The regular meeting of Macon Township was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:00p.m with Supervisor Dean Montrief presiding. Roll call: Dean Montrief: present; Julia Marshall: present; Beth DeJonghe: present; Joe Rine: present; Charley Downing: present.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Important Dates:
Township Board Meeting November 3, 2025 at 7p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting October 15, 2025 at 7p.m.

Public Comment:
Rhonda Cheever 966 Macon Hwy. – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. Her grandparents are buried there and she gave a history of them.
James Berry 7270 Welch Rd. – public comment was heard. He thanked the board for following through with the solar lawsuit.
Greg Wonderly – not a resident of Macon Township – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. We are elected to serve, would rather spend money on legal fees than take of the Cemetery. Macon Township taxpayers have paid for over 106 years. Do the right thing.
Julia Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting to closed session at 7:10p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h) to consider a written confidential legal option from the township's attorney, which is exempt by State of Federal law, seconded by Charley Downing. Roll call: Dean Montrief: yes; Julia Marshall: yes; Beth DeJonghe: yes; Joe Rine: yes; Charley Downing: yes. Motion carried. Closed session was adjourned at 8:02p.m.
Julia Marshall moved to go back into open session at 8:03p.m. seconded by Joe Rine. Roll call: Dean Montrief: yes; Julia Marshall: yes; Beth DeJonghe: yes; Joe Rine: yes; Charley Downing: yes. Motion carried.

Dean Montrief reopened Public Comment.
Mary Tommelein read a letter from Kerry Hamilton Smith – 2686 Coachlite Dr. – letter is attached to the minutes.
Katherine Keeler 11658 Mills Macon – pubic comment was head regarding Data Center. Wondering if we have been approached? How will it be communicated to people? What is the plan? Will ask at the Planning Commission as well. Dean Montrief – "We have not been approached."

Joe Rine moved, seconded by Charley Downing to approve the September 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:
Ledger Account Balances:
Solar Account balance remains the same at $1,764.46.
Fire Account: No Disbursements. Receipts: $107.35. Total balance in the Fire Account: $77,313.60.

Road Account: Disbursements: $13,783.65. Receipts: $40,050.53. Total balance in the Road Account: $58,349.74
Cemetery Account: Receipts: $550. Disbursements: $4,004.65. Total balance in the Cemetery Account: $36,802.02
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund: Receipts: $1.97. No Disbursements. Total balance in the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund: $16,037.37
General Fund: Receipts: $25,666.01. Disbursements: $75,688.37. Total balance in the General Fund: $259,802.31

Julia Marshall moved, seconded by Joe Rine to approve the ledger account balances. Motion carried.

Julia Marshall moved, seconded by Charley Downing to pay all bills. Motion carried.

Old Business:
None

New Business:
None

Beth DeJonghe moved, seconded by Charley Downing to adjourn the meeting at 8:17p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Marshall
Julia Marshall
Clerk
Macon Township
Guests: 21

Hello,
My name is Kerry Hamilton Smith and I live at 2686 Coachlite Drive in Tecumseh. I too, am an elected member of the Raisin Township Board of Trustees so I can sympathize with the criticism you've received and the decisions you must make. I have a connection to Macon Township that my colleague, Tom, doesn't have. I grew up on Macon Highway. I attended 1st and 2nd grade in this very building. My great-great-great grandparents - the Langthorns - are buried in Lake Ridge Cemetery. I'm not here to tell you my history. I come bearing documents that offer very good news for this board.

In the Sept. 18 edition of the Clinton Local, one person on this board said that money spent by the township to maintain the cemetery was "donated illegally." In the article, the same person said, "I don't think there's anybody in this room that doesn't feel we should take care of that cemetery." That's where the good news comes in. This board never operated illegally by designating funds to care for Lake Ridge Cemetery and you can end this controversy tonight and put a smile on everyone's face, including yours!

We know you believe you have a legal issue, specifically regarding who owns Lake Ridge Cemetery. Some very devoted people who are descendants of people buried at Lake Ridge have done a lot of research to find a definitive answer to that question. It comes in the form of a letter written almost 50 years ago to the day to Beatrice Gilmore, the clerk of this board at that time. She received it from the Michigan Cemetery Commission, part of the State Commerce Department. It recognized Macon Township as the "owner" of Lake Ridge Cemetery.

Quote:
"The State Cemetery Commission is conducting a survey to determine the total amount of land in Michigan dedicated for cemetery purposes.
The Commission records denote that your governmental unit is the owner of the below named cemeteries."

Macon Cemetery and Lake Ridge Cemetery are listed.

There you have it! Not a single county, state or federal judge could refute that the State Cemetery Commission in 1975 recognized Macon Township as the OWNER of Lake Ridge Cemetery. Furthermore, why would they refute it? A copy of that communication is included in the handouts I have for you.

Tonight I'm representing the descendants of those buried at Lake Ridge Cemetery, many of whom were pioneers, war heroes and servants of the township, like yourselves. While state documents prove that Macon Township OWNS the cemetery, we ask that tonight you formally codify and recognize that Lake Ridge Cemetery has been abandoned and that this township will provide funds for its care and maintenance in perpetuity. It's time to put this simple issue to bed and end on a happy note for everyone. A letter outlining this request is also included in your handout.

Thank you and God bless you for all the time and careful thought it takes to represent your constituents.