

Secord Township Open Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2026 @ 10:00 am
1507 Secord Dam Rd, Gladwin, MI 48624 www.secordtwp.com

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

- Supervisor Joel Vernier (supervisor@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Treasurer Christine Grace (treasurer@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Clerk Kristine Panetta (clerk@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Trustee Maria Alward (mlalward@gmail.com) PRESENT
- Trustee Kathy Seagraves (deputysupervisor@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- 13 township residents

Motion by Christine Grace and second by Kristine Panetta to approve Board meeting minutes of July 15, 2026.
All ayes. Approved

Motion by Kristine Panetta and second by Maria Alward to approve Special Board meeting minutes of August 7, 2026. All ayes. Approved

Consent Agenda/Changes to Agenda

Add 2 speakers to *Guest* section of agenda: Don Balmes and Elijah Burkhardt

Motion by Joel Vernier and second by Maria Alward to accept change to agenda. All ayes. Approved

Public Comment: None

Guests:

- Mike Visnaw, County Commissioner: Reported that Gladwin County will offer a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Sept. 19 from 9am -2pm at 201 South St, Gladwin. This year they are requesting townships to help pay for this. (See Flyer attached).
- Don Balmes, Smallwood Lake resident spoke in support of putting in a public DNR boat ramp on Smallwood Lake (on 20-acre state land) and thanked Township team for their support.
- Elijah Burkhardt, Assessor, reported that his team is catching up with assessments and updating property deeds.

Secord Township Treasurer's Report : August 18, 2026

(Fund Balances as of 08/18/2026)

General Fund Checking	\$247,391.03
Balance:	
General Fund ICS :	\$383,017.26
General Fund CD# 55	\$59,467.40
General Fund CD# 56	\$59,181.40

General Fund Total:	\$749,057.09
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* (balance does not reflect o/s checks)

Fire Fund Checking Balance:

\$14,468.50

Fire Fund ICS:

\$115,931.13

Fire Fund Total: \$130,399.63

* (balance does not reflect o/s checks)

Garbage Fund Balance:

\$14,958.49

Garbage Fund ICS:

\$152,671.22

Garbage Fund Total: \$167,629.71

Lake Weed Fund Balance:

\$14,957.57

Lake Weed Fund ICS:

\$427,708.79

Mercantile Bank Weed Fund
Balance:

\$251,316.94

Lake Weed Fund Total: \$693,983.30

Mosquito Fund Balance:

\$14,957.19

Mosquito Fund ICS:

\$58,656.49

Mosquito Fund Total: \$73,613.68

Road Fund Balance:

\$14,957.18

Road Fund ICS:

\$476,874.47

Road Fund Total: \$491,831.65

Total of All Funds: \$2,306,515.06

Christine noted that interest has been earned on ICS accounts:

April \$984

May \$931

June \$3404

July \$5811.41

Motion by Kristine Panetta and second by Maria Alward to receive and file Treasurer's report. All ayes. Approved

Clerk's Bills Paid:

General Fund Bills: \$58,724.38

General Payroll: \$14,467.21

Fire Bills: \$26,370.50

Fire Payroll: \$4,625.00

Motion by Maria Alward and second by Kristine Panetta to pay the bills as presented. All ayes. Approved.

Kristine Panetta suggested that the township purchase Shadow Box for outside wall (for announcements). Cost will be no more than \$500. This will improve appearance of entrance doors where announcements are currently posted.

Motion by Joel Vernier and second by Christine Grace to approve shadow box as presented. All ayes. Approved.

Clerks Correspondence Received: Notice from Gladwin about Hazardous waste day and email about Eagles club.

Reports:

- **Planning & Zoning Report:** John Kuksa EXCUSED ABSENCE
- **Fire Board Report:** Pete Doyle ABSENT. Fred Shaver reported that Pete has stepped down as Chair of Fire Board and they are considering an interested party to replace him. 13 medical runs and 5 fire runs in July.
- **Fire Chief Report:** Fred Shaver reports that he has applied for a \$50,000 grant for critical supplies and asked for Board Support (in form of approved motion and copy of minutes).

Motion by Joel Vernier and second by Maria Alward for Secord Township Board to support Grant Application. All ayes. Approved.
- **Constable Report:** Maxine Larson reported there was an issue with the freezer at the Eagles which is now resolved.
- **Road Committee Report:** Ken Douglas reported 2026 roadwork plan has been completed. They are now planning for 2027.
- **Zoning Administrator Report:** Cherie Mascarello reported that she completed 8 building permits in July plus one Short-term Rental permit. She said that there are a couple more permits that she is working on now.
- **Ordinance Enforcement Officer Report:** Tim Seagraves reported that he has 29 issues currently being addressed; noted that DNR requires a permit to camp on state land for hunting.
- **Well and Septic Report:** Maria Alward reported that there were 9 reports this past month (1 well and 8 septic).

Other Business:

- **Formal Appeal of FOIA Denial and Resolution**
Pursuant to MCL 15.240(3) A Board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a).

Resolution 2026-8-19-08 was read by Kristine Panetta addressing the FOIA appeal.

Motion by Joel Vernier and Kristine Panetta to approve the Resolution. 4 ayes, 1 abstention. Approved.
- **Donation from Secord Lake Association** in amount of \$2000 was received. Joel suggested that the funds be given to the Fire Department to pay for needed updated equipment such as wet suits and life jackets.

Motion by Joel Vernier and second by Kristine Panetta to give Fire Department donated funds of \$2000. All ayes. Approved.

- Kristine Panetta read the following Resolutions determining millage and special assessment rates:
 - 2026-8-19-01 Street Lights -Board tabled until September's Board meeting.
 - 2026-8-19- 02 Lake Weed: Assessment remains at \$105 lake front and \$22.50 back lot.
Motion offered by Kristine Panetta and Supported by Kathy Seagraves. All ayes. Passed.
 - 2026-8-19-03 Garbage: Assessment increased from \$206.37 to \$227.
Motion offered by Christine Grace and supported by Kristine Panetta. All ayes. Passed.
 - 2026-8-19-04 Mosquito: Millage remains at 0.44190.
Motion offered by Joel Vernier and supported by Kathy Seagraves. All ayes. Passed.
 - 2026-8-19-05 Road: Millage increased from 1 to 1.25.
Motion offered by Kristine Panetta and supported by Maria Alward. All ayes. Passed.
 - 2026-8-19-06 Operating: Millage remains at 0.5867.
Motion offered by Maria Alward and supported by Christine Grace.
 - 2026-8-19-07 Fire: Millage remains at 1.2277.
Motion offered by Maria Alward and supported by Joel Vernier.
- Christine Grace is starting a support group for those who have lost a loved one called *Broken Wing* Support Group. It will begin on Wednesday August 26, 5p-7p held at Secord Township Hall. This free support group is for those who have lost a loved one. All are welcomed.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day (Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 201 South State St., Gladwin) participant fees have increased based upon numbers of vehicle participation in townships last year (Secord in grouping of 16-25 vehicles = \$1,250).

Motion by Joel Vernier and second by Kristine Panetta to participate in the Gladwin Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day by paying the fee for Secord Township participants of \$1250. All ayes. Approved.

Supervisor Comments:

- Secord Township's Fire millage of 1.2277 is lower than most townships. If the additional 0.5 millage increase passes on the November 2026 ballot (total millage would then be 1.72), Secord Township will still be among the lowest.
- Held meeting last week with Four Lakes Task Force and other Supervisors regarding lake debris. Concerned that logs will float once water comes back. Secord Lake will have a boom at dam to take out floating debris.
- Thanked the Township team for the good work they do.

Public Comments/Announcements

- Keisha Crane in objection of the Lake Weed assessment
- Sandra LaBean spoke in support of the work that the Township staff do.

Motion to Adjourn Kristine Panetta and second by Christine Grace. All ayes. Meeting adjourned @ 11:42 am.