	R.P. Lumber	9937	Batteries - Inv # 4599806	\$ 18.99
9490	2/17	Ronson Equipment Co.	9938	Engine & radiator repairs - Inv # P96976	\$ 8,245.12
9491	2/17	Beecher Fuel Account	9939	Equipment Fuel - 1/1/26 to 1/28/26 - Inv # 1080	\$ 1,708.18
9492	2/17	AT&T Mobility	9940	Wireless charges - Inv #287293840112X02/9/2026	\$ 150.85
9493	2/17	Morton Salt	9941	Road salt - Inv # 5403970469 / 5403975296 / 5403978931 / 5403982545 / 5403986183 / 5403989033	\$ 13,972.07
9494	2/17	ComEd	9942	Utilities - Acct #2497892222 - Bill date - 2/4/26	\$ 184.04
9495	2/19	NICOR	9943	Acct #58285823769 / Bill date 2/10/26	\$ 688.57
9496	2/25	Village of Beecher	EFT	RB Health Insurance - Inv # 2026-02	\$ 6,259.34
9497	2/26	February Payroll - QuickBooks	Misc.	Payroll, IMRF & other government payroll liabilities	\$ 22,118.86
Total disbursements					\$ 59,853.94

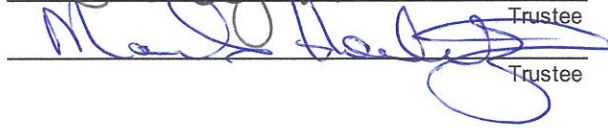
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto
set our hands on **March 2, 2026**.



Road Commissioner



Trustee



Trustee



Township Clerk



Supervisor

Trustee

Trustee

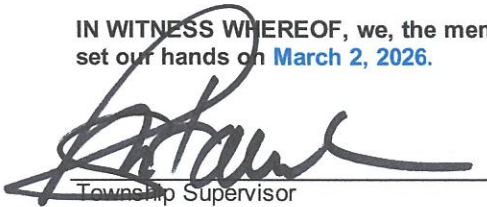
Approved Claims - Board of Township Trustees
Town Account

State of Illinois)
Will County) ss.
Washington Township)

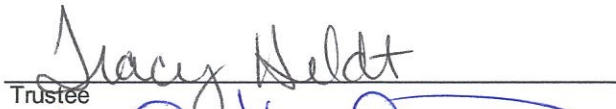
We the undersigned, comprising the Board of Trustees of Washington Township, having duly met at the Township office on March 2, 2026, for the purpose of auditing Town accounts, do hereby certify that the following claims or demands against said township were presented, and examined, were allowed at said meeting, to wit:

Claim #	Date	To Whom Allowed	CK	Nature of Claim	Amount
6947	2/6	Will County Assessor's Association	9679	Dues (4-years)	\$ 40.00
6948	2/6	Argus Service	9680	Background check (Fuhrmann) - Inv # 27991	\$ 36.00
6949	2/6	Beecher Chamber of Commerce	9681	Annual Dues	\$ 150.00
6950	2/6	Beecher Fuel Account	9682	Bus fuel - 2/1/26 to 2/28/26 - Inv # 1081	\$ 66.13
6951	2/6	Melanie Brenenstall	9683	Reimbursement for notary application	\$ 15.00
6952	2/6	Chicagoland Cloud	9684	Software licenses / new desktop - Inv # 3381 / 3382 / 3383	\$ 5,018.97
6953	2/6	CLR Digital	9685	Calendar App Monthly Fee - Inv # 3006	\$ 125.00
6954	2/6	Comcast	9686	Internet - # 10295 - Bill date - 1/24/26	\$ 241.57
6955	2/6	Dahlberg Accounting Solutions	9687	Professional services - (Jan) Inv # 457	\$ 1,534.00
6956	2/6	Gipple Graphics	9688	Embroider shirts / jacket - Inv # 32671	\$ 87.75
6957	2/6	NICOR	9689	Utilities gas - #55877029193 - Bill date - 1/9/26	\$ 325.86
6958	2/6	R.P. Lumber	9690	Snow shovel - Inv # 4582697	\$ 21.99
6959	2/17	Berkot's Foods	9691	Senior events - # 15105	\$ 65.98
6960	2/17	Pace Vanpool	9692	Monthly Van rental - Inv # 663478	\$ 100.00
6961	2/17	Teresa Peterson	9693	Reimbursement - Random drug test	\$ 17.40
6962	2/17	Michael Fuhrmann	9694	Reimbursement - Joliet (Early Voting Training)	\$ 49.30
6963	2/17	ComEd	9695	Electric bill - Acct # 4544334000 - Bill date 2/3/26	\$ 388.92
6964	2/17	TOI - Clerk's Division	9696	2026-27 Annual Dues	\$ 35.00
6965	2/17	Joe Burgess	9697	Reimbursement - TOI Laws & Duties Handbooks (3)	\$ 110.00
6966	2/17	Beecher Amvets Post 67	9698	Hall Deposits for Senior Breakfast & Holiday Dinner	\$ 550.00
6967	2/17	Crete Township	9699	QuickBooks's Subscription share (Per IGA)	\$ 3,590.01
6968	2/17	Sikich CPA LLC	9700	NTD Transportation Audit - Inv # 125595	\$ 3,000.00
6969	2/19	NICOR	9701	Utilities gas - #55877029193 - Bill date - 2/10/26	\$ 439.70
6970	2/19	Cytracom	EFT	Phone Service - Inv # 455772	\$ 293.40
6971	2/23	Township Officials of IL	9702	GA Institute training - M. Brenenstall	\$ 75.00
6972	2/26	February Payroll - QuickBooks	ACH	ALL payroll, IMRF & other government payroll liabilities	\$ 11,206.33
TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS					\$27,583.31

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the members of said Board of Trustees, hereunto set our hands on March 2, 2026.


Township Supervisor


Township Clerk


Trustee


Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

**Washington Township Board Meeting
March 2, 2026 - 7:00 pm
Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated February 2, 2026

Public Commentary

Reports

1. Road Commissioner
2. Assessor
3. Clerk
4. Supervisor's Report
5. Trustee's Report
6. Transportation Report
7. General Assistance Report

Old Business

1. Consideration and Approval of Revised Washington Township Employee Handbook
2. Consideration and Approval of Washington Township Social Media Policy
3. Approval of QuickBooks Intergovernmental Agreement with Crete Township

New Business

1. Consideration and Approval of Pending Zoning Applications
2. Approval of 2026 - 2027 Meeting Dates
3. Approval of 2026 Annual Town Meeting Agenda
4. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **March 23, 2010**
5. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **January 7, 2013**
6. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **July 1, 2013**
7. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **February 3, 2014**
8. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **January 4, 2016**
9. Consideration to Open the Closed Executive Session Minutes Dated **July 7, 2025**
10. Consideration and Approval of the 2026-2027 Town Budget (Approve in May/June)
11. Consideration and Approval of the 2026-2027 Road District Budget (Approve in May/June)

Payment of Bills

Town Acct, Road District, General Assistance (as required)

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings

- **March 30** – Monthly Board Meeting @ 7 pm

Announcements

Adjournment

Any disabled person requiring special accommodations should notify Supervisor Mike Stanula *prior* to the meeting date to make necessary arrangements. Supervisor Stanula may be reached at 708-946-2026.

The Washington Township Public Commentary Policy will be followed and is printed on back of the agenda.

A CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION MAY BE HELD AT ANY POINT DURING THE MEETING.

Washington Township Board Meeting
7:00 PM

March 2, 2026

By checking the Public Commentary "box" you are agreeing to abide by the Washington Township Public Commentary Policy as printed on the back of the Meeting Agenda.

Guest Sign-in Sheet

PLEASE PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	Please CHECK here if you have Pubic Commentary
NONE		
Jay B...		
CLERK		