Minutes Approved: November 9, 2026

COLDWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD
319 SPRAGUE RD., COLDWATER, MI 49036
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Opening and Roll Call

The meeting of the Coldwater Township Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Supervisor Rogers. Present: Clerk Gilchrist, Supervisor Rogers, Trustee Short, Treasurer Sowles, Trustee Clayman, Zoning Administrator Gatke. Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Treasurer Sowles led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**.**

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Short moved, seconded by Trustee Clayman to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Elected Officials' Comments

Sheriff Blankenship updated the Board that their budget looked good. The Sheriff's Department has one deputy set to graduate from the academy in December and the department will be fully staffed in early summer of 2027. Currently there are two detectives that are helping with complaints. Sheriff Blankenship stated his request for the Board to review and consider financial support for a new marine patrol boat and a UTV (utility terrain vehicle). The Board will review the documents presented to discuss at the next board meeting. Commissioner Houtz announced that the county budget increased almost 3% for the upcoming fiscal year and they are currently interviewing a new Public Defender.

Public Comment

Ms. Hoyt suggested to the Board to consider opening the township recycling center on Saturdays for a 3-to-4-hour period to make recycling accessible to those who cannot get to the recycling center during its weekly scheduled hours. She also suggested the township purchasing access to Biz-Aid recycling center.

Approve Minutes: Board Meeting- September 14, 2026, Special Meeting September 23, 2026

Trustee Short moved, supported by Trustee Clayman to approve the September 14, 2026 minutes and the September 23, 2026 Special Meeting minutes. **Motion Carried**.

List of Bills and Accounts for Payment

Trustee Short moved, supported by Trustee Clayman to pay the bills. **Motion Carried**

Reports

- **Treasurer: Report**: Report received. The treasurer announced he will be reviewing investment options for township income.
- **Zoning Administrator Report:** Received
- **Planning Commission**: Minutes received. ZA Gatke announced that Secretary Kubasiak submitted her resignation from the Planning Commission effectively immediately. The commission accepted her resignation.

New Business

- **Update Land Division Ordinance 19-02.** Clerk Gilchrist moved, seconded by Treasurer Sowles to amend Land Division Ordinance 19-02**. Motion Carried.** Roll Call Vote**:** Trustee Clayman-Yes, Trustee Short-Yes, Clerk Gilchrist-Yes, Supervisor Rogers-Yes, Treasurer Sowles-Yes. 5-Yes's, 0-No's. Ordinance 19-02 amended to adopt Ordinance 26-02 Land Division Ordinance.
- **Adopt Data Center Moratorium Ordinance 26-03**. Trustee Short moved, seconded by Trustee Clayman to adopt Data Center Moratorium Ordinance 26-03. **Motion Carried.** Roll Call Vote: Supervisor Rogers-Yes, Clerk Gilchrist-Yes, Treasurer Sowles-Yes, Trustee Short-Yes, Trustee Clayman-Yes. 5-Yes's, 0-No's. Ordinance 26-03 Data Center Moratorium adopted.
- **IRS Mileage Increase**. Clerk Gilchrist moved, seconded by Trustee Short, to accept IRS Mileage Increase from $.725 to $.76 per mile. **Motion Carried.**

Board Announcements

- **Penchura.** The Board was presented with Penchura quote for playground equipment to add to the Township Hall park. The Board will review the quote and discuss it at the next board meeting.
- **Master Plan Update.** Clerk Gilchrist, ZA Gatke, and Treasurer Sowles updated the Board that the Planning Commission will review and discuss the draft of the Master Plan at the next Planning Commission meeting.
- **2027 Calendar**. The Board was presented with the proposed 2027 meeting calendar for the Township Board and the Planning Commission. The Board will review and discuss for the next board meeting.

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM

Nate Gilchrist - Clerk