

Michigamme Township Planning Commission Minutes

Business Meeting

September 2, 2026

Place: Michigamme Township Building

Board: John Gregg, Liaison; Kathleen Frisk, Chairperson; Irene DeRoche, Secretary; William Seppanen, Member; Laura Mattson, Member

Call Meeting To Order: 6 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: John Gregg, Kathleen Frisk, Irene DeRoche, and William Seppanen. Absent: Laura Mattson.

Guests

Steve Grobl, Louise Grobl, Jonathan McMahon, and Lindsey McMahon.

Approval of Agenda

Bill made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Irene; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes for August 5, 2026, Business Meeting

John made a motion to approve minutes by changing two clerical errors. Second by Bill, motion passed.

Public Comment

Steve Grobl requested rezoning a one acre track off his 120-acre parcel off the Peshikee Road (County Road 607). Steve said that he was told by Jennifer Eyde, Michigan DNR Commercial Forest Specialist, that he could have a one acre track zoned residential from the Commercial Forest Act (CFA) land. Michigamme Township Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum of a 40-acre tract of land. Steve Grobl requested rezoning a one acre track off his 120-acre parcel off the Peshikee Road (County Road 607). Steve said that he was told by Jennifer Eyde, Michigan DNR Commercial Forest Specialist, that he could have an one-acre tract zoned residential from the Commercial Forest Act (CFA) land. Michigamme Township Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum of a 40-acre tract of land.

Board Comment

None

Zoning Administrator Comment

Mike Simula gave an update of two Zoning Compliance Permits. Steve Verbridge on Cardinal Red Road, building a garage. It was the second permit he put in for a garage to be in compliance with Michigamme Zoning Ordinance; the height of a garage can only be 20 feet high. A Zoning Compliance Permit on Holli Blue Road for a Storage Shipping Container. Mike didn't find any ordinance about storage shipping containers. Presently, Michigamme Township does not have an Ordinance on Storage Shipping Containers. Steve met the setback requirements. Mike Simula also mentioned that he will not be applying for the Zoning Administrator and Enforcement Officer position. Mike Simula told Steve Grobl that he will give Jennifer Eyde a call.

Old Business

Master Plan Update: In the section of Future Land use in our Master Plan, it was suggested by Dotty Lajoye, Executive Director from Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) suggested GIS shape files from our current zoning map through the Marquette Planning Division. Kay will look into getting GIS shape files from the Planning Division.

New Business

WE Energy Letter: A request was made by the Michigamme Township Board to write a letter to We Energies. We looked over Michigamme Township Board letter to WE Energy requesting them to review their pole attachment policies so our rural township can get broadband in a less costly manner. There is a 15.5-foot attachment requirement for height for broadband communication. With the help from Kay will have a revised letter at our next month's business meeting.

Public Comment

Jonathan McMahon asked about the job posting for Zoning Administrator and Enforcement Officer.

Board Comment

Irene DeRoche did the MTA webinar on Data Center Ordinance. The speaker was Rob Thall. He spoke about State and Federal Laws. He gave land use definition and requirements for Data Centers. He also mentioned that Data Centers can only be in industrial districts; they must have a special land use permit and a site plan application. Irene DeRoche did the MTA webinar on Data Center Ordinance. The speaker was Rob Thall. He spoke about State and Federal Laws; he gave land use definition and requirements for Data Centers. He also mentioned that Data Centers can only be in industrial districts; they have to have a special land use permit and a site plan application.

Adjournment:

8:05 PM

Meeting Minutes by Secretary, Irene DeRoche