

Secord Township Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026

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Meeting called to order at 10:01am

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**
- 8 Residents in attendance

Motion by Joel Vernier & Maria Alward to approve meeting minutes of February 18, 2026 - All Ayes

Changes to Agenda:

- Hall use for FLTF associate for Shoreline Stabilization Presentation on 7/30/26.
Motion by Joel Vernier and Christine Grace to allow hall use at no charge- All Ayes
- New lawn bid from Mayor's Lawn Service
Discussion on new Lawn Care Bid received and benefits to the township
Motion to accept: New Lawn Care Contract by Joel Vernier and Christine Grace- All Ayes
- Mutual Aid Fire Control Agreement – (see motion to approve under Fire Chief Report)

Motion by Joel Vernier & Kristine Panetta to change to agenda – All Ayes

Public Comment:

Judy Bowman spoke regarding her concerns for the hall use for the Shoreline Stabilization Presentation and suggested to the Board that a fee for costs be redeemed.

Guests:

Mike Visnaw/County Commissioner:

Per Mike, not too much going on at this time. It has been slow.

There is a meeting at the Gladwin Library on March 25, 2026 from 4-7pm on the composing of the new Master Plan for the county. Public welcome.

Trout Lake has a proposal for money to support the lake. It does not look optimistic to many circumstances per Mike.

“Cup of Joe” Meetings for veterans at the American Legion monthly and supplies assistance for vets who are looking for insight on what they may qualify for.

Blight meeting will be held Monday March 30, 2026 at the Commissioners room in the Courthouse. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Meeting is from 7-8pm. Q&A following meeting.

Treasurer's Report: as of 03/17/2026:

General Fund Checking Balance	\$765,278.35	
CD #S54 (Maturity Date 06/23/26)	\$58,582.79	
CD #S51 (Maturity Date 06/18/26)	\$58,330.07	
Winter Uncollected Tax Revenue		\$6,320.53
General Fund Total:	\$882,191.21	
Fire Fund Checking Balance	\$139,045.61	
CD #S52 (Maturity Date 06/18/26)	\$49,995.28	
Winter Uncollected Tax Revenue		\$13,227.36
Fire Fund Total:	\$189,040.89	
Garbage Fund Balance	\$207,185.88	
Winter Uncollected Tax Revenue		\$33,939.05
Garbage Fund Total:	\$207,185.88	
Lake Weed Fund Balance	\$438,516.40	
CD Matured 12/25/25	\$266,481.79	
Winter Uncollected Tax Revenue		\$13,160.16
Lake Weed Fund Total:	\$704,998.19	
Mosquito Fund Balance	\$68,590.30	
Winter Uncollected Tax Revenue		\$4,760.29
Mosquito Fund Total:	\$68,590.30	
Road Fund Balance	\$462,373.58	
Winter Uncollected Tax Revenue		\$10,774.01
Road Fund Total:	\$462,373.58	
Total of All Funds:	\$2,514,380.05	
Total of Uncollected Tax Revenue:		\$82,181.40

Motion by Joel Vernier & Maria Alward to receive and file Treasurer's report – All Ayes

Clerk's Bills Paid:

General Fund Bills: \$94,082.46 (+51K on 2026 Mosquito prepay)

General Payroll: \$12,687.68

Fire Bills: \$10,959.92

Fire Payroll: \$1,520.00

Motion by Joel Vernier & Christine Grace to pay the bills as presented

Clerks Correspondence Received:

Constable Report from Maxine on Eagles was turned in. Report was: All Good.

*Joel Vernier mentioned Maxine and her hash brown casserole that was delicious during the March BOR meeting

Reports:

Planning & Zoning: John Kuksa- Discussions on trailers on property and possible permits for occasional usage. Providing the Ordinance Officer with instruction sheets and fee schedules. Placing on the website instructions to reach the Township Hall, Planning and Zoning department for current information. Joel Vernier reiterated the ordinance on trailers, usage and compliance.

Fire Board Report: Pete Doyle had their monthly meeting. Payroll approved. 2 Gladwin Fire runs, 1 Butman Fire run, 1 Medical run in Secord. Discussion on grant and hiring a full-time fire employee.

Fire Chief Report: Fred Shaver Grant for \$4000 to fund an underwater drone has been approved through the Midland Foundation. The underwater drone is expected to perform excellently and provide faster search and rescue. Through Amazon the cost was \$3581 and will arrive within 1 week. Fred requested from the Board approval to proceed with the purchase.

Motion by Joel Vernier and Maria Alward to accept the grant and approve the purchase. – All ayes

The cooperative Mutual Aide Fire Control form to be signed by Fire Chief and Joel Vernier.

Motion to approve form and sign by Joel Vernier and Kristine Panetta- All Ayes

Discussion on special assessment for ½ mil to cover the costs of a full-time fire employee

Fred reiterated NO BURNING IN DITCHES

Constable Report: Maxine Larson Eagles inspection last Tuesday and all is good

Road Committee Report: Ken Douglas not present. Joel Vernier spoke with Ken. He is in meetings on road projects for 2026. They will be proceeding repaving Cedar Lake.

Zoning Administrator Report: Cherie Mascarello 3 permits issued in February. It is starting to pick up in March with many phone calls. Joel Vernier commented on the Short-Term Rentals and that other communities are adopting our ordinances on this. The Good Neighbor Guidelines should be posted at each short-term rental.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer Report: Tim Seagraves Lakeshore cleanup is complete. Billing is being calculated for this and will be sent to the homeowner.

Trailer issue is going to court over non-compliance

New issue with trailer on property with a deceased owner. Trying to locate current owner and verify trailer owner and inform of ordinances pertaining to trailer use on property

Sign disposal has continued

Joel will attend the county level Blight meeting; Tim will be on vacation and unable to attend

Tim has a new person interested in assisting with planning and zoning issues

Tim reiterated that all literature be very clear on any permits and ordinances that he is involved with and issuing to residents if the Planning and Zoning Board decides to start issuing temporary trailer permits going forward. John Kuksa mentioned that ALL residents are welcome to the monthly meetings that the Board has to become more involved with the process

Well and Septic: Maria Alward 1 well and 1 septic- both passed

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Resolution to establish a 2026 Election Receiving Board

Motion to accept Resolution by Christine Grace and Kristine Panetta-

Roll Count Vote taken - All Ayes

Resolution adopted

- Resolution to support MI Special Assessment Deferment Program-Joel Vernier discussed the program and explained the benefit that it would give to Secord Township residents who may qualify financially for the program.

Discussions on the benefits to residents who qualify. Board agreed to support the bill in a resolution.

Motion by Joel Vernier and Maria Alward to support

Roll call vote taken- All Ayes

Resolution adopted

- Contract with Gladwin County for elections- costs \$5000 for the first year, \$4500 for each following year

Commissioner Mike Visnaw commented that the county fee is for 9 days of early voting available at the county building for Second residents.

Motion to have Clerk Kristine Panetta sign the county contract was issued by Kristine Panetta and Maria Alward- All Ayes

Supervisor Comments:

Joel mentioned and welcomed the new Board members, Kathy Seagraves as Trustee and Christine Grace as Treasurer

Public Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Mike Visnaw expressed concerns on temporary trailer permits and the possible hazards/blight to the township

Fred Shaver mentioned the website changes and updates

Motion to Adjourn Joel Vernier & Maria Alward @ 11:07 am- All Ayes