

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

- The meeting was called to order by Township Superintendent, Justin Stadt, at 8:01 a.m.
- Roll Call
 - Committee Members Present: Kevin Kelly (Alternate), Jim Wierenga
 - Also Present: Chelsea Chandler (Deputy Clerk), Andy Rienstra (Township Assistant Superintendent), Justin Stadt (Township Superintendent)
 - Absent: Gene DeWitt, John Schwalm

#260216-01 – Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Moved by Jim Wierenga, seconded by Kevin Kelly, to approve [the minutes of the January 19, 2026 meeting](#).
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#260216-02 – Communications, Letters, and Reports

- None.

#260216-03 – Bank Signature Requests – West Michigan Community Bank

- Moved by Jim Wierenga, seconded by Kevin Kelly, to recommend to the Township Board to add Township Superintendent, Justin Stadt, and Township Assistant Superintendent, Andy Rienstra, as signers for West Michigan Community Bank.
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#260216-04 – Board Meeting Time Discussion

- Discussion took place about whether or not Township Board meetings should continue to take place at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month or if they should start at an earlier time such as 6 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Both Kevin Kelly and Jim Wierenga did not have strong opinions either way. Thus, it was decided to continue the discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting to allow absent committee members—Gene DeWitt and John Schwalm—to voice their opinions as well.

Attachments: [2026 Meeting Times](#)

#260216-05 – Review Policy 2005-06, Bid and Quotation Requirements Policy, Referred by the Township Board

- Discussion took place about changing the wording of the first sentence of Policy 2005-06, Bid and Quotations Policy, particularly the second item. A decision was made to wait to edit the policy until the next Finance Committee meeting when committee members Gene DeWitt and John Schwalm will be present.

Attachments: [Policy 2005-06](#)

#260216-06 – Meeting Minutes Discussion

- Discussion took place about how small committee meeting minutes should be handled such as how detailed they need to be and if they should be created by transcribing an audio or visual recording with or without help from an AI assistant like Microsoft Copilot. It was ultimately decided that the current way that minutes are being handled is sufficient, and there will be no major changes to the method of their creation at this time.

Attachments: [Committee Information](#)
[Meeting Minutes Information](#)

#260216-07 – Fire Department Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual

- Moved by Kevin Kelly, seconded by Jim Wierenga, to recommend to the Township Board to approve the Fire Department Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.

Attachments: [Manual](#)

- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#260216-08 – Resolution to Commit Funds to the Ottawa Co. Agri. Land Preservation Program

- Moved by Jim Wierenga, seconded by Kevin Kelly, to recommend to the Township Board to approve a resolution authorizing Georgetown Charter Township to commit funds to the Ottawa County Agricultural Land Preservation Program as follows:

**GEORGETOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(Resolution No. _____)**

At a _____ meeting of the Township Board for the Charter Township of Georgetown held at the Township offices on _____, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., this Resolution was offered for adoption by Township Board Member _____ and was seconded by Township Board Member _____:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GEORGETOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP TO COMMIT FUNDS TO THE OTTAWA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Georgetown Charter Township (the “Township”) has previously adopted a resolution authorizing its participation in the Ottawa County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program (the “PDR Program”), through Ottawa County’s Farmland Preservation Ordinance (i.e., Ottawa County Code, Section 200.5.1, et seq.) (the “County Ordinance”);

WHEREAS, Georgetown Charter Township intends to continue its cooperation with Ottawa County for farmland preservation efforts, pursuant to the County Ordinance, and to commit certain funding from the Township in furtherance of the same;

WHEREAS, Georgetown Charter Township seeks to preserve viable agricultural lands within Georgetown Charter Township, by acquiring agricultural conservation easements;

WHEREAS, Georgetown Charter Township does not intend to approve agricultural lands, which are or will become subject to a preservation easement under the PDR Program, to be used for battery storage, wind energy, solar energy, or other similar development purposes;

WHEREAS, Georgetown Charter Township recognizes the importance of agriculture to the economy, heritage, and quality of life in Georgetown Charter Township.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Recitals above are hereby incorporated into this Resolution as if restated verbatim.
2. Georgetown Charter Township appropriates and certifies that certain Township funds may be used and committed exclusively for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements in accordance with the Ottawa County PDR Program and applicable State law, including providing matching dollars for the acquisition of such easements pursuant to Sections 200.5.6.4 and 200.5.12.2 of the County Ordinance. Any actual expenditure(s) or commitment(s) of Township funds shall be subject to further Township Board approval.
3. Georgetown Charter Township reiterates its participation in the Ottawa County PDR Program, directs Ottawa County to continue to administer the PDR Program with the Township's cooperation, and requests that any application(s) for the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements for property located in the Township be forwarded to the Township for consideration and possible approval, in accordance with Section 200.5.5.2 of the County Ordinance.
4. All funds (and any interest earned thereupon) having been approved and/or appropriated by the Township Board, will be used for the sole purpose of agricultural land preservation within Georgetown Charter Township.
5. This Resolution is effective immediately and it shall supersede any prior inconsistent resolutions of the Board.

The vote to adopt this Resolution was as follows:

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

RESOLUTION IS HEREBY DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Board for Georgetown Charter Township at the time, date and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Kelly Kuiper
Georgetown Charter Township Clerk

[Snapshot: Ottawa County Farmland Preservation Program](#)

- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#260216-09 – General Ordinance Discussion

- Moved by Kevin Kelly, seconded by Jim Wierenga, to recommend to the Township Board to introduce and have a first reading of a general ordinance establishing a moratorium for building development for the purpose of addressing concerns related to water infrastructure and the protection of public safety for a period of eight months. The ordinance is as follows:

**GEORGETOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(Ordinance No. 2026-03)**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board for Georgetown Charter Township held at the Township offices on February 23, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m., the following Ordinance was offered for adoption by Township Board Member _____, and was seconded by Township Board Member _____:

**AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE
ISSUANCE OR GRANTING OF ANY ZONING APPROVALS,
REZONINGS, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS, SITE
CONDOMINIUMS, PLATS, DEVELOPMENT (SITE) PLANS, PERMITS,**

**LICENSES AND CERTAIN OTHER ZONING APPROVALS, AS WELL AS
THE COMMENCEMENT OR EXPANSION OF VARIOUS
DEVELOPMENTS OR PROJECTS.**

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GEORGETOWN (the “Township”) ORDAINS:

Section 1. Intent and Findings.

- a. The provisions of the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan regarding various matters have not kept pace with development patterns, population increases and other matters in the Township.
- b. The Township Board for Georgetown Charter Township desires to revise and update the regulations and provisions within the Township’s Zoning Ordinance regarding rezonings, planned unit developments (“PUDs”), site condominiums, plats/subdivisions, development (site) plans and similar zoning matters (all collectively hereafter, referred to as a “Development Project” or in the plural as “Development Projects”).
- c. The Township and its officials have substantial concerns about the following matters which should potentially be addressed by amendments to the Township’s Zoning Ordinance as well as the enactment or amendment of other Township ordinances:
 - (i) Whether the public water system in various portions of the Township has sufficient capacity to handle further development and growth, and if so, how or where such growth should occur. The pending Wyoming Water Reliability Study is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2026 and is expected to influence future growth and development within the Township. The current public water system can have its capacity exceeded during peak demand days. The Township must evaluate whether additional water storage tanks and other facilities are necessary to ensure an adequate and reliable public water supply for the community, which will impact Township planning for future growth.
 - (ii) Concerns about the capacity and ability of the Georgetown Charter Township Fire Department to provide adequate firefighting, emergency rescue and other services as population and development grows within the Township and in various portions thereof. Emergency services are transitioning from the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Department to the Georgetown Township Fire Department. At this time, the Township has not yet established the anticipated response time requirements necessary to effectively serve the community under the new service model. The Township will conduct a formal evaluation of response time performance, service coverage, staffing levels, and resource deployment to determine whether adjustments are required to ensure adequate emergency service delivery to the community, both for now and in the future. A Township water pressure evaluation also needs to be completed in the fall of 2026 to determine future tanks and pumps needs.
 - (iii) Whether the electrical grid and electric service providers in different portions of the Township will be overburdened by future growth and, if so, how that problem can be addressed.
 - (iv) The impact of increased traffic on public safety, traffic patterns and related matters.

- (v) The impact of anticipated future population growth within various areas of the Township.
- d. Imposing a moratorium, on a limited temporary basis, is reasonable and necessary in order to allow time for the review of potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (and potentially other ordinances) regarding Development Projects.
- e. During the time of this moratorium, the Township Board and the Planning Commission will work diligently regarding potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (and potentially other ordinances) regarding Development Projects.
- f. During this moratorium period, the Township Board and Planning Commission will investigate potential modifications to the Zoning Ordinance (and potentially other ordinances) that may establish new or revised reasonable regulations regarding Development Projects.
- g. On March 19, 2025, the Township’s Planning Commission formally initiated the Master Plan review process. On April 28, 2025, the Township Board approved a contract with Williams and Works for a professional planning contract for the Master Plan review. The Planning Commission and Township Board continue to work diligently to review the Master Plan by holding, planning and scheduling more meetings for discussion on the Master Plan review and to complete the process. This moratorium is also necessary to allow sufficient time for the Master Plan to be revised or replaced.

Section 2. Administrative Action. A moratorium is hereby imposed upon the issuance of any Township permit, license, zoning approval, development (site) plan, rezoning, PUD, variance, or similar approval for any new or expanded Development Project. During the moratorium term specified in this Ordinance, no Township official, employee, body, board, commission or agent shall issue or approve any such permit, zoning approval, development (site) plan, rezoning, license, PUD, variance or other approval for a Development Project.

Section 3 No Development Project. Except for an existing development or project that can proceed under Section 4 hereof, no Development Project shall be developed, expand or proceed to construction during this moratorium.

Section 4. Status of a Development Project. This moratorium shall not apply to any approved Development Project that has all of the following as of the effective date of this Ordinance:

- (a) All Township zoning and land use approvals were obtained and are still valid and in effect.
- (b) Has a valid Township approved development (site) plan which is still in effect.
- (c) The project is under substantial construction.

* * *

As for plats, this moratorium shall not apply to an approved overall preliminary plat and subsequent phases to a previously approved overall preliminary plat when such approvals occurred before this Ordinance became effective. This moratorium shall not apply to final preliminary plat approval or final plat approval for plats that have previously obtained preliminary plat approval when such approvals occurred before this Ordinance became effective.

* * *

In addition, this moratorium shall not apply to any of the following:

- (i) Additions to lawfully existing houses and other buildings. Such exemption also includes decks, swimming pools and similar accessory structures.
- (ii) Non-zoning permits and approvals such as permits under the building codes, solicitation permits, business permits and similar permits.
- (iii) Sign permits.
- (iv) Any single-family residential housing development that will have a total of five (5) or fewer lots, parcels or site condominiums.

Section 5. Term of This Ordinance. The moratorium imposed by this Ordinance shall remain in effect for eight (8) months following the effective date of this Ordinance or until amendments to Georgetown Charter Township’s ordinances regarding Development Projects become effective, whichever occurs first. Prior to the expiration of this moratorium, Georgetown Charter Township may extend the moratorium to allow sufficient time to complete any such amendments to the ordinances and to finish and amend or adopt a new Master Plan.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency ordinance and shall become effective the day following its publication (or a summary hereof) in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

The vote in favor of this Ordinance was as follows:

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: _____

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an emergency Ordinance adopted by the Township Board for Georgetown Charter Township at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Kelly Kuiper
Georgetown Charter Township Clerk

[2026-03 Ordinance](#)

- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#260216-10 – Public Comments

- Members of the public were present. Comments were made by the following:
 - Pete Plowman, 6877 Creek Ridge Ct.

#260216-11 – Other Business

- None.

#260216-12 – Adjournment

- Moved by Jim Wierenga, seconded by Kevin Kelly, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 a.m.
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.