

Vernon Township Board Meeting

Regular Meeting – July 13, 2026 Location: 6801 S. Durand Rd., Durand, MI 48429 **Meeting Time:** 7:00–7:58 p.m.

The Vernon Township Board met in regular session with all members present. The agenda was approved with additions to reports and new business. Minutes from the June 8, 2026, meeting were approved without changes.

Fire Department

The Fire Chief reported 13 fire runs and 8 EMS runs in June. No burn permits were issued due to the burn ban. The department conducted a multi-agency live burn training on Newburg Rd., covering drafting, pump operations, and interior fire training. EMS training was paused as Perry Fire transitions to a new program.

Updates included:

- Tornado siren activation coordination is being explored with county municipalities and 911.
- The department requested consideration of adding a Fire Chaplain; Jimmy Kessel will attend next month for discussion.
- Repairs for Station 2 are scheduled with Perrin Construction.
- Several truck repair invoices were noted due to high repair costs.

The board approved the fire report.

Zoning Board of Appeals

No July meeting. The board received an appeal from the township assessor regarding the May decision to reduce land division fees. Board members agreed the topic should be revisited with the assessor present.

Planning Commission

No July meeting.

Building Department

The Building Official presented reports for May and June:

- **May:** 21 permits, \$8,832 collected
- **June:** 10 permits, \$1,686 collected Total: 31 permits and \$10,518 in fees (one test file will reduce the permit count to 30). The board approved the report.

Ambulance (SSESA)

SSESA is operating smoothly and expects delivery of three new ambulances. The organization is undergoing rebranding, has hired an executive assistant and HR director, and is exploring facility expansion, including a possible site in Vernon Township.

Sheriff & Clerk Reports

No reports.

Library

The library will receive its \$1,000 township allocation this week. Budget reductions are expected due to the loss of a technology grant. A \$1,000 private donation will support lighting upgrades, and the library plans to pursue a Consumers Energy grant.

Public Comment

Residents offered appreciation for the fire department's cost-saving efforts, raised concerns about low-hanging trees in Love Joy Cemetery, and asked about the Cyclospora outbreak (directed to the county health department). Greenwood Cemetery updates included a repaired water line, a well-performing mausoleum roof, and an upcoming DAR ceremony on July 25.

Old Business

The board discussed the need for a public hearing regarding the emergency services assessment increase. Because the previous increase was not levied, the new request exceeds the 10% threshold. Notices will be mailed township-wide. A public hearing was scheduled for **September 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** to consider raising the assessment from \$120 to \$140 per parcel, plus a \$5 per-parcel overhead cost.

New Business

A BS&A form requesting a change in Enterprise Administrator was withdrawn after clarification that the role covers the entire township system, not just the treasurer's program.

The supervisor reported receiving approximately \$8,000 in public safety revenue sharing funds; further clarification will be sought from the Sheriff's Office.

Routine payroll and fund distributions were approved by roll call.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.