

# Cross Village Township Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 03-03-2026

**Present:** Supervisor Stephen Keller, Treasurer Marie Garrett, Trustee Howard Wood, Trustee Barb Jania, Clerk John Keller

**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Cross Village Board was called to order by Steve Keller at 7:04 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

**Move to Budget Hearing:** Supervisor Keller moved to recess the regular meeting and open the Budget Hearing at 7:07 pm. Trustee Howard Wood seconded. All were in favor and the Budget Hearing was opened.

**Budget Hearing Public Comment:** None

**Fiscal Year 2026-2027:** Steve Keller announced the 26-27 Budget, and noted it was much the same as the previous year's budget. He said there were increases in Contracted Services due to both last year's ice storm and the heavy snowfall for winter 2025-26. There was also an increase in Board pay budgeted, in case an increase was approved. Clerk John Keller moved to adopt the FY 2026-27 Budget; Howard Wood seconded. On a Roll-Call vote the votes were:

Howard Wood –	Yes
Barb Jania -	Yes
Steve Keller -	Yes
John Keller -	Yes
Marie Garrett -	Yes

All were in favor and the Budget was adopted.

Steve Keller moved to end the Budget Hearing and reconvene the regular board meeting at 7:09 pm. Howard Wood seconded the motion. All were in favor and the regular meeting reconvened.

**Agenda:** Supervisor Keller moved to amend the agenda, adding item 5.1: **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes**, and adding under **New Business** item 3: **Board of Review Appointments**; item 4: **Board of Review Computer**; item 5. **Meeting Dates**; item 6. **Swearing in of Deputy Clerk**. Supervisor moved to accept the amended agenda. Wood seconded it. All were in favor and the amended agenda was approved.

**Minutes (February 3, 2026):** Clerk Keller moved to approve the February 2026 regular meeting minutes. Trustee Jania seconded. All were in favor and the February 2026 regular meeting minutes were approved.

**Minutes (February 9, 2026 Special Meeting):** Steve Keller moved to approve the February 9, 2026 Special Meeting minutes; John Keller seconded. All were in favor and the February 9, 2026 Special Meeting minutes were approved.

**Financial Report:** The Clerk's and Treasurer's reports were presented. Total bills paid: \$8171.93

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**Payment of Bills:** Steve Keller moved to pay bills totaling \$4050.61. Clerk Keller seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Correspondence/Announcements:** The township received notification from EGLE regarding an update to a building permit in Cross Village.

**Public Comments:** None

### **Committee Reports:**

- Paul Bianchi gave an update on the status of the Veteran's Park project. They have had three meetings so far, and a fourth is scheduled Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7 pm at the Cross Village Community Center. They are focusing on funding, and checking into grant possibilities. The overall design for the park will also be discussed at the upcoming meeting. Plans so far include a 30' flagpole with a 5'x8' flag, which is likely the first project in a series of projects for the park. The flag and pole will cost around \$5,000.00. Future projects include a 3-stone memorial with all branches of the US military represented. The need for electrical service at the park was mentioned, with the desire to have the ability to hold presentations/speeches with amplification, as well as lighting for both the flag and other points of interest in the park. Mr. Bianchi stated the total cost to complete the park is likely between \$40,000-\$50,000. Supervisor Keller spoke about the possibility of the township having a well installed in the park, with both a fountain and a filling station for fire trucks. This would require electrical service, which would be available to the park.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Memorial Plaque Policy:** A discussion regarding policy on memorial plaques in Cross Village was held. The initial idea is for anyone interested in funding a bench with a plaque would be responsible for the cost to purchase the bench and plaque, and for installation. The Supervisor stated he'd like the policy to be written without specific numbers, as the costs may change over time and the numbers can be given at the most current pricing without the need to update the actual written policy. He stated he'll work on language for the policy.
- b. **SLFRF round 2 Projects:** Trustee Jania mentioned she's getting quotes on the installation for the extractor and dryer for the Fire Hall, and Steve Keller stated he is as well.
- c. **Emmet County Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Storage Facilities:** No discussion occurred.

### **New Business:**

- **Amendment of FY 2025-2026 Budget:** Proposed amendments to the 2025-26 budget were announced:
  - Supervisor increased by \$50.00; Board of Review increased by \$700.00; Cemetery increased by \$2225.00; Fire Hall increased by \$6000.00; Highways/Streets increased by \$400.00; Parks increased by \$350.00; Town Hall increased by \$735.00; Cross Lot increased by \$650.00.Howard Wood moved to approve the amendments; Steve Keller seconded. On a

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roll-call vote the results were:

<b>Resolution 2026-003</b>	Steve Keller –	Yes
	John Keller –	Yes
	Howard Wood –	Yes
	Marie Garrett –	Yes
	Barb Jania –	Yes

All votes were Yes, and the amendments were approved.

- **Board Compensation:** Supervisor Keller noted that an increase in compensation has been budgeted, but no increase has been implemented at this time. A proposed increase would bring Trustee Per Diem pay to \$125.00, and Officer salary to \$650/month. He noted that Trustee Per-Diem was increased by \$10 in 2016, and Officer Salary has not seen an increase since at least 2008, as that's the last year back he checked. Supervisor opened up discussion to the Board, with no comments, then opened discussion for public comment. A member of the public asked what previous levels were and was told the current remuneration is \$75/meeting Per-Diem for trustees, and \$6500/year salary for officers (Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk). The increases would be to \$125/meeting Per-Diem, and \$8400/year salary, respectively.

Supervisor noted that if a citizen disagrees with this increase, they may gather 10% of registered voter signatures (23 signatures) on a petition to bring to the board, within 30 days from adoption of this increase. Clerk Keller stated he believes the increase is reasonable given the growing complexity of governance and the many years at current levels.

Clerk Keller moved to approve the increases; Barb Jania seconded. On a roll-call vote the results were:

John Keller –	Yes
Howard Wood –	Yes
Barb Jania-	Yes
Marie Garrett –	Yes
Steve Keller –	Yes

All votes were Yes, and the increases were approved.

**Resolution 2026-004- Trustee:** Steve Keller moved; John Keller seconded.

Steve Keller –	Yes
Howard Wood –	Yes
Barb Jania –	Yes
John Keller –	Yes
Marie Garrett –	Yes

**Resolution 2026-005-Clerk:** Steve Keller moved; Marie Garret seconded.

Marie Garret –	Yes
Howard Wood –	Y
Steve Keller –	Yes
Barb Jania –	Yes
John Keller –	Yes

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**Resolution 2026-006-Treasurer:** John Keller moved; Barb Jania seconded.

Barb Jania – Yes  
Marie Garrett – Yes  
Howard Wood – Yes  
Steve Keller – Yes  
John Keller – Yes

**Resolution 2026-007-Supervisor:** Steve Keller moved; John Keller seconded.

John Keller – Yes  
Howard Wood – Yes  
Barb Jania – Yes  
Steve Keller – Yes  
Marie Garrett - Yes

- **Board of Review Appointments:** Supervisor Keller nominated as Board of Review members to fill in until January 27 for missing members Mike Federau, and as Alternates Norma Keller and Diana Keller. Steve Keller moved to accept these nominations; Marie Garret seconded the motion. All were in favor and the members were appointed.
- **Board of Review Computer:** The Supervisor noted the laptop used by the Board of Review is no longer working and is obsolete/insufficient for current needs, and moved to authorize up to \$700.00 for the purchase of a new laptop for the Board of Review. John Keller seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- **Meeting Dates:** Updated Board Meeting dates were announced due to election conflicts on some of the days. Dates changed are;
  - May 12, 2026
  - August 11, 2026
  - November 10, 2026
  - January 5, 2027 and January 26, 2027 (Budget Workshop)
  - February 2, 2027
  - March 2, 2027
- **Oath of Office, Deputy Clerk:** Mr. Joseph Skoczylas was administered the Oath of Office and sworn in as Deputy Clerk.

**Second Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

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**John F. Keller, Cross Village Township Clerk**

**John F. Keller, Clerk: PO BOX 182, Cross Village MI, 49723 (231) 881-1913**  
[clerk@crossvillagetownship.org](mailto:clerk@crossvillagetownship.org)