

CITY OF GAASTRA MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING: July 9, 2026

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The meeting was called to order by Mayor R Holm at 4:30 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Holm, Chris Cain, Linda Lindberg

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mari Kay McNamara

ALSO PRESENT: Debbie Tusa, Manager/Clerk; Ethan Amerson, Public Works; Steve Polich, Polich Tousignant Law Office

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting of June 11, 2026, the Public Hearing & Special Budget Meeting of June 17, 2026 was reviewed. Moved by T Holm to accept all Meeting minutes with support by Cain. **Passed Unanimously**

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PUBLIC:

There was a discussion on blight issues with grass and unlicensed vehicles. Grass Blight notices are being sent out, the unlicensed vehicles will be going out soon.

CASH BALANCE REPORT:

Moved by Cain and supported by T Holm to accept the Cash Balance Report. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Moved by T Holm and supported by Cain to pay the accounts payables due & accept the bills paid. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

MANAGERS REPORT:

- The Board of Elections held a class for the Local Municipalities. The 2026 Election Cycle Preparation Requirements was presented and reviewed.
- The County Clerk held an Election Inspector class the week of June 16-18th. She will hold another class on July 16th. To work an election, you must be certified. The certificate is good for 2 years.
- Election on line classes were completed.
- West Iron County Sewer Authority (WICSA) had a couple of budget review meetings.
- Scott & I worked on & reviewed the 2026-2027 Fiscal year end budget.
- The Caspian Gaastra Fire Authority approved their 2026-2027 Fiscal year end budget on June 18th
- The 2026-2027 Gaastra Fiscal year ending budget was approved June 17th
- WICSA's 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget was approved June 30th.
- The Iron County Equalization Department dropped off the summer tax roll. The electronic tax roll was downloaded into Gaastra's software by BS&A
- Our assessor, Tammy, was in to sign the warrant for me to begin collecting taxes on July 1st.
- I've been sending Ethan numerous Miss Dig's to be completed for the highline project.
- Commissioner Cain has been taking pictures of blight properties, letters are going out to the homeowners.
- Scott will be in soon to work on the Fiscal Year End 2026 with me.
- Our new auditor will begin collecting paperwork to begin the audit.

Ethan went over the Public Works report:

The monthly water samples came back good with no issues.

The consumer confidence report has been completed.

The TMF dig list has been compiled. Ryans excavating will begin the work soon.

Ethan worked with Caspian to repair a service leak Caspian was having.

Fire hydrants were all weed whipped. Ethan will be working with Caspian to repair a fire hydrant of 424 so it will be ready for the Fireman's tournament.

Dust control will be applied within the next couple of weeks on Nowicki, Maplewood & Willow.

Repairs were made on the Brush dump road.

The backhoe is working flawlessly with 120 hours so far logged.

Motioned by T Holm to accept the manager's & public works report and supported by Cain. **Passed Unanimously**

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ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

The assessor's report was reviewed. Moved by Cain to pay the assessor's bill and supported by T Holm.
Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.

GEI

The Lift Station Generator: Bids will be going out in the next couple of weeks.

TMF Lead Service: The grant ends on September 15, 2026. Ryan LeMay will begin working on service line investigations this summer.

Backhoe: The final paperwork will be submitted to close out this grant.

DWSRF Water Project: The preliminary listing was released, Gaastra is in line for 100% funding for the lead service line project for \$520,000.00. The final report will be released later this year.

Fiber Optic Installation: Highline intends to start installation soon and indicated the work will take 3-4 weeks. The installation plan has changed due to the UPPCO lines. They will bore more of the fiber. A revised installation plan will be submitted.

Ordinance 34 Review

Attorney Polich discussed the Metal Bin Storage containers, stating his advice is to charge an annual fee and not put it on the tax roll. Mayor Holm would like to discuss this further with Joe, Gaastra's zoning administrator and Tammy, Gaastra's assessor, as this may be a State of Michigan requirement to have them put on the tax roll. This will be tabled until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The speeding on Hwy 424 through Gaastra was discussed. A flashing speed limit sign will be purchased and placed on the East side of town. Holm motioned to purchase a flashing speed limit sign with support from Cain. **Roll call: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding Payne & Dolan asking to have access through Gaastra's gravel pit to get in, Mayor Holm is requesting a special road use permit. An agreement will be written up, stating when the pit is activated, as compensation Gaastra would like 5% in kind material. Attorney Polich advised a liability provision will need to be included. Motioned by T Holm to add 5% into the agreement with support by Cain. **Passed Unanimously**

CHICKENS

There have been questions where chickens are allowed in Gaastra. Mayor Holm will review the zoning areas with Joe, Zoning Administrator. More information will be available when research is completed.

SEWER RATES

West Iron County Sewer Authority had a violation through an EGLE audit for being one operator short. An operator will be hired. This will increase each sewer household approximately \$6.00/month on their utility bill. Rates will be increased when a new operator is put into place.

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Polich has nothing additional to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cain is requesting compensation for the public works department due to using personal equipment. There will be further discussion with the personnel committee of equipment & funds it is being used in.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, it was motioned by T Holm with support from Cain to adjourn at 5:18 pm.
Passed Unanimously.

Richard Holm, Mayor

Debbie Tusa, Clerk