SUGAR ISLAND TOWNSHIP

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

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

I. Supervisor Eitrem called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

II. Supervisor Eitrem led 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:** Treasurer Brown - to accept Agenda. Support –Clerk Rich. Motion passed unanimously

V **MOTION:** Trustee Morehouse- to approve Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026 Supported by Clerk Rich. Motion passed unanimously

VI Correspondence- None reported

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

Treasurer Brown presented the Township Treasurer's Report. Reading aloud resulted in discovery of numerous errors in the presented document. Treasurer Brown will correct.

August 31, 2026

Michigan Class

Beginning Balance	$580,227.40 ROAD		
	$121,098.14 FIRE		
	$ 25,228.77 SOLID WASTE		
	$25,228,785.00 AMBULANCE		
Income earned	$ 1.878.00 ROAD		
	$ 391.96 FIRE		
	$ 81.66 SOLID WASTE		
	$ 816.58 AMBULANCE		
Balance	**$582,105.40 ROAD**		
	$121,490.10 FIRE		
	$ 25,310.43 SOLID WASTE		
	$25,229,601.58 AMBULANCE		
		TOTAL	**$982,010.36**

Account#

Petty Cash:	$ 400.00
Payable:	$ 21,424.60
General	$105,851.94
Taxes:	$133,476.58

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Roads:	$ 61,473.86
Metro:	$ 14,476.80
Playground:	$ 3,657.13
Solid Waste:	$ 62,185.41
Fire Fund:	$106,300.69
Ambulance Fund:	$ 89,633.70

Total: $598,880.71

GRAND TOTAL: $1,580,891.07

MOTION: Supervisor Eitrem - to approve Treasurer's Report as read. Supported by Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed Unanimously

VIII Unfinished Business:

a. **MOTION**: Treasurer Brown authorizing the addition of Supervisor Eitrem to bank signature cards. Supported by Trustee Williams. Motion passed Unanimously.
b. Discussion of public question and answer session with Spectrum Communications on August 26th at 6:00 pm at Sugar Island Township Community Center. Supervisor Eitrem reported that the meeting was not a full house but generally received well. Waiting for permits for Army Corp of Engineers to run cable into the bedrock, under the St. Mary's River, expected mid-October completion.
c. Discussion on final work on Village Road – per Trustee Morehouse, it went well, and there is just a small section to fix/replace asphalt
d. Discussion to consider the need to create an ordinance regarding solar and wind farms. **MOTION** Trustee Morehouse to assign responsibility to the Planning Commission to review and recommend an ordinance to address the issue to the Township Board. Support Treasurer Brown. Motion passed unanimously.
e. Discussion regarding increase of rental rates for the Community Center. Treasurer Brown suggested that there be no increase due to the requirements that fees can only be based on actual cost to the Township. No motion was made; however, consensus was achieved. No change.
f. Discussion regarding need to modify the pay of elected township officials. Supervisor Eitrem presented a graph that he created; it reflected information that he compiled from other townships. Supervisor Eitrem will be gathering more information for future discussion but noted that all Sugar Island elected positions were paid less than the average of other Townships surveyed, and no change would take effect until April of 2027.
g. Discussion regarding the need to issue permits for food trucks and other private vendors using Township facilities. Summary: Will ask Fire Chief Horner to present how this matter is handled through Sault Ste Marie municipality/Fire Department.

IX New Business:

a. Pay Bills with EFT's and Checks.
MOTION: Clerk Rich to pay monthly bills as presented. Supported by Trustee Morehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

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b. Clerk Rich read Resolution #26-1 to amend Township budget. **MOTION**: Trustee Morehouse to accept Resolution 26-1, Support Treasurer Brown. ROLL CALL VOTE: Supervisor Eitrem-aye, Treasurer Brown-aye, Trustee- Williams- aye, Clerk Rich – aye, Trustee Morehouse-aye. Motion passed unanimously.
c. **MOTION**: Treasurer Brown, to add Holly Hutchinson as a member of the Township Planning Commission. Support Trustee Williams. Motion passed unanimously.
d. **MOTION** Clerk Rich to add Paul Villareal as an alternate member of the Township Planning Commission. Support Trustee Williams. Motion passed unanimously.
e. **MOTION**: Treasurer Brown, to submit 2026 L-4029 (tax rate document). Support Clerk Rich. Motion passed unanimously.

X Department/Committee Reports:

a. Ambulance Report – No report
b. Fire Report -Couple of runs on brush fires. Open house went pretty good – approximately 100 people.
c. Planning Commission- Member training in progress.
d. Zoning Board – No report
e. Board of Review – No report

XI Public Comment

- Jennifer McLeod requested an accurate budget report that showed details of Treasurer and Clerk budgets, to demonstrate the need for budget modifications. She stated it was also needed to continue budget planning for the Township Clerk.

XII Board member reports

Trustee Williams – reported on the Planning Commission. Requested approval of funds to attend appropriate training. Next meeting scheduled for September 15th. **MOTION**: Treasurer Brown to approve funding request. Support Supervisor Eitrem. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Brown: reported on the high costs of Text.gov messaging app. No action taken

Supervisor Eitrem: reported on numerous "squatter" incidents on the island. Spoke in detail on Island #1 incident. A complaint has been filed, however there has been no known forward movement.

Clerk Rich reported waiting on Absentee Ballot dropbox, and expressed concerns regarding IRS fine of $19,000 to the township. Treasurer Brown responded that it is a "W2 filing issue" and that she and Rebecca are working to resolve the matter. Treasurer Brown stated that the IRS may be offering an opportunity to have the fine reversed.

Trustee Morehouse reported that the park sign that had been knocked down has been put back up, and that samples for water and nitrates are in.

XIII Announcements:

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

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c. Watch for Announcements on the Sugar Island Township Website: www.sugarislandtownship.org

XIV 8:19 pm Supervisor Eitrem adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted by:

Brandi Rich

Original signed

Sugar Island Township Clerk