

CITY OF GAASTRA MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING: August 13, 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, Mari Kay McNamara

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Debbie Tusa, Manager/Clerk; Ethan Amerson, Public Works; Steve Polich, Polich Tousignant Law Office; Robb Anderson, GEI; Tammy Hendrickson, Assessor.

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2026 was reviewed. Moved by T Holm to accept all Meeting minutes with support by Cain. **Passed Unanimously**

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PUBLIC:

Lecia Alfredj stated her concern with people speeding on Nowicki Road. There is no speed limit sign to indicate what the speed is. Holm is requesting PW Ethan to purchase a couple of 25 mph speed limit signs to post on Nowicki Road.

Brett Smithson, ICECA, announced the fast-track winners of the first round. There were 3 applicants, Yooper Sweets, Sparks & Soul Coaching & Good Girl Tattoo. All received funding through the chamber. The next Fast Track Grant will take place later in the Fall.

The Fair is August 27-30. There will be new carnival rides, a demo derby.

He also extended a shout out to the Caspian Gastra Fire Department for a successful tournament in July.

CASH BALANCE REPORT:

Moved by Cain and supported by T Holm to accept the Cash Balance Report. **Roll call: 5 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: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

MANAGERS REPORT:

-Commissioner Cain has been taking blight pictures. Notices have gone out.

-There are numerous Miss Digs being called in with Highline working in town.

-There was a water break on Moser Street, a water leak on Main St from the TMF digging and an issue on Oakwood caused & repaired by Highline.

-July was a busy month collecting property taxes.

-The early voting went well. There was not a lot of turn out, 285 total for Iron County.

-Scott has been in working on end of fiscal year and audit reports.

-I talked with our new Auditor, Greg Soule. The audit will be done remotely thru a secure link. He will be requesting reports, etc. from me in the next couple of weeks.

-There have been references of residents having chickens in undesignated areas. I asked the board if they would be interested in revising the ordinance to allow chickens.

After much discussion Mayor Holm stated the zoning board should make a recommendation to the board if they would like a change, otherwise the ordinance will remain as his.

Ordinance violations will need to be sent to households violating the no chicken ordinance.

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

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

The assessor's report was reviewed. Moved by T Holm to pay the assessor's bill and supported by Cain. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

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GEI

- The Lift Station project is currently out for bids. Bids are due September 3rd, at 10 am at City Hall. He will have results at the next meeting.
- Ryan has completed some of the 2026 work on the TMF Lead Service Line Grant. The grant end date is September 15, 2026.
- There is no update on the DWSRF Water Project
- The Fiber Optic Installation started drilling July 29th. Crews plan to complete the job within the next couple of weeks.

Ordinance 34 amended Metal Storage Containers Review

Tammy, assessor, discussed the Metal Storage Bin containers being taxed vs an annual permit. The board discussed keeping the annual permit in place. Each year the storage bin is in place it will be inspected upon renewal. Tammy will be given a list of residences that will be utilizing a metal bin. If the State requires the bins must be on the tax roll, Tammy will proceed with taxing them. T. Holm motioned to rescind the previous motion to tax the bins and adopt the original ordinance recommendation with provision of an annual fee and inspection with support from Cain. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

OLD BUSINESS

Amerson did not have time to order the flashing speed limit sign.

Payne & Dolan is requesting a Road Use License to go through Gaastra's gravel road to their property. Mayor Holm discussed the percentage the commission is willing to charge. If a percentage or flat fee. Different options were discussed. McNamara motioned for Mayor Holm to negotiate terms with Payne & Dolan with support from T Holm. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Michigan Municipal League liability insurance is up for renewal. After discussion, R Holm motioned to increase the policy from one million to two million, at the policy cost of \$10166.00 with support from Cain. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Polich has nothing additional to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Works Ethan Amerson put in his resignation effective May, 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, it was motioned by T Holm with support from Cain to adjourn at 5:20 pm. **Passed Unanimously.**

Richard Holm, Mayor

Debbie Tusa, Clerk