



Birch Run Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes

September 9th, 2025

11935 Silver Creek Drive, Birch Run, Michigan 48415

Call to Order of Regular Meeting:

Clerk Riley Kiessling called the September 9th, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Birch Run Township Board of Trustees to order at 19:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present for the Township Board of Trustees were Riley Kiessling, Clerk; Jeanie Herrick, Kurt Kiessling, John DiBerardino & Dale Trinklein Jr., Trustees. Absent from the meeting were Ray Letterman, Supervisor and Annette Letterman, Treasurer.

Others present were Dave Matzke, Fire Chief; Jeanette Morrish, Library Director; Brandon Carter, Interim DPW Supervisor; Gretchen Nielsen, ZACE; Mike Marr, PC Member.

Approximately twenty-seven (27) people were in the audience.

Motion by D. Trinklein Jr. seconded by DiBerardino to appoint Kurt Kiessling to chair the meeting in the Supervisor's absence.

Yeas: R. Kiessling, Herrick, K. Kiessling, DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr.,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Agenda Approval:

Motion D. Trinklein Jr. seconded by R. Kiessling to approve the September 9th, 2025, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Yeas: DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling, Herrick, K. Kiessling,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Minutes Approval:

Motion by D. Trinklein Jr. seconded by DiBerardino to approve the August 12th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Yeas: D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling, Herrick, K. Kiessling, DiBerardino,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Motion by D. Trinklein Jr. seconded by DiBerardino to approve the August 26th, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

Yeas: R. Kiessling, Herrick, K. Kiessling, DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr.,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Invoice Approval:

Motion by D. Trinklein Jr. seconded by DiBerardino to approve Invoices through August 31st, 2025, totaling \$130,124.88 as presented.

Yeas: Herrick, K. Kiessling, DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Public Comment: 19:04 to 19:05

Public Comment was held.

Public Hearing(s):

Winters Motor Court – Dangerous Buildings – 10070 Dixie Hwy: 19:05 – 19:13

An overview of the purpose of the hearing was given, along with a breakdown of the packet materials provided. This was the second review of the Proposed Hearing Officer's Decision and Order, and updated report on non-compliance, from Mr. Kern Slucter for the buildings located at 10070 Dixie Hwy. The first review was during the August 26th, 2025, Special Meeting, where Mr. Winters was granted a two-week extension to comply with the Decision and Order.

Mr. Winters told the board that he had been working to comply with the order, but did not have the demo permit from the Township yet. The Clerk confirmed that Mr. Winters had been working with the Building Inspector to get the permit and that the only items now needed for the permit were the verified disconnection of the utilities (Water, Gas, Electrical). Mr. McCree, Area Manager from Consumers Energy, was present at the meeting and said that his team would coordinate with the Township to help expedite any demo of services at the address for the safety of the demolition.

Mr. Winters stated that all tenants were now out of the buildings, and he would continue to work on the disconnection of all utilities from the tenant buildings. The board discussed the next steps and the drafted Resolution #2025-11. Attorney Lindsey Gergel, FSB Law, was also present for questions on the resolution.

Motion by K. Kiessling seconded by R. Kiessling to approve Resolution #2025-11 (Final Order of Township Board RE: Winters Motor Court Dangerous Buildings), as amended to note that Mr. Winters was present at the hearing.

Yeas: K. Kiessling, DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling, Herrick,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Budget Review:

None

Old Business:

Park Exploratory Committee:

Autumn Mitchell provided a verbal and written report from the committee. They would like to go in the direction of creating a 'Friends of the Birch Run Park' 501(c)3 organization similar to the Friends of the Fleschner Memorial Library group that currently exists. The Township will be looking into how the Library Friends group was formed, as it was believed there needed to be Board involvement in the formation.

Road Committee / Projects Thru 2029 – *Updates were provided in the Clerk Report*

Expo Center / Building Authority – *Updates were provided in the Clerk Report*

Steve Perryman – Park Baseball & Softball Request – *No Updates*

New Business/Motions:

Motion by K. Kiessling seconded by R. Kiessling to adopt Ordinance #2025-01 (Consumers Energy Franchise Renewal) as presented.

Yeas: DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling, Herrick, K. Kiessling,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Motion by K. Kiessling seconded by D. Trinklein Jr. to approve Mr. Atwell's request allowing him to move his piled landscaping materials from the East end of his property into the landscaping bins located on the West side of the property, but cannot sell out of the bins until 100% of the Site Plan as indicated in the February 11th, 2025 meeting minutes is finished by the October 1st, 2025 deadline, and okayed by the Township Board.

Yeas: D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling, K. Kiessling, DiBerardino,

Nays: Herrick,

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Motion by R. Kiessling seconded by D. Trinklein Jr. to provide the Part-Time Library employee Tara DiBerardino with her regularly scheduled wages during the September 2025 scheduled library closure for renovation and maintenance.

Yeas: R. Kiessling, Herrick, K. Kiessling, D. Trinklein Jr.,

Nays: None

Abstentions: John DiBerardino

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Motion by R. Kiessling seconded by D. Trinklein Jr. to approve posting the Backup Water Operator position and the DPW General Laborer position.

Yeas: Herrick, K. Kiessling, DiBerardino, D. Trinklein Jr., R. Kiessling,

Nays: None

Absent: R. Letterman, A. Letterman,

Motion PASSED by majority roll call vote.

Miscellaneous:

None

Public Comment: 20:09 to 20:36

Public Comment was held.

Adjournment:

Motion by D. Trinklein Jr. seconded by R. Kiessling to adjourn at 20:37

Motion PASSED by unanimous voice vote.