



Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2025

i. Call to order

Supervisor Bergeron called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Attendees: Trustees Brian McQueen, Tim Gulotta, and James Hutcheson, Supervisor Lisa Bergeron and 11 members of the public. Absent: Highway Commissioner Pigott.

Supervisor Bergeron requested a change to the meeting protocol to allow members of the Public to ask questions after the wind and audit topics rather than hold until the end of the meeting given the detailed nature of those topics.

Supervisor Bergeron also asked the Board and members of the Public to hold questions until the speaker has finished going through all talking points as that would likely address many questions and allow for complete information to be shared before opening up for questions.

ii. Approval of prior meeting minutes

Trustee McQueen requested two changes to the prior minutes and motioned to approve, Trustee Hutcheson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

iii. Update on industrial wind energy project

Supervisor Bergeron provided an update on the New Leaf Energy's proposed 638ft – 5-megawatt wind turbine to be built off W. Clare Road. The Township received requests for pre-application meetings a week after the wind measurement tower was installed in November. The proposed turbine would be built with access off W. Clare Road, which is currently very narrow and lacking gravel which will require extensive work to upgrade in advance of construction. Additionally, culvert and drainage work would be required given the nature of drainage in the area.

Highway Commissioner Pigott and Supervisor Bergeron met with DeKalb County Highway Department representatives and engaged in discussions with New Leaf Energy on the project. New Leaf Energy anticipates receiving full County Board approval to build the wind turbine as early as March 2026. Highway Commissioner Pigott and Supervisor Bergeron are engaging with Legal Counsel to review and strengthen the existing road permits as well as prepare a draft Road Use Agreement specifically tailored to address the challenges of undertaking a large-scale wind development within a small township. A Line of Credit may be needed to cover the costs and cash flow issues which is being evaluated.

A member of the Public expressed the need for bonding the roads. Supervisor Bergeron indicated that these issues are being worked on with Legal Counsel. There are other energy companies signing up land with intention to install potentially dozens of turbines in DeKalb County. Maps show their target area includes most portions in the north-west areas of DeKalb County including surrounding Genoa, Kingston, Kirkland, Clare, Esmond and Malta. Another member of the Public expressed concern regarding soil, water, and wildlife effects. The energy company is required to get clearance from Fish & Wildlife, DeKalb County Soil and Water and other regulatory entities.

DeKalb County will need an enforcement mechanism to ensure the wind energy company complies with all regulatory requirements. Another issue raised was ComEd's lack of allowance of solar energy on their lines. It appears that wind energy has more leverage than solar. The Township will receive property tax revenue from the turbine installation but will not be substantial.



iv. Status of Clerk position and options going forward

Supervisor Bergeron received documents from the former Clerk at the end of October and has finished reviewing and organizing those documents. A draft job description for the Clerk position was prepared and will be reviewed with the Board. Once the Board has provided feedback, an announcement will be posted with the plan to appoint a Clerk at the January 13, 2026 meeting.

v. Review of FY25 audited financial statements

Supervisor Bergeron reviewed the FY25 audit. The audit was clean and the only material weakness was "Segregation of Duties" which is normal for small organizations that do not have enough staff to separate revenue and expenditure activities. The Clerk position will be engaged to do more with bank reconciliations and reviews. The Township closed out the fiscal year overall within budget. Supervisor Bergeron reviewed a few of the auditor comments regarding lack of financial policies which will be a focus in 2026. Other policies that could be developed include expenditure policy to govern how funds are spent. The Building and Equipment fund was over budget due to misplacement of Motor Fuel Tax revenue and expenditures as well as the purchase of equipment with a loan from the bank. However, because the State evaluates Townships based on consolidated Town and Road District governmental entities, the Township overall, was not over budget. Given the tight financial position, strategies need to be developed to allow flexibility in budgeting going forward to avoid the need for multiple budget modifications given the size and scope of the wind turbine project.

Trustee Gulotta moved to approve the FY25 audited financial statement, Trustee McQueen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

vi. Appointment of Trustee effective 1/13/2026

There were 2 applicants for the vacant Trustee position. One of the candidates withdrew from consideration before the meeting. Trustee McQueen motion to approve Keith Hetland to the Trustee position, Trustee Gulotta seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Board welcomed Keith Hetland as South Grove Township Trustee.

vii. Financial reports & authorization of expenditures

Supervisor Bergeron reviewed the Township bills. Trustee McQueen motioned to approve, Trustee Gulotta seconded. The motion carried with one dissent by Trustee Hutcheson. Supervisor Bergeron reviewed the road district bills. Trustee Gulotta requested status and list of projects at the Town meeting in April. Trustee Gulotta motioned to approve, Trustee McQueen seconded. The motion carried with one dissent by Trustee Hutcheson.

viii. Old and/or New business

Trustee McQueen suggested the Township should purchase video equipment to record meetings which could then be uploaded to the Township website and Facebook page. Supervisor Bergeron advised that our current website had limited storage and in order to post video recordings of that length, it would be likely that the Township would need to purchase additional services to support those files. Trustee McQueen offered to investigate the cost of video equipment and Supervisor Bergeron would look into the cost-of-service additions or upgrades needed to support the storage of hour plus long videos from each meeting.



Trustee Gulotta requested clarity on the MACI general assistance policy. The current policy requires a \$25,000 deductible but it can be upgraded next summer to a \$15,000 deductible. A concern going forward is the impact of changes to the Affordable Care Act which previously protected Townships from healthcare liability exposure. With many who may not be able to afford ACA in 2026, the Townships exposure will increase. Trustee Gulotta asked about TORMA coverage for the Supervisor. Supervisor Bergeron indicated that the Board has liability coverage through TORIMA as well as mandatory Bonding of the Supervisor. Trustee Gulotta provided information on the United Methodist Church food bank in Kirkland which provides services to the Township on a weekly basis.

ix. Public comment

There was no additional public comment.

x. Adjournment

Next Meeting January 13, 2026 – 7 P:M

Trustee McQueen motioned to adjourn at 8:05 pm, Trustee Hutcheson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.