

**GANGES TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2026**

Supervisor Hebert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Ganges Township Hall located at the corner of 119th Ave and 64th St. Board members present by roll call attendance: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps and Thompson.

Reimink moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve the agenda dated 03/10/2026 as presented with the addition of 9D. STR Committee Report. Motion carried.

Correspondence

The following emails were received as correspondence relating to Short Term Rentals:

Aldina Fazlic, owner of FENNHUS, a STR property in Ganges Township

Travis Martin, STR owner in Ganges Township

Phil Wrigley, STR owner in Ganges Township

Ana & Adam Shapiro, STR owners

Teresa and Steven Cavanagh, 1731 Lakeshore Dr

Public Comments

County Commissioner, Brad Lubbers gave an update on current events at the county, including the change to Senior Meals.

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, approval of the regular meeting minutes of 02/10/2026 as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 02/28/2026 as follows:

General Fund	\$698,358.01
Ambulance Fund	\$113,345.29
Fire Fund	\$309,203.70
First Responders	\$139,404.66
Road Fund	\$683,729.44
CD	\$566,713.49
CD	\$500,000.00

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Hutchins moved, Hebert seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 03/10/2026 as presented from the following funds: General Fund- \$37,606.41; Fire Fund- \$6,311.28; First Responder Fund- \$1,419.69. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Fire Dept.-Fire Chief Jason Jager had nothing to report.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the hiring of Firefighter/First Responder, Jacob Clemons. Motion carried.

Cemeteries and Parks-Hebert reported for Sexton AJ Broe that there was 1 burial last month.

Planning Commission- Hutchins reported that the PC granted use to Tobias Hutchins for a tasting room on M-89.

Short Term Rental Committee- Jay Gooch gave a brief overview of the DRAFT ordinance for STRs.

Unfinished Business

Hutchins moved, Hebert seconded, to proceed with road projects **64th St between 122nd Ave and M89**, and **123rd Avenue East of Lakeshore Dr**. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the bid from Southwestern Michigan Dust Control for 2026 Dust Control at a cost of \$9,000 for the first application, \$8,000 for the second and \$7,375 for a third if needed. Motion carries.

New Business

Hebert offered a resolution to adopt millage ballot language to renew the expiring Road Millage, Reimink seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows. Hutchins-yes, Reimink-yes, Hebert-yes, Phelps-yes, Thompson-yes. (5/0)

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to reappoint Phil Badra to the Planning Commission 3 yr term ending 3/10/2029. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Paul Miller, 1635 Lakeshore Dr, asked if the proposed regulations on STRs would be posted somewhere? Also requested the map that the committee gave to the board showing all of the STRs in the township.

Dave Laakso, 1735 66th St, added to the STR committee report as a member of the committee.

Joel Warmolts, 6957 Lakeshore Ct, asked if there were people on the committee who have STRs. He's hoping that there will be an opportunity for feedback.

David Isljamovski, Saugatuck, asked if current STRs will be grandfathered in and questioned Granicus data. He also asked to know the definition of Commercial.

Seamus O'Driscoll, 1985 68th St, asked if those with long term rentals or those that homestead their homes have their educational millages set to zero? Asked what percentage of people homestead? And who is going to pay for the schools. He also asked if there was an analysis done.

Jami Osterman, Grand Haven, representative from the Michigan STR Association Board, offered help to the township with creating the ordinance.

Dave Koster, 1730 71st, asked if there would be a public forum about STRs besides the regular meetings. The different interests and viewpoints are helpful to have discussion in a separate session. Asked the township to reconsider the previous decision to not have one. He also thanked the committee for their work.

John Mortenson, 1730 Foster Lane, said that the township previously mentioned that the idea was to limit STRs to commercial zones only. Wanted to know why the township is talking about allowing into other zones when STRs are a commercial venture. Asked if it was possible to have a survey done?

Sean Curtis, Pier Cove, expressed concern about the township not having a reasonable process to this and said that it could purge the middle class from the Lakeshore. Renting is the only way to afford to keep the house in the family.

Steve Cavanagh, 1731 Lakeshore Dr, mentioned that they live in Ganges Township part time and that being able to rent part time helps maintain expenses.

Tom Siver, running for judge in November, introduced himself.

David Heniff, 6713 120th Avenue, regarding STR and legal review, asked to get a timeline and next steps in the coming months.

Laura Durham, taxpayer in Ganges, asked if the next meeting could be held in a larger facility.

Emily Wesling, 707 Lee St, asked about grandfathering. Encourages the committee to add this to the ordinance.

Dave Laakso, STR Committee, responded that STRs are not permitted.

Chad Dupont, Saugatuck, has properties in Ganges. Asked the Township to be mindful of what has been allowed.

Aaron Kronemyer, asked if STRs have been allowed.

Chuck Mannion, 6611 Deer Trail, addressed the audience and expressed concern now that things are coming to a head, and urged the audience to attend meetings and read what's on the website to gain knowledge before coming to the meetings. Encouraged all to participate as much as possible.

Sue Mackey, thanked the STR committee for all the hours put into this, and supported what Chuck Mannion said.

Greg Cotton 1630 Blue Star, asked if STRs were not permitted because of the moratorium?

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Phelps, Ganges Twp Clerk