

The Blackman Charter Township Board convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026 at the Township Hall, 1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan.

Members present: Supervisor Jancek, Clerk Elwell, Treasurer Preston, and Trustees: Ambs, Boulter, Pack and Thomas

Members absent:

Public Attendance:

Ray Snell

Bradley Vancalbergh

Byron Schroeder

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS - (Agenda Items Only: two-minute limit)

AGENDA APPROVAL

1. Additions: item #3 Approval of the minutes for the Closed Session held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 under Minutes Approval.

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Pack to approve the Board of Trustee agenda for the Regular Board Meeting held on Monday, March 16, 2026 with the addition of item #3.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

Motioned by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Treasurer Preston to allow Trustee Boulter and Clerk Elwell to abstain from voting on Collective Bargaining Agreements due to a conflict of both Boulter and Elwell being eligible for potential "vision care" listed in both CBAs.

Roll Call: Ayes - Pack, Thomas, Ambs, Jancek, Preston

Nays - None

Abstain - Elwell, Boulter

Motion Approved

Motioned by Supervisor Jancek supported by Trustee Thomas allow Trustee Boulter to abstain from voting on the proposed "new corrective wage scale and schedule for the Chief and Deputy Chief positions", due to a conflict of interest.

Roll Call: Ayes - Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Elwell, Preston, Pack

Nays - Boulter

Motion Approved

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Changes/corrections.

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Boulter to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

Motion by Trustee Thomas, supported by Treasurer Preston to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for the Study Session held on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Pack to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for the Closed Session held on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Thomas to go into closed session to consult with township attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation.

Roll Call: Ayes - Jancek, Preston, Pack, Thomas, Elwell, Ambs, Boulter
Nays - None Motion Approved

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Trustee Thomas to return to open session

Roll Call: Ayes - Boulter, Preston, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs, Elwell, Pack
Nays - None Motion Approved

Open Closed Session: 6:06 p.m.

Close Closed Session: 6:20 p.m.

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Supervisor Jancek to follow the advice of the township attorney as discussed in closed session.

Roll Call: Ayes - Jancek, Ambs, Boulter, Pack, Elwell, Preston, Thomas
Nays - None Motion Approved

PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Ray Snell, 9th District County Commissioner**
 - a. Elected Chair of Jackson Co. Fair board
 - b. County meetings; first public comment will be agenda items only
 - c. County fund and budget summaries
 - d. Purchase new John Deere mowers
 - e. Parks Projects; Keeley Park kayak launch, Swains Lake Park improvements, Sparks Park playground. Federal Grant funding to pay for all park improvements

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of payroll for the dates 02/13/26 in the amount of \$166,700.78 and for 02/27/26 in the amount of \$248,351.26
2. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of February 2026.
Motioned by Clerk Elwell, supported by Treasurer Preston
Roll Call: Ayes - Thomas, Ambs, Elwell, Jancek, Pack, Boulter, Preston
Nays - None Motion Approved

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

1. Inspected all township owned properties, no wind damage after storm

TREASURER'S UPDATE

1. Summary of Accounts
2. Tax settlement with county is complete.
3. Expression of thanks and gratitude to Deputy Treasurer, Hal for his dedication and hard work.

CLERK'S UPDATE

Motioned by Clerk Elwell, supported by Supervisor Jancek to approve the Early Voting postcard notice and postage quote from Spectrum Printing in the amount of \$6,917.98

Roll Call: Ayes - Preston, Boulter, Thomas, Ambs, Pack, Elwell, Jancek
Nays - None Motion Approved

**APPROVE
COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT**

Motion by Trustee Ambs, supported by Treasurer Preston to authorize the and signing of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Blackman Charter Township and the Blackman-Leoni Officer's Association for the term of April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2030.

Roll Call: *Ayes - Jancek, Ambs, Pack, Preston, Thomas*

Nays - None

Abstain - Boulter, Elwell **Motion Approved**

**APPROVE
COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT**

Motion by Trustee Ambs, supported by Trustee Pack to authorize the approval and signing of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Blackman Charter Township and the Blackman-Leoni Command Officer's Association for the term of April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2030.

Roll Call: *Ayes - Thomas, Ambs, Jancek, Pack, Preston*

Nays - None

Abstain - Elwell, Boulter **Motion Approved**

**APPROVE NEW
CORRECTIVE
WAGE SCALE
FOR CHIEF AND
DEPUTY CHIEF**

Motion by Trustee Ambs, supported by Clerk Elwell to authorize approve the new corrective wage scale and schedule for the Chief and Deputy Chief positions. This wage scale and schedule would eliminate the Township Wage Matrix as it pertains to those positions and transition them to a corrective and positional structure that aligns with the Blackman-Leoni Officers and Command Officers bargaining agreements for the term of April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2030.

Roll Call: *Ayes - Preston, Thomas, Ambs, Pack, Elwell, Jancek*

Nays - None

Abstain - Boulter **Motion Approved**

3. Chief McIntosh gave an update on grant process and application for congressional directed spending program. Grant funds, if awarded, would be applied to the MDIS system, fitness center, and furnishings for the Public Safety Building.
4. Treasurer Preston thanked Chief McIntosh for his work on the Public Safety contract negotiations.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Minutes from Planning Commission meeting Tuesday, March 03, 2026 Draft

**APPROVE
CASE#1604
ZONING
CHANGE**

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Supervisor Jancek to approve Case#1604 Requested Zoning Change: From I-2 Heavy Industrial to I-1 Light Industrial at 2903 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49202; Parcel 000-08-32-402-002-01, Zoned I-2 (Heavy Industrial). Requested by Bradley Vancalbergh

Roll Call: *Ayes - Pack, Elwell, Preston, Boulter, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs*

Nays - None

Motion Approved

2. Case#111.26 - Site Plan Review: JSP Addition at 4335 County Farm Rd., Jackson, MI 49201; Parcel 000-08-30-101-001-02, Zoned I-1 (Light Industrial). Requested by Mark Santi; Approved with three contingencies:
 - a. Letter from Drain Commissioner approving, with any conditions
 - b. Letter from licensed fire protection design firm approving plan
 - c. Protective fencing around the future storm water retention basin
3. Discussion:
 - a. Zoning Ordinance language and formatting
 - b. Master Plan 5-year update

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

1. Minutes from the ZBA meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026
2. Discussion: The Planning Commission is in the process of issuing a revised zoning ordinance and requested a review of Article VII Zoning Board of Appeals from Zoning Ordinance. ZBA requests to add a section on how the board is established and secretary language removal.
3. Correction: the year of meeting minutes on the agenda; from 2025 to 2026.

PARKS & RECREATION

1. Added interest in field usage at Rod Mills Park
 - a. Lacross, DaVinci school football, Little League baseball, softball
 - b. Lacross is interested in using the field space next to the existing public safety building, seeking donations to install fencing and other improvements.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

1. Waiting for final Sewer Agreement

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. Removed weapons from ordinance, will be handled under police ordinance
2. Clerk's office will format Parks Ordinance for codification
3. Parks Ordinance - Second Read

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Boulter to approve the second reading of the Parks Ordinance.

Roll Call: Ayes – Elwell, Pack, Thomas, Boulter, Ambs, Jancek, Preston

Nays – None

Motion Approved

NEW BUSINESS

WATCHFIRE

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Clerk Elwell to approve awarding the Watchfire Digital Sign contract to Fritz Signs in the amount of \$36,514.17

DIGITAL SIGN

Roll Call: Ayes – Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Elwell, Preston, Pack, Boulter

Nays – None

Motion Approved

BILLS

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Treasurer Preston to approve payment of bills on the Board Invoice Post Audit Report dated 03/04/26 in the amount of \$125,676.31 and Board Invoice Report dated 03/17/26 in the amount of \$475,862.04

Roll Call: Ayes - Jancek, Preston, Pack, Thomas, Elwell, Ambs, Boulter

Nays - None

Motion Approved

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

1. Byron Schroeder, *AE Design Solutions*
 - a. Overview of changes for cost savings
 - b. Construction to begin second week of April

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Trustee Pack to authorize the Executive Committee to approve construction cost saving decisions.

Unanimously approved by voice vote

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT (Any Topic: three-minute limit)

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Supervisor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

David Elwell, Township Clerk

DRAFT