

Secord Township Meeting Minutes

Special Open Board Meeting

August 7, 2026

10:00 am

www.secordtwp.com

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

- Supervisor Joel Vernier (supervisor@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Clerk Kristine Panetta (clerk@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Trustee Maria Alward (mlalward@gmail.com) PRESENT
- Trustee Kathy Seagraves (deputysupervisor@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Treasurer Christine Grace (treasurer@secordtwp.com) PRESENT
- Residents: 5 in attendance

Consent Agenda/Changes to Agenda

Motion by Christine Grace & second by Kristine Panetta to accept agenda. All Ayes. Approved

Public Comment: None

Special Meeting Topics:

1. Recommendation from Secord Fire Board to retract the Fire Protection Special Assessment

Pete Doyle reported that the Fire Board voted today to retract the Special Assessment as they received a lot of written feedback (primarily a form letter) from the public in opposition.

Resolution 2026-8-7-1 read by Clerk and Motion for roll-call vote was made by Kristine Panetta and seconded by Christine Grace.

Roll Call vote:

Supervisor, Joel Vernier Yeah

Clerk, Kristine Panetta Yeah

Trustee, Maria Alward Yeah

Trustee, Kathy Seagraves Yeah

Treasurer, Christine Grace Yeah

Resolution 2026-8-7-1 adopted (attached)

2. Proposal from Secord Fire Board for EMS milage for November 3, 2026 ballot

Pete Doyle reported that the Fire Board voted to proceed with putting a .5 millage (50 cents per \$1000 taxable value per lot) question on the November 2026 ballot.

Resolution 2026-8-7-2 read by Clerk and Motion for roll-call vote was made by Maria Alward and seconded by Christine Grace.

Roll Call vote:

Supervisor, Joel Vernier Yeah

Clerk, Kristine Panetta Yeah

Trustee, Maria Alward Yeah

Trustee, Kathy Seagraves Yeah

Treasurer, Christine Grace Yeah

Resolution 2026-8-7-2 adopted (attached)

Supervisor Comments:

Joel reported that the Township Board had been asked by the Fire Board to approve the Special Assessment to support hiring a full-time (32 hours) fireman/EMS. This would improve response time to scenes, especially medical emergencies, because the FT person could directly respond to the scene and the volunteer firemen could also go directly to scene without having to stop at fire station to get the vehicle. Although the Special Assessment has been retracted, the need still exists and therefore a question will go on the ballot. He cited several examples of millages that passed in nearby townships this past election (August 4, 2026).

Kristine Panetta reported that she has personally returned all calls and emails regarding the Special Assessment. She noted that the residents were all very kind and simply had questions. The Township staff have been very transparent on all matters.

Christine Grace reported that 42% of residents in Secord Township are full-time (homestead) residents. She provided examples of the annual tax if the .5 millage is approved in November based upon the taxable value of property:

\$50,000 = \$25

\$100,000 = \$50

\$200,000=\$100

\$300,000=\$150

\$400,000=\$200

\$500,000=\$250

Public Comments: None

Motion to Adjourn Kristine Panetta and second by Maria Alward. All Ayes.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:27 am.