

SUGAR ISLAND TOWNSHIP

6401 E 1 ½ Mile Rd
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783
Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

- I. Supervisor Eitrem called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Supervisor Eitrem led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll call taken: Supervisor Eitrem-present, Treasurer Brown-present, Trustee-Williams- present, Clerk Rich – present, Trustee Morehouse-present.
- IV **MOTION:** Clerk Rich - to accept Agenda as amended, adding item “g” and “h” under New Business. Support – Treasurer Brown. Motion passed unanimously.
- V **MOTION:** Trustee Morehouse- to approve Meeting Minutes June 9, 2026, as amended for technical correction (incorrect date on Treasurer’s Report, should have been May 31, 2026). Supported by Clerk Rich. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI Correspondence-Clerk Rich read correspondence from County Canvasser (no name available), praising the Township Website’s openness, created and maintained by Trustee Williams.

VII **Treasurer’s report- Fiscal Year 25/26.**

Treasurer Brown presented the Township Treasurer’s Report
June 20, 2026

Michigan Class

Beginning Balance	\$676,451.16 ROAD	
	\$120,342.05 FIRE	
	\$ 25,071.25 SOLID WASTE	
	\$250,712.62 AMBULANCE	
Income earned	\$1,929.78 ROAD	
	\$370.73 FIRE	
	\$77.22 SOLID WASTE	
	\$772.37 AMBULANCE	
Balance	\$578,380.94 ROAD	
	\$120,712.78 FIRE	
	\$25,148.47 SOLID WASTE	
	\$251,484.99 AMBULANCE	
	TOTAL	\$975,727.18

Account#

Petty Cash: \$400.00

Payables: \$28,870.05

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General	\$123,212.53
Taxes:	\$6,176.91
Roads:	\$316,248.09
Metro:	\$14,813.31
Playground:	\$3,655.13
Solid Waste:	\$85,468.16
Fire Fund:	\$107,930.54
Ambulance Fund:	\$159,816.35

Total: \$846,591.07

GRAND TOTAL: \$1,822,318.25

MOTION: Trustee Morehouse - to approve Treasurer's Report, supported by Supervisor Eitrem. Motion passed Unanimously.

VIII Unfinished Business:

- a. Discussed the recent brine activity. Supervisor Eitrem explained the issue of running out of brine, and how the Vendor was planning to remedy the situation. Expected to return Thursday July 16th for completion of the project, with no additional cost to the Township.
- b. Updated the status of the supplication to the Fire Equipment Grant Program. Supervisor Eitrem explained that there has been no change to this program, and that it is still stalled. The Township still awaits its activation.
- c. Updated the status of the playground and pavilion projects. No playground update. Pavillion – Lions Club Chair, Steve Foote reported that the Taco fundraiser generated \$12,000.00. He said that this will hopefully be enough. Mentioned that the Township may want to move the children's playground equipment (park) for safety concerns. Announced an Ice Cream Social for member recruitment on July 22nd.
- d. Discussed the upcoming visit of Tracy Tomaszewski (EGLE). Supervisor Eitrem explained that the previously announced visit/tour will occur on July 30, 2026. Announced that there are approximately 15 cleanup sites on the island.
- e. Discussed recent legal review of the Township's Advertising Sign Ordinance. Supervisor Eitrem distributed copies of the Township Attorney's legal opinion of the current Sign Ordinance plus other options. This document is CONFIDENTIAL, ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and will not be shared beyond Township Board members.

IX New Business:

- a. Pay Bills with EFT's and Checks. The Township's BS&A accounting report failed to list 5 checks. Those checks were read aloud by Clerk Rich with a notation that the record will be amended.

MOTION: Treasurer Brown to pay monthly bills as presented. Supported by Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

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- b. **MOTION:** Supervisor Eitrem to approve fireworks permit for Sugar Island Music Fest subject to the verification of Tribal Police presence at close of fireworks, to run from 10:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Support Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed Unanimously.
- c. **MOTION:** Clerk Rich to approve purchase of an additional camera to monitor the new statutorily required election drop box. Supported by Supervisor Eitrem. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Supervisor Eitrem provided summary information regarding an After-Action Review on ice handling in the St Mary's River. Attendees: Rep Fairborn, USCG, USACE, EUPTA, Sugar Island Township Supervisor. "Working to hold all parties accountable." More issues to be discussed at future meetings.
- e. Discussion regarding adding Deputy Clerk to all CSB accounts included protocol used when Clerk Behm resigned. Treasurer Brown suggested authorizing Deputy Clerk to Payroll account only.
MOTION: Clerk Rich to authorize adding Deputy Clerk McLeod to the Township's payroll account. Support Supervisor Eitrem. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. Clerk Rich read the resolution regarding Hutchinson land split. **Motion** Treasurer Brown to approve. Support by Supervisor Eitrem.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Williams – Aye

Trustee Morehouse – Aye

Supervisor Eitrem – Aye

Treasurer Brown – Aye

Clerk Rich – Aye

Motion passed unanimously

- g. Paving of Honey Lane. Mr. Jessie Knoll is donating \$6,000 to Sugar Island Township to support the Township portion of the paving cost.
MOTION: Made by Treasurer Brown to approve. Supported by Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed unanimously
- h. Discussion to increase spending limit from \$500 to \$1,000.
MOTION: Treasurer Brown to pay Dan Owen for brush hogging \$1,000. Support Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

X Department/Committee Reports:

- a. Ambulance Report -One run in July.
- b. Fire Report -1 structure fire in July. The SIFD received "Jaws of life" as a donation and is now ready to donate them, instructed by Treasurer Brown to assess cost of item for reporting before doing so.
- c. Planning Commission- No report.
- d. Zoning Board of Appeals- No report.
- e. Board of Review-Meeting scheduled on July 21st @ 2:00 pm.

XI Public Comment

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- Blight on Island. Are any on Tribal land, and what can be done? Suggestion approaching Bay Mills and Sault Tribe to also be parties to the EGLE grant request.
- Speed limits? Supervisor Eitrem explained island speed limits.
- Brining question. Supervisor Eitrem explained what happened with vendor, application of brine process and when project completion will occur.
- Question regarding flower box at ferry dock, resident urged to contact the Sugar Island Lions' Club, as they currently handle the flower box.
- Request to rescind Motion to authorize Deputy Clerk for Payroll account signature authorization and revert to established protocol.
- 911 issue – nonemergency number to be posted at ferry dock.

XII Board member reports

Supervisor Eitrem reported: pavement of roads to begin August 5, 2026.

Clerk Rich reported May 5, 2026 election reimbursement received from EUPSID \$1,643.20.

Trustee Morehouse reported on cleanup around the island and plans for additional clean up. Water will be sampled this month. Special Thank you to Jesse Knoll for cutting grass on the island.

Treasurer Brown identified a mailing issue resulting from envelopes not allowing addresses to show properly, thus impeding mail delivery. Would like to discuss using a different vendor, KCC to fulfill the mailing of tax bills. She noted that there is an increase in cost of just \$29 that includes expanded services.

Treasurer Brown requested authorization to purchase a new desk for \$1,085. No motion was made.

Treasurer Brown discussed raising the price of rental for the Township Hall and Kitchen. Her suggestion, \$75 for Islanders, \$100 for non-residents. Supervisor Eitrem asked Treasurer Brown to call other Townships to find out what they are charging. Treasurer Brown refused, responding "You can call." No Motion was made.

MOTION: Supervisor Eitrem to rescind part "IX e," of the Agenda regarding the CSB accounts. Support Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII Announcements:

- a. Watch for Announcements in the Sugar Island Quacker
- b. Watch for Announcements on Sugar Island Township Facebook page.
- c. Watch for Announcements on the Sugar Island Township

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XIV 8:47 pm Supervisor adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted by:

Brandi Rich

Original signed

Sugar Island Township Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BRMR', is written over the printed name 'Brandi Rich'.