

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - TOWN OF BENTON
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS - REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 6:30pm
Benton Township Office
40020 N. Greenbay Road, Beach Park, IL 60099

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Stried at 6:30 pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Supervisor Stried led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL: Present:** Trustees Klinger, Knobbe, Livingston, Printz and Supervisor Stried. A quorum was present.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 14, 2026:** It was motioned by Trustee Livingston and seconded by Trustee Klinger to approve the meeting minutes with the following changes:
 - Under Trustee Klinger's report, add intent to attend the Joy Summit.
All in favor. Motion passes.
5. **PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE BOARD:** Alena Mesa with United Way Lake County thanked the Board for supporting 211 Day.
6. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Income, Cash on Deposit Reports and Profit & Loss Statements as of February 11, 2026 were presented by Supervisor Stried.
7. **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS as of February 11, 2026**
 - a. It was motioned by Trustee Klinger and seconded by Trustee Printz to approve the disbursements as presented. **5 AYES, 0 NAYS. Motion passes.**
 - b. **Magee Hartman - \$125:** It was motioned by Trustee Livingston and seconded by Trustee Klinger to approve the invoice as presented. **5 AYES, 0 NAYS. Motion passes.**
8. **RESOLUTIONS:** There were none.
9. **ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** Assessor Woodman reported that they are working on 2026 property values and are already busy with exemptions as residents come in. She has also hired a new employee that will be shared between the Assessor's office and the Supervisor's office.
10. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:** Clerk Bronson reminded the Board to complete their Statement of Economic Interest.
11. **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

Klinger: Attended the Joy Summit. She described the event as well organized with phenomenal speakers, highlighting one doctor in particular as especially impressive. She also appreciated that county services hosted informational tables, which helped her better understand available resources for constituents as a newer trustee.

Knobbe: None

Livingston: Attended the Dreamers Breakfast at Hotel 10 in Gurnee, IL. She estimated there were about 600 people in attendance. She noted that Jesse White Jr. was the guest speaker. Also donated juice boxes to Family First Center in Waukegan for kids that will be going to the Chicago Auto Show on Sunday.

Printz: None

12. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Supervisor Stried discussed the activities conducted from January 15, 2026 - February 11, 2026, which included the following:

- New admin assistant has been hired to replace Katie Bach. She will start around March 1. She brings municipal and township experience, strong bookkeeping and office management skills, is bilingual and currently serves as a Grant Township trustee.
- Considering contracting with Lauterbach & Amen Accounting Firm to handle the Township's accounting and financial reporting. He stated that having an outside firm handle the financial aspect of Township business would be ideal to ensure continuity in the event of a Township employee's departure.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Supervisor Stried presented the 2026-2027 Corporate and Road & Bridge Budgets to the Board for review. No action was taken.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Special Recognition - 211 Day.** It was motioned by Trustee Livingston and seconded by Trustee Klinger to waive the reading of the Special Recognition of 211 Day in Benton Township Illinois. **All in favor. Motion passes.** It was motioned by Trustee Klinger and seconded by Trustee Livingston to recognize February 11, 2026 as 211 Day in Benton Township Illinois. **All in favor. Motion passes.**
- b. **Approval of the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Agenda.** It was motioned by Trustee Livingston and seconded by Trustee Printz to approve the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Agenda as presented. **All in favor. Motion passes.**

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

16. ADJOURNMENT - Being no further business to come before the Board, it was motioned by Trustee Klinger and seconded by Trustee Livingston to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. **All in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes prepared by Sonolito Bronson, Town Clerk