

**TALLMADGE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:00pm
O-1451 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – At 6:00pm, Mark Bennett called the meeting to order, and Joel Terpstra opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Supervisor Mark Bennett, Trustee Kent Bollinger, Trustee John Bronkema, Trustee Michael Eppink, Clerk Karina Rollenhagen, Treasurer Valdyne Schwallier and Trustee Joel Terpstra. Also present: approximately 12 members of the community.
- II. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Joel Terpstra moved, Kent Bollinger approved the minutes of September 9, 2025, regular meeting, and to approve the bills to be paid in October 2025 as presented, and to accept as information the treasurer's report, revenue and expenditures report, legal update and correspondence if any. Motion CARRIED.
- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - A. Jay VanBorst, Kensington Preserve – disappointed the 2nd Reading for the Tallmadge Point PUD was postponed. He supports additional housing in Tallmadge and supports both Second Readings tonight.
 - B. Walt Olsen, Kensington Preserve – requested to have more sheriff patrols from Ottawa County at Kensington Preserve
- IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – none.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **SECOND READING – ZONING MAP AMENDMENT** of the Tallmadge Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, (rezoning) to the Zoning Ordinance from Steve Peterson to rezone approximately 10 acres of his existing property located at parcel number 70-10-05-100-013 from the Agricultural Zoning District (AG) to the Rural Preserve Zoning District (RP). **John Bronkema moved, Valdyne Schwallier supported to adopt the proposed Zoning Map Amendment. Roll Call: Yes – Terpstra, Bennett, Schwallier, Eppink, Bronkema, Bollinger, Rollenhagen. Motion CARRIED**
 - B. **SECOND READING-ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT**-Keeping farm animals, specifically chickens. The proposed amendment recommends a reduction in the minimum acreage from 2.5 to 1.5 to possess poultry and fowl and recommends a reduction in the starting number of animals

but maintain the ratio that currently exists. The proposed amendment only applies to properties within the RP, R-1, and L districts as accessory use.

Amendment to include outdoor storage or processing goods, display inventory, or equipment. The amendment would include that limited outdoor storage would be appropriate through a special use permit in C-1 and C-2 districts. **Joel Terpstra moved, Michael Eppink supported to adopt the proposed Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance. Roll Call: Yes - Terpstra, Bennett, Schwallier, Eppink, Bronkema, Bollinger, Rollenhagen. Motion CARRIED.**

VI. SUPERVISOR AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS

+ Supervisor – Mark Bennett:

1. State of Michigan Budget includes decreases to Revenue Sharing. This is Sales Tax revenue shared with local units and municipalities. Our operating budget is \$2 million per year (not including the fire department). \$1 million of this revenue is from Revenue Sharing. Our reduction will potentially be \$40,000-\$60,000 annually. We're in good shape with our funds for the rest of fiscal year ending 3/31/26.
2. Proposed Utility Building – the Board approved \$200,000 for a new utility building. Most of the bids we received for this building were twice the budgeted amount. We're reassessing with Joe Grochowalski and BCI Construction to pare down the plan.
3. The regravelling of Luce Street came in \$15,000 under budget. This savings will be shared equally between Tallmadge Township and the Ottawa County Road Commission.
4. The restroom in the park should be completed next month.
5. The walking trail in the park has been resealed.
6. A left turn signal at the intersection of 8th Avenue and Lake Michigan Drive has been preliminarily approved. MDOT has plans to redo the whole signal 3 years from now. We have been told we will get a temporary directional signal until then.
7. We received the audit for fiscal year end 3/31/25 and sent it to the board members with plan to discuss it in November.
8. Military & First Responder Memorial - John Bronkema, Deputy Meerman and Chief Alkema agreed to sit on the committee to plan the memorial.
9. Met with King Church (across the street from the Township Offices) to explore their use of our green space in the park for soccer next spring.

+ Planning Commission - Joel Terpstra:

1. Approved the proposed utility building for the township.

2. Sessions Point Group asked for support to build townhomes closer to Lake Michigan Drive. The lots they have aren't good for building and they asked for more. The Planning Commission denied their request.
 3. Residents' requests for larger accessory buildings were discussed.
- + **Zoning Board of Appeals – John Bronkema:** No meeting, no business.
- + **Wright Tallmadge Fire Board and Fire Chief Report – Valdyne Schwallier:** The September meeting went well. **Mark Bennett:** There were 126 calls in September. They have 5 new on-call firefighters. There are now 30 on-call firefighters which is almost full staff. The Marne station is hosting their annual Halloween Open House on Halloween from 5:00pm – 8:00pm.
- + **Park Committee – Valdyne Schwallier:** Mark Bennett covered the Park updates.

VII. Adjournment: Valdyne Schwallier moved, Michael Eppink supported to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karina Rollenhagen
Tallmadge Charter Township Clerk