



Solon Township Hall
15185 Algoma Avenue NE
Cedar Springs MI 49319
616-696-1718

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Solon Township Board of Trustees
January 12, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to Order by Supervisor Ellick @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Robert Ellick, Dorothy Willoughby, Mark Hoskins, Jon Stout, and A.J. Anielski

Members Absent: none.

Also Present: Several members of the public were present, including but not limited to: Al Damsgaard, Jon Nix, Tina Anderson, Toni McArthur, Ellie Stone, Brian Creveling, Zack Wahl, Mark Labaar, Joshua Bird, Rich Modliszewski from Dermondy, Randy Threland from The Right Place, Liz Clifford, Valerie Gates, Andrea Slater, Justin Edmonds, Andrew Lang, Robin Hamilton, Mary Coonen, Denise Merrill, Mary Damsgaard, Rebecca Smallwood, Chris Curless, Jon Words, Gerald Skelonc, Jule Baker, Mike Running, Katie Covey, Toni McArthur, Justin Edmonds, Sherri Labaar, Christie Skutt, Carabell, Mary McHugh, Erin Hayes, Keith Sawade, Scott Carey, Joe Vandenberg, Hal & Vicki Babcock, Rick & Tanya Sevey, Jon Tilbert, Dale Bradley, Ron Perrin, Rich Hays, and Jeff Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Public Comment on Agenda Items: none.

Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Anielski to approve the agenda, seconded by Stout. The motion carried 5-0.

Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Willoughby to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Hoskins. The motion carried 5-0.

- a. Approve minutes from Board Meeting – December 8, 2025
- b. Approve minutes from Staff Meeting – January 7, 2026
- c. Approve Bill List
- d. Clerk's Rev/Exp Report & Balance Sheets

Committee Reports

Cedar Springs Public Library: No update.

Cedar Springs Area Park & Rec: Issuing yearly invoice shortly. Have Daddy/Daughter dance coming up on February 7th, a Mother/Son nerf night, and a Senior night program.

Old Business none.

New Business

- **Fire Department Preventative Maintenance SCBA Quote:** A motion was made by Stout to approve the quote for \$1,045.00, seconded by Willoughby. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Kent County Road Commission Dust Layer Invoice:** A motion was made by Hoskins to approve \$9,865.00 for the dust layer invoice, seconded by Anielski. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion Items: none.

Correspondence

Trustee Stout: none.

Trustee Hoskins: none.

Clerk: none.

Supervisor: The Township has not received any application for a data center in the Township.

Treasurer: none.

Additional public comments:

Al Damsgaard: Had question on what land they're scoping out, what it's zoned, what size is the land in question, how far from the subdivision, and if the township has an application. Spoke to concerns regarding water and electricity.

John Nix: Stated everyone was here to stop this. How can Solon stop this? What zoning will stop them...it would need to be re-zoned.

Tina Anderson: What cautions to prevent PFAS? We don't want another Rockford. It causes cancers, Parkinsons and auto immune diseases. I hear they're noisy, it'd violate the noise ordinance.

Toni McArthur: Haven't looked into data centers until today. Has land been sold? Husband has done water systems on data centers and there are two kinds: closed & evaporative using 1.3 million gallons a day. Other centers take from Lake Michigan. Worried about water.

Ellie Stone: Spoke about hazardous pollutants, states she lives near the proposed location. 1300 premature deaths by the end of the decade tied to data centers. Noise pollution concerns, water usage of 3-7 million gallons a day, and chemicals in the water.

Brian Creveling: I'm pro Trump but I'm against him on this issue. We need to stand ground on pre-requisites to prevent them from going through, use millions of gallons a day, pollutants, noise, increased sickness. Life expectancy for a center is 15-20 years, doesn't add jobs and lowers property values. Suggests two Board members against one and two residents against one go to see a center.

Zach Wall: Facts are what carry weight. I don't want to see a data center here, but I'm going to do my homework. Where does this benefit the residents of Solon Township?

Mark Labaar: Has environmental concerns. Has seen one in the U.P. and there aren't any animals in the area due to the high frequency noise. There're not enough sound barriers, anyone in ear shot has decreased property values.

Joshua Bird: The Board seems to suggest we are powerless to do anything. Asked who was there to answer his questions.

Rich Modliszewski (Dermody Group): Works with The Right Place to identify sites. Will address all questions in due time. Have no plan to submit an application at this time. Will set up education meetings.

Liz Clifford: Has been working with computers since 1987. Not in favor of them, need to make poison pills to make sure data center doesn't go in, i.e. moratorium, don't re-zone, make sure any one company in the township can't use double the water of the highest current use.

Valerie Gates: Didn't like comment that packing the room isn't productive. This meeting never would have happened in Algoma Township.

Andrea Slater: What's the next step? The Planning Commission meetings are every 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm. Once application is submitted, what happens next? What communication do we have? Hearing notice will be under Notices on homepage of website.

Justin Edmonds: Michigan has law that reads vaguely that they pay for all the infrastructure.

Andrew Lang: These companies looking to build are some of the largest in the world. We need to force them to meet better standards.

Robin Hamilton: Very concerned as this will be in my backyard. Asked about 800-1000 acres? Looking at multiple parcels? Does this mean multiple centers?

Mary Coonen: Read online that you first heard about it in July? How many are in U.S.? 5400 in U.S. It's too close to town and to residents.

Denise Merrill: I don't see a lot of transparency. These things are environmental nightmares.

Mary Damsgaard: We all agree, we don't want this data center. What website? What email? We need to keep each other informed.

Rebecca Smallwood: Started a Facebook page Stop Solon Township Data Center. I feel like we aren't getting information.

Chris Curlless: I've been through hearings before like in 2007 regarding a noise ordinance. You've got to keep coming. Right on Solon's website it says "Welcome to Solon Township, a vibrant community nestled on Kent County's northern edge and home to the scenic Fisk Knob. Thanks to convenient access via US-131, we've grown while maintaining our charming rural character, attracting new homes and businesses. Our residents cherish the beautiful lakes, streams, and the Rogue River State Game Area, alongside a rich agricultural heritage. Come experience the warm, welcoming atmosphere and enjoy the perfect blend of peaceful living and easy connectivity to Grand Rapids.

John W: Do we know who?

Gerald Skelonc: Wants to know how many people here have kids. How fast do you want info on kids' health?

Jule Baker: Moved here in 2014. Never thought this would come to our back yard.

Mike Running: Proposed location is my front yard. If curious, I handed out 50 copies of a report from U of M. If closed system is proposed, get it in writing. Do your own research.

Katie Covey: Asked Rich if he would move his family next to a data center.

Toni McArthur: Asked Rich if he lived in Michigan. She lives in Pierson Township, but her daughter goes to Cedar Springs schools.

Mark Hoskins spoke to the rezoning of 17 Mile.

Justin Edmonds: How long have you been working on the rezone? Whose idea was it to start the re-zone?

A question was asked about if we can operate these meetings online?

Mark Hoskins: The Moore's own a large chunk of the proposed property. They are going to sell...do you want 700 homes there? Majority: "Yes!"

Sherri Labar: I live two miles from the data center. You're saying there are little options for the Moore property. Divide it up.

Christie Skutt: From out of town. Used to live here. Had been drinking contaminated water for two years and wasn't notified of PFAS in water. Once Microsoft comes in there'll be pollution, poor health, they'll take more property, can go underground and take minerals. Disappointed in State of Michigan. AI is not the answer.

Katie Covey: How far towards Algoma is the proposed area?

Denise Merrill: These things poison the earth. Do you want your children to have an earth left?

Ellie Stone: She's heard a lot of people speaking up for their children and grandchildren. I'm speaking for my age group, we don't see a value in AK> People won't move here if we have a data center.

Josh Bird: Wants to talk to Rich after. When they look for opportunity, they look for resource rich and little political resistance. This isn't even the beginning.

Carabel: Closed on house two weeks ago. Bob, you've worked on the board for 22 years. I think you've really got to care to be on a board. I'm encouraged to see the people riled up. All I see is stone wall from the board.

Chris Curless: If some people do think it's progress... what is that?

Robin Hamilton: What might it take for the Planning Commission to say no?

Toni McArthur: Asked Rick Sevey questions regarding his farm.

Mary McHugh: This will take from freshwater lakes in this area. Our children deserve fresh water.

Erin Hayes: I think we can all agree this earth is a gift. Please don't look at facebook, look to the facts. I hope to God this doesn't go through.

John Nix: Can we stop it from being re-zoned?

Robin Hamilton: What will it take to get a moratorium?

Motion to adjourn by Anielski, seconded by Hoskins. Motion carried 5-0. **Meeting adjourned @ 8:51 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2026.