

**Regular Board Meeting Agenda
February 10, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.**

Meeting call to order by Supv. Brian Moore followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Brian Moore, Kimberly Jones, Judy Wheelock, Keith Moore, Penny Nelson

With no additions or corrections to the agenda by either the Board and/or audience, a **motion by K. Moore; 2nd K. Jones to accept the current agenda. Carried.**

Motion by J. Wheelock; 2nd B. Moore to approve the January 13, 2025 regular board meeting minutes.

Aye: J. Wheelock; B. Moore; K. Jones; P. Nelson. Nay: K. Moore. Carried.

Treasurer's report.

- CDs maturing February 8th. Renewal rates are 8 months @3.65; 10 months @ 3.40 or 11 months @3.15. Better rate in CD than in money market. Treasurer will renew for 8 months @ 3.65%.
- **Motion by K. Moore; 2nd J. Wheelock to pay all bills using checks #9662-9679 and 1519-1521. Carried.**

Fire department report. Distributed to board. Chief Mark Griner reviewed last month's activities and status of the new building. Requesting \$30,000 for three years to serve our township.

Blight Enforcement Officer. Kenneth Millard was absent due a death in his family.

- In the absence of Mr. Millard, the clerk briefly reviews the status of the pending blight cases.

New business.

- Resolution to establish poverty guidelines for property tax exemption.

Resolution 2025-01

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF
SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP, MANISTEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of Springdale Township, Manistee County, Michigan duly called and held on the day of February 10th, 2025, there being present:

Supervisor: Brian Moore Clerk: Penny Nelson Treasurer: Kimberly Jones Trustees: Keith Moore, Judy Wheelock

Absent: None.

**SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR EXEMPTION
FROM PROPERTY TAX CONTRIBUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the township board; and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994(MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390, 1994 Springdale Township, Manistee County adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in a current year.
3. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.
7. The guidelines apply to individuals and not to corporations, partnerships, associations or trusts. In the event that a partnership, association, or co-owners apply, the guidelines apply to the total assets of all individuals involved.
8. The guidelines apply to both an owner of a life estate and all remainder interests together.
9. Many factors will be weighed to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an exemption. Factors analyzed will include the following:
 - A. Income levels
 - B. Total value of liquid assets
 - C. Total non-homestead real property
 - D. Total acreage owned
 - E. Non-essential personal property
 - F. Total value of all assets
 - G. Gifts made within 10 years
 - H. Employability
 - I. Retirement account value, IRA, 401K, etc.
 - J. Other factors suggesting an individual's worth, including but not limited to life insurance, businesses, lawsuits, judgments due, etc.
10. Total liquid assets must not exceed the value of \$10,000. Assets beneath \$10,000 shall be considered together with other factors to determine eligibility. Liquid assets shall be considered cash, unrestricted deposits and accounts, securities, bonds, promissory notes, stocks, and other similar type of assets.
11. Total non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural real property shall not exceed the value of \$10,000.

12. The non-essential personal property shall not exceed \$5,000. Non-essential personal property includes but is not limited to horses, snowmobiles, boats, motorcycles, jet skis, all-terrain vehicles. The purpose of this factor is to exclude from poverty consideration those individuals who have purchased recreational, hobby or sporting property which is not related to essential needs.
13. Total net assets must not exceed \$50,000. Total net assets below \$50,000 shall be considered together with other factors to determine eligibility.

The following are the poverty thresholds as of January, 2024 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2025 assessments:

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Annual Household Income</u>
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720

For each additional person, add \$5,380

The guidelines include employability of the individual applicants as well as other adults living in the residence. Factors here include but are not limited to attempts to find employment; physical, mental and experiential abilities, voluntary loss of employment or employment opportunities, etc.

14. The guidelines shall include an analysis of all gifts given by the applicants within ten (10) years. An applicant cannot divest him or herself of assets and then claim poverty. No fixed amount is set as a factor as each applicant must be handled on a case-by-case basis.
15. It is possible for an applicant to qualify under each separate factor but not qualify when all factors are considered together. The following are examples of how a combination of factors may disqualify a person:
 - a. An applicant has a total asset value of \$40,000 but gave away \$20,000 within the last ten years.
 - b. An applicant qualifies under income or asset factors but recently spent \$10,000 for a life insurance policy with his or her children as beneficiaries.
 - c. The applicant qualifies under the asset or income levels but voluntarily quit from a well-paying job.

In addition to weighing the individual factors, the Board of Review and Supervisor shall evaluate all the factors together to determine if the applicant is in a poverty condition.

16. Any tax exemption given to an individual under these guidelines shall be for the one (1) year's taxes. A new application will be required for the next year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

The foregoing resolution offered by Trustee, K. Moore and supported by Treasurer, Kimberly Jones upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Trustees, Keith Moore, Judy Wheelock; Treasurer, Kimberly Jones; Clerk, Penny Nelson, Supv, Brian Moore.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Penny Nelson

Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned and duly qualified clerk of Springdale Township, Manistee County, Michigan (the "Township") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on February 10, 2025, the original of which is on file in my office and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Penny Nelson

Township Clerk

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- Noise ordinance / Sandbox Raceway. Board discussed the situation and decided to see what happens and if the traffic draws the sheriffs' attention.
 - Household hazardous waste request. Motion by K. J.; 2nd K. Moore to continue to participate 849 x .45 \$382.05.
 - Manistee Recreation Association financial request. Decided to deny the request/donation.

Old business.

- Recycling agreement status. Agreed to forward the signed primary interlocal agreement to (1/1/2025 – 12/31/2026) the county. When the agreements between our local townships are received, they will be forwarded to the county.
- Healy Lake Campground lease renewal request. No response from the state yet.

Library report. Distributed to the board.

Correspondence. Township Focus, Country Lines. EGLE letter regarding building permits.

Public comments. J. Cramer questioned the interlocal waste agreement and whether Sandbox has any agreements in place. D. Bense questioned decibel levels.

Board comments. Clerk not attending MTA's annual conference in Grand Rapids this April.

Adjournment: 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Penny Nelson

Penny Nelson
Township Clerk