

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ORANGE TOWNSHIP, IONIA COUNTY

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

TO: ALL RECORD OWNERS OF OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN LAND IN THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DESCRIBED BELOW:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of Orange Township, Ionia County, Michigan (“Township”), will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., on June 9, 2026 at the Berlin-Orange Township Fire Station (207 David Hwy, Ionia, MI 48846), to review the proposed special assessment roll and hear objections thereto from certain record owners of land in the Township for the fire protection services and equipment, as described below, at an estimated cost to the Special Assessment District as outlined in **Exhibit A** of a Township Resolution (*Resolution 2 of 4*), among other sources, which is available for inspection by the public. The proposed services and the special assessment district to be established by the Township Board as the district against which the costs of the fire protection services are to be assessed are generally described as below. Documents related to the proposed special assessments, including special assessment roll, are available upon request to the Township.

Proposed Fire Protection Services: Fire protection services including, but not limited to, personnel costs and the costs of purchasing and maintaining fire vehicles, equipment, and housing as well as all other ancillary costs incurred permissible to be assessed under Michigan law. Periodic redeterminations of costs associated with the proposed fire protection services may be necessary without a change in the special assessment district to pay for ongoing expenses and such redeterminations may be made without further mailed notice to record owners or parties in interest in the property unless required by law. Properties to be specially assessed with be assessed a sum equal to 3 mills as based on the taxable value of the property.

Proposed Special Assessment District: The Orange Township Fire Special Assessment District shall be all benefitting parcels in Orange Township eligible to be assessed under Act 33 of 1951, as outlined in the mailing list for the special assessment public hearing, excluding lands and premises exempt from the collection of ad valorem taxes (see MCL 41.801(4)). Information regarding specific properties within the proposed special assessment district is available upon request to the Township and will be available at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that plans showing estimated costs and the proposed special assessment district are on file with the Township Clerk, Wendy McBride, at 207 David Hwy, Ionia, MI 48846, for public examination upon request (kindly coordinate an appointment using the contact information below) and at the public hearing. The special assessment proposal would assess the cost of the proposed improvements to the properties benefitting therefrom.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owner or any person having an interest in property within the proposed district may file a written appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within thirty (30) days after confirmation of the special assessment roll. However, appearance and

protest at the public hearing on the special assessment roll are required in order to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner or other party of interest or his or her agent may (1) appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or (2) file his or her appearance or protest by letter before the close of the hearing.

The Township Board shall maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearing. If the hearing is terminated or adjourned for the day before a party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded shall be considered to have protested the special assessment in person. To the extent applicable, impacted property owners may submit a petition to the Township requiring a question of whether fire protection services should be funded by special assessment as a ballot question. See MCL 41.801(3) (optional petition would require signatures of 10% of owners of land in proposed district). Furthermore, should these assessments be approved, in future years the Township Board proposes to re-determine the amounts to be levied for such fire protection services in the special assessment district at a public hearing (which may include the annual budget hearing) each year without further mailed notice. However, if an increase in the levy in any year exceeds the estimated annual increase by 10%, notice of the redetermination hearing will be mailed to property owners.

Orange Township will provide auxiliary aids or services to individuals with disabilities. Persons needing such services should contact the office of the Township Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk not less than four days before the public hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
Wendy McBride, Clerk
207 David Hwy
Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: (517) 647-9828
Web: <https://orangetownshipioniami.gov/>
E-mail orangetownshipclerk@yahoo.com

(Publish May 23, 2026, and June 6, 2026)
(Mail May 22, 2026)

Exhibit A

1. **Plans (Improvements & Services):** Providing fire protection services and equipment within Orange Township by continuing to partially fund and operate the Berlin-Orange Fire Department, and to provide sufficient funding to allow Orange Township to defray the current operating costs of providing fire services and to adequately forecast and budget for future expenses to be incurred by the Berlin-Orange Fire Department. Fire protection services and equipment includes providing fire protection, including personnel costs, and purchasing and maintaining fire vehicles, equipment, and housing as well as all other ancillary costs incurred permissible to be assessed under Michigan law.
2. **Costs:** A total annual amount for 2026 collections is estimated at \$150,000.00, which is estimated to correspond with a special assessment levy around 3 mills per qualifying property. Future annual assessment amounts utilizing the Orange Township Fire Special Assessment District shall be annually determined according to Act 33. Furthermore, should these assessments be approved, an annual redetermination of cost shall be made wherein the Township Board proposes to redetermine the amounts to be levied for fire protection services and equipment in the special assessment district at an annual public hearing (which may include the annual budget hearing) without further mailed notice. However, if an increase in the levy in any year will exceed the estimated annual increase by 10%, notice of the redetermination hearing will be mailed to property owners.
3. **Special Assessment District:** The Orange Township Fire Special Assessment District shall be all benefitting parcels in Orange Township eligible to be assessed under Act 33 of 1951, as outlined in the mailing list for the special assessment public hearing.