

Synopsis of the May 11, 2026 Vernon Township Board Meeting

The Vernon Township Board met on May 11, 2026, with all members present except the Treasurer. The agenda was approved with the addition of Chalker Cemetery, and the April minutes were approved without changes.

Fire Department

The Fire Chief reported 6 fire runs, 9 EMS runs, and 6 burn permits for April. He requested approval to pursue several funding opportunities, including:

- A \$29,750 roof replacement bid for Station 1
- A DNR 50/50 grant requiring up to \$10,000 upfront
- A Michigan Fire Equipment Grant of up to \$50,000

The board approved the fire report and authorized applying for both grants. The Supervisor noted that three bids are required for the roof project.

Planning Commission

The Assessor reviewed upcoming changes to the Michigan Land Division Act. The Clerk noted that zoning ordinance updates may be required.

Building Department

Eight permits totaling \$5,531 were issued in April. Key actions and discussions included:

- **Demolition permit fee waived** for a structure donated for fire training
- **Adoption of Ordinance 2026-02**, the International Property Maintenance Code
- **Land split fees reduced** from \$375 to \$150
- A **discussion** occurred regarding the Building Official's request to hire a part-time assistant due to workload. The motion to approve the assistant failed on a 2–2 vote. A temporary 60-day hiring proposal was withdrawn.

Ambulance / SSES

The Clerk reported on two lawsuits involving campground ambulance fees, both resolved in SSES's favor. Due to past billing errors, a **public hearing on fee increases** was scheduled for June 8, 2026.

Clerk's Report

- Township is now live with **BS&A Payments** for online and phone-based payments.

- Budget amendments were presented for year-end closeout.
- The May 5 election went smoothly; the Clerk will be reimbursed for election hours.
- Legal consultation is underway regarding **Holiday Shores voters**, as zoning prohibits residency beyond 30 days at a time, which makes it less than 6 months as required by election law.

Public Comment

Topics included downed wires, delays in bathhouse plan submissions at Holiday Shores, and road grading/brining scheduling.

Old Business – SATA

The board voted unanimously to **end SATA funding effective October 1, 2026**, and chose not to pursue a ballot question.

New Business

Routine payroll and fund distributions were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.