

Hope Township Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norton at 6:30 pm at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43, Hastings, MI 49058. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Members present: Bob Norton, Jr Homister, Larry Heslinga.

Members absent: Christine Zuzga and Drew Chapple, with notice.

**In Zuzga's absence, Homister was selected as the Secretary Pro-tem.

Others Present: Township Planner/Zoning Administrator Nathan Mehmed.

Agenda: Motion by Homister, supported by Heslinga, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes: Motion by Heslinga, supported by Homister, to approve the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

General Public Comment: None.

Master Land Use Discussion: Mehmed presented the complete second draft of the updated Hope Township Land Use Plan for review and comment by the Planning Commission. He explained that he made all of the corrections requested at the last meeting and added new photos. Heslinga, Homister, and Norton had a list of comments and corrections, and each went through their comments page-by-page, mostly in the existing conditions chapters related to Township facts, as well as map edits related to labels and street segments. No substantive changes were made to the goals and objectives, land use, or implementation chapters. It was discussed that the broadband internet map still seemed like it was incorrect, showing slower internet speeds around Wall Lake than the Commission thought existed. Mehmed stated that they located the most recent data from Connected Nation, but he would continue to see if anything else was available.

The Commission asked Mehmed about the next steps. Mehmed explained that once the Planning Commission is comfortable with the draft, they recommend it to the Township Board for distribution. The Commissioners determined that they would like to give the absent members another opportunity to provide comment.

Mehmed stated that he would make the discussed edits and come back with an updated draft at a future meeting.

Data Center Discussion: Mehmed prompted that at the January meeting, a member of the public commented about their concern for data centers. A brief discussion took place at that meeting and he was asked to come back with an example ordinance from another community. Additionally, Mehmed sent an article from the Michigan Townships Association; Heslinga and Chapple submitted emails with articles and comments. Heslinga reviewed his research, and the Commission discussed items like water usage, noise, and electricity. The Commission discussed some of the standards in Mehmed’s example, and contemplated what standards are most important for Hope Township. Heslinga mentioned that some communities are using moratoriums, and provided an example moratorium ordinance from another local government. The Commission discussed having Attorney Kaufman’s guidance on some items, and wanted to have a bigger discussion with the absent members before moving forward.

Zoning Administrator: Mehmed noted that there would be a ZBA meeting in March or April, depending on quorum, for a variance application. Homister asked about enforcement cases. Mehmed noted that he would following up with Enforcement Officer Dekema. Heslinga asked about the C2 pit and the other potential pit that Mehmed mentioned at the last meeting. Mehmed explained that C2 was getting close to obtaining their zoning compliance permit and that he hadn’t heard anything additional about the other pit.

Adjournment: Motion by Homister, supported by Heslinga, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.



Jr Homister, Secretary Pro Tem

Date 2-18-26