

ORANGE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
265 West David Hwy  
Berlin-Orange Fire Station  
March 11, 2025

1. Call to order  
Present: Green, McBride, Wittenbach, Cody, Fox, Fitzpatrick
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda -
4. Public Comment: Portland Public Schools – William Heath, Sarah Dawson and Derek Stair – Portrait of a learner – establishing 4 to 6 characteristics that a learner needs to have. Provide learning opportunities to practice and display them. Skills and dispositions -  
  
District – next bond in 2026 – small bond in fall of 2025 – 2.5 million – this will maintain the millage. Second one in 2027 – much larger – 90 to 100 million – buildings – adding on. Looking to the future growth of the community. Goal is not to raise taxes, it is to maintain.
5. Correspondence:  
Resolution to consolidate May 6, 2025 election with Sebewa proposed – motion by Wittenbach, second Cody – confirmed  
Fox – Airport zoning board of appeals – talk of 280 turbine windmills in Ionia County – they do not have any lease’s as of yet but they are working on it.
6. Minutes:
7. Treasurer’s Report: motion to concede the treasures report and monthly bills –Whittenbach 2<sup>nd</sup> Cody
8. Monthly Bills:
9. Reports-
  - a. Zoning- Fitzpatrick – Resident wants to put solar panels on his barn – it falls under right to farm. Vendor sent zoning compliance application for a permit so they are free to go to the county for permits.
  - b. Fire-Green - 48 runs – 14 in Orange. Bills – \$26,604.65 - We need to think about the costs of operating the fire department and how we will keep up – possible a millage. Costs are going up. Berlin approved the purchase of a new fire truck for the \$289,000- Orange – 33% and \$ Berlin – 66%. We are earmarking the rest of the ARPA money for the Reeder bridge.

Motion to use the monies we have on hand to set aside for Orange portion of the fire truck - \$289,000 made by Cody, Fox second – carried.

Special Assessment proposal – We are currently at 1 mil. May have to think about increasing it.

- c. Assessor-
- 10. New Business-
- 11. Old Business-
- 12. Public Comment-
- 13. Adjournment- motion by Wittenbach, second Cody at 8:08 pm

Respectfully Submitted By

Wendy McBride  
Orange Township Clerk