

Hope Township Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 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, Larry Heslinga Drew Chapple.

Members absent: Jr Homister and Christine Zuzga, with notice.

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

Others Present: Township Planner/Zoning Administrator Nathan Mehmed.

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

Meeting minutes: Motion by Heslinga, supported by Norton, to approve the February 10, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

General Public Comment: None.

Annual Election of Officers: Norton reminded the Commission that Homister cannot chair a meeting as the Board of Trustees representative. He suggested that someone else be vice chair. Norton asked if Heslinga was willing. Heslinga stated that he was. The Commission determined that Zuzga should continue to be secretary. Motion by Heslinga, supported by Chapple, to elect Norton as chair, Heslinga as vice chair, and Zuzga as secretary. All ayes. Motion carried.

Annual Report to Township Board: Mehmed shared the annual report and reminded the Commission that it is a Planning Enabling Act requirement. A brief discussion took place about the previous year's work. Motion by Norton, supported by Chapple, to accept the report as presented and submit to the Township Board. All ayes. Motion carried.

Master Land Use Discussion: Mehmed presented the complete third 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 provided extra time for the Commission to review the draft. Heslinga noted that he had two very minor edits, adding "septic system" on page 21 and including additional preserved land to the future land use map on page 42, but

thought the draft was looking ready for next steps. Norton agreed. Chapple stated that he was also happy with the draft.

The Commission asked Mehmed about making a motion to send to the Board and if they could do so with the edits. Mehmed explained that because the edits are minor, they could just note the edits in the motion.

Motion Chapple, supported by Heslinga, to submit the draft Hope Township Land Use Plan to the Township Board for review, comment, and distribution, with the edits noted by Heslinga. All ayes. Motion carried.

Data Center Discussion: The Commission continued their discussion on data centers and reviewed some of the additional information provided by Chapple and Heslinga, specifically related to water resources. The Commission discussed being more proactive than reactive, and placing a moratorium in place while data centers are researched and an ordinance is developed. The Commission asked Mehmed to talk to Attorney Kaufman regarding a moratorium ordinance or approach and planned to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Zoning Administrator: Mehmed shared that there would be a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in June for a new variance application and one application that was tabled in April. Heslinga asked whether or not the C2 pit had started. Mehmed explained that they hadn't been in contact in quite some time. Norton wondered if an annual review would be necessary yet. Mehmed explained that if operations haven't started, it would likely be unnecessary, but would see if there are any updates from the applicant.

Adjournment: Motion by Norton, supported by Chapple, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Drew Chapple, Secretary Pro Tem

Date