

BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD

REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

**BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL, 14230 NORTHLAND DR.
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
7:00 PM**

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. ROLL CALL: __Borkovich, __ Bechaz, __Everett, __ Marek, __ Saez, __ Teceno, __ Welch,

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

1. January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes:
2. December Financial Report:
3. Sheriff's Report:
4. Cemetery and Grounds Report:
5. Sewer Department Report:
6. Water Department Report:
7. Building Department Report:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mecosta County Conservation District Hazardous Waste Clean Up:
2. MEDC Certified Business Parks Program:
3. MI DNR Available Grants:
4. International Fire Code/Fire Truck Repair:
5. Data Center Explanation:
6. Data Center Moratorium:
7. Other:

Financial

1. Payroll:
2. Accounts Payable:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

Big Rapids Charter Township will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed material, if individuals with disabilities, upon five business days notice to the township. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Hannah Saez, Big Rapids Charter Township Clerk, 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307- call 231 796 3603 or fax request to 231 796 2533.

BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026
BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP HALL, 14230 NORTHLAND DR.
BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307
7:00 PM
UNAPPROVED

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. **ROLL CALL:** Borkovich, Bechaz, Everett, Marek, Saez, Teceno, present. Welch absent.
PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Bechaz requests letter of Proclamation to FSU for Football.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes:
2. November Financial Report:
3. Sheriff's Report:
4. Cemetery and Grounds Report:
5. Sewer Department Report:
6. Water Department Report:
7. Building Department Report:
8. Board of Review Minutes:

A motion to approve of the consent agenda was made by Everett. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Work Session with Green Township Discussion:** Update from Borkovich: Green Township would be open to this, but would like to wait until the lawsuit is resolved before moving forward.
- 2.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **State of the Township:**
2. **City Easement Request:** A motion was made by Bechaz to allow the City to move forward with an Easement as proposed. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
3. **Bike Lane Sign Request:** A motion was made by Saez to approve of purchasing Bike Lane Signs, not to exceed \$750 as quoted. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
4. **Certification of Computerized Assessment Roll:** A motion was made by Marek to approve of a computerized assessment roll. Supported by Saez. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
5. **Resolution 2026-01; Adopting a General Appropriations Act (Budget):** A motion was made by Saez to approve of Resolution 2026-01. Supported by Marek. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
6. **Resolution 2026-02; Bank Depositories:** A motion was made by Marek to approve of Resolution 2026-0. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
7. **Resolution 2026-03; 2026 Wages:** A motion was made by Everett to approve of Resolution 2026-03. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
8. **Resolution 2026-04; Acceptance of Payments by Financial Transaction Device:** A motion was made by Borkovich to approve of Resolution 2026-04 as amended. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
9. **Resolution 2026-05; Poverty Exemption Guidelines:** A motion was made by Teceno to approve of Resolution 2026-05 as amended. Supported by Bechaz. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Borkovich working with State Rep about changing exemption status to include veterans for special assessments, items such as Tonkin, etc.
10. **Resolution 2026-06; Board Meeting Dates:** A motion was made by Marek to approve of Resolution 2026-06. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
11. **Other:**

Financial

1. **Payroll:** A motion was made by Marek to approve of Payroll in the amount of \$27,595.23. Supported by Teceno. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. **Accounts Payable:** A motion was made by Marek to approve of Accounts Payables in the amount of \$158,056.57. Supported by Everett. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marek inquired about minutes from Road committee meeting. Teceno waiting to receive quotes and will then update. Bill Routley – Board appointments, contacted Dana with MAC to discuss how they are unhappy with Drain Commission law, want to give power to more than just one person.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:36pm

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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-01

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (BUDGET) FOR THE BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP, BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2026, AND ENDING ON THE LAST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2026.

WHEREAS, the duty of the Township Supervisor of Big Rapids Charter Township is to prepare and submit a proposed budget to the Big Rapids Board of Trustees at the proper time; and

WHEREAS, the Township Supervisor has submitted a proposed budget to the Board of Trustees on December 2, for its consideration, and;

WHEREAS, "Pursuant to MCLA 141.412, notice of a public hearing on the proposed budget was published in a newspaper of general circulation on November 7, 2025 and a public hearing on the proposed budget was held on December 2, 2025";

WHEREAS, whatever increases may have been made in the expenditures, like increases were added to the revenues or planned to be expended from reserves/fund balances so that the budget remains in balance, as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Trustees of Big Rapids Charter Township, that they hereby approve and adopt the 2026 fiscal year budget by cost centers. Estimated township revenues for fiscal year 2026, include an allocated millage of 1.25 mills for general fund, 1.50 mills for fire fund, 1.50 mills for township roads and .20 mills for library services.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Saez and supported by Marek.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BIG RAPIDS RESOLUTION TO NAME BANK DEPOSITORYIES FOR 2026

RESOLUTION NO 2026-02

WHEREAS, the Board of Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta County, in exercising its fiduciary responsibilities desires to safeguard the funds of the Township that may be invested from time to time, and,

WHEREAS, Public Act 77 of 1989, MCL 41.77, requires that the Township Board designate the banks or depositories for the money belonging to the Township, in accordance with the Townships Comprehensive Version of Township Investment and Depository Designation Policy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the following financial institutions as depositories of township funds: Isabella Bank, Huntington Bank, Lake Osceola Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Horizon, Independent Bank, and Michigan Class.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Township will comply with all applicable statutes related to public fund investments. Any provisions of this resolution in conflict with applicable statutes is void.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Marek and supported by Bechaz.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-03
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE WAGES FOR 2026**

WHEREAS, the proposed 2026 Wages by and between Charter Township of Big Rapids (the "Township") have been submitted to the Township Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 2026 Wages

2. The Township Supervisor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the 2026 Wages and to deliver the same on behalf of the Township with such immaterial additions and deletions to the 2026 Wages.

3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be in the same are hereby rescinded.

Supervisor	\$49,035.60
Clerk	\$52,375.91
Treasurer	\$52,375.91
Trustees	\$3,500.00
Deputy Clerk	\$18.50 per hour
Deputy Treasurer	\$18.50 per hour
Deputy Supervisor	\$18.50 per hour
Planning Commission/ZBA/BBA	\$56.50 per meeting
Board of Review Chairperson	\$18.50 per hour
Board of Review Members	\$17.50 per hour
Election Chairperson	\$18.50 per hour
Election Workers	\$17.50 per hour
Zoning Administrator	\$23,000
Administrative Assistants	\$19.00 per hour
Grounds Manager	\$24.00 per hour
Grounds Assistants	\$19.00 per hour
Building Inspector	\$26.00 per hour
Plan reviews	\$100.00 per hour
Electrical Inspector	\$75 per inspection

Plan reviews \$100 per hour

Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector

\$75 per inspection

Plan reviews \$100 per hour

The foregoing resolution was offered by Everett and supported by Teceno.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BIG RAPIDS
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS BY FINANCIAL
TRANSACTION DEVICE (PA 290 of 1995)**

RESOLUTION NO 2026-04

WHEREAS, the Board of Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta County, at a Regular Board meeting on January 6, 2026, in an effort to provide greater options to residents of the Township for payments, the Treasurer has researched the statutory requirements for accepting online payments and companies that provide secure methods of processing these payments; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 280 of 1995, as amended, before a local unit accepts a payment by financial transaction device, the governing body of the local unit shall adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of payments by financial transaction devices and designating the treasurer of the local unit as responsible for determining the types of financial transaction devices that may be accepted; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of Big Rapids Charter Township has determined that accepting financial transaction device payments of taxes, water usage charges, sewage usage charges, rental fees, and zoning and building department fees is in the best interest of the Township and those using the programs and facilities;

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of Big Rapids Charter Township has determined acceptable financial transaction devices include: Electronic Funds Transfer (eCheck), American Express, Visa, Discover, Mastercard, Paypal, PayPal Credit, or Google Pay, or other of similar type, provided the payments are routed through the platform that is integrated with BS&A Online; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Big Rapids Charter Township authorizes the use of financial transaction devices, designates the Treasurer and Clerk as jointly responsible for determining any additional proposed types of financial transaction devices that may be accepted, and authorizes the Treasurer to implement their use according to the following policy:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Township will comply with all applicable requirements to accept such payments. Any provisions of this resolution in conflict with applicable statutes is void.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Borkovich and supported by Bechaz.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REAL PROPERTY TAX POVERTY EXEMPTION
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-05**

WHEREAS the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determine by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 253 of 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 253 of 2020, the Charter Township of Big Rapids, Mecosta County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a Michigan Department of Treasury Form 5737 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption with the Supervisor/Assessor or Board of Review, Application must be accompanied by Federal and State income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a Michigan Department of Treasury Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed 15,000. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid drivers license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. A copy of this application is set forth in Exhibit B also known as Michigan Department of Treasury Form 5737.

The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. See Exhibit A for the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

If approved for exemption by the Board of Review, the exemption is for real property tax of the principal residence. Special assessments, such as for delinquent sewer, or as required by the County Drain Commissioner, are not a tax and therefore not exempt.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

The foregoing resolution was moved by Teceno and supported by Bechaz.

Ayes: 6 Nays: Abstain: Absent: 1

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BIG RAPIDS RESOLUTION TO SET BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2026

RESOLUTION NO 2026-06

WHEREAS, Public Act 267 of 1976 requires a resolution setting meeting dates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the regular meeting dates for Big Rapids Charter Township be as follows for the year 2026:

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 Meeting held on Wednesday due to School Election on Tuesday.

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 Meeting held on Wednesday due to Primary Election on Tuesday.

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 Meeting held on Wednesday due to General Election on Tuesday.

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

All meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the township hall 14230 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307, unless otherwise noted.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Marek and supported by Teceno.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain:0 Absent: 1
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

01/13/2026 07:30 PM
User: Dena Marek
DB: Big Rapids Town

BANK RECONCILIATION FOR BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
Bank GEN (GENERAL TOWNSHIP CHECKING)
FROM 12/01/2025 TO 12/31/2025
Reconciliation Record ID: 221
Finalized

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GL Number	Description	Beginning Balance
101-000-001.000	GENERAL FUND Cash - Checking	1,560,076.61
204-000-001.000	MUNICIPAL STREET FUND - CASH	192,319.20
206-000-001.000	FIRE FUND Cash - Checking	201,260.24
212-000-001.000	LIQUOR LAW FUND Cash - Savings	5,741.71
249-000-001.000	BUILDING INSP FUND Cash - Savings	136,787.69
271-000-001.000	LIBRARY FUND CASH	1,858.61
590-000-001.000	SEWER FUND Cash - Savings	1,714,634.60
591-000-001.000	WATER FUND - CASH	(16,400.50)
701-000-001.000	TRUST & AGENCY CASH	100.00
708-000-001.000	METRO FUND CASH	300.22
711-000-001.099	HVC NON-EXP PERPETUAL CARE	100,000.00
711-000-001.100	HVC Cash Expendable	28,213.67
711-000-002.200	HVC - PRICE CASH EXPENDABLE	356.87
711-000-002.201	HVC - PRICE CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	500.00
711-000-002.300	HVC - COOKINGHAM CASH EXPENDABLE	550.25
711-000-002.301	HVC - COOKINGHAM CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	500.00
711-000-002.400	HVC - SHEPHERD CASH EXPENDABLE	132.30
711-000-002.401	HVC - SHEPHERD CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	500.00
711-000-002.500	HVC - LYDELL CASH EXPENDABLE	38.22
711-000-002.501	HVC - LYDELL CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	500.00
711-000-002.600	HVC - LEWIS CASH EXPENDABLE	410.72
711-000-002.601	HVC - LEWIS CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	1,000.00
850-000-001.000	PAYROLL CLEARING FUND Cash - Savings	2,268.18

Beginning GL Balance:	3,931,648.59
Add: Cash Receipts	173,496.45
Less: Cash Disbursements	(101,469.08)
Less: Payroll Disbursements	(44,276.05)
Add: Journal Entries/Other	20,200.07
Ending GL Balance:	3,979,599.98

GL Number	Description	Ending Balance
101-000-001.000	GENERAL FUND Cash - Checking	1,505,589.78
204-000-001.000	MUNICIPAL STREET FUND - CASH	225,297.63
206-000-001.000	FIRE FUND Cash - Checking	233,201.95
212-000-001.000	LIQUOR LAW FUND Cash - Savings	
249-000-001.000	BUILDING INSP FUND Cash - Savings	133,808.25
271-000-001.000	LIBRARY FUND CASH	6,183.94
590-000-001.000	SEWER FUND Cash - Savings	1,756,972.49
591-000-001.000	WATER FUND - CASH	(17,753.18)
701-000-001.000	TRUST & AGENCY CASH	
708-000-001.000	METRO FUND CASH	300.96
711-000-001.099	HVC NON-EXP PERPETUAL CARE	103,238.39
711-000-001.100	HVC Cash Expendable	29,770.71
711-000-002.200	HVC - PRICE CASH EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.201	HVC - PRICE CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.300	HVC - COOKINGHAM CASH EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.301	HVC - COOKINGHAM CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.400	HVC - SHEPHERD CASH EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.401	HVC - SHEPHERD CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.500	HVC - LYDELL CASH EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.501	HVC - LYDELL CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.600	HVC - LEWIS CASH EXPENDABLE	
711-000-002.601	HVC - LEWIS CASH NON-EXPENDABLE	
850-000-001.000	PAYROLL CLEARING FUND Cash - Savings	2,989.06

Ending GL Balance:	3,979,599.98
Ending Bank Balance:	3,979,269.76
Add: Miscellaneous Transactions	253.00

01/05/2026 *Deposit ID: 821

21,063.50

21,063.50

01/13/2026 07:30 PM
User: Dena Marek
DB: Big Rapids Town

BANK RECONCILIATION FOR BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
Bank GEN (GENERAL TOWNSHIP CHECKING)
FROM 12/01/2025 TO 12/31/2025
Reconciliation Record ID: 221
Finalized

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Less: Outstanding Checks

AP Checks

Check Date	Check Number	Name	Amount
12/17/2025	35227	JAMES BOUMAN	1,041.66
12/17/2025	35228	JOANNAH SHELDON	175.00
12/17/2025	35229	MECOSTA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S ASSO	50.00
12/17/2025	35230	MECOSTA COUNTY EQUALIZATION	1,168.07
12/17/2025	35231	MECOSTA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION	40.42
12/17/2025	35232	MECOSTA COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT.	5,741.71
12/17/2025	35233	MI DEPT OF LICENSING AND REG AFFAIR	198.21
12/17/2025	35235	MISS DIG 811	1,252.59
12/31/2025	35243	ACCIDENT FUND COMPANY	526.10
12/31/2025	35244	BRUCE BORKOVICH	90.00
12/31/2025	35245	CHRIS ELDER	95.00
12/31/2025	35246	DENA MAREK	90.00
12/31/2025	35247	ELECTION SOURCE	950.10
12/31/2025	35248	FIRST NATIONAL BANK	3,002.33
12/31/2025	35250	GREAT LAKES ENERGY	29.35
12/31/2025	35251	HANNAH SAEZ	90.00
12/31/2025	35252	JOE LENAHAN	1,250.00
12/31/2025	35253	MARK MOSS	109.40
12/31/2025	35254	MECOSTA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION	99.65
12/31/2025	35255	MECOSTA COUNTY TREASURER	100.00
12/31/2025	35256	STEPHEN MCKAY	90.00
12/31/2025	9930728	JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	2,809.82
12/31/2025	9930729	STATE OF MICHIGAN	984.28
12/31/2025	9930730	VOYA FINANCIAL	760.67

Payroll Checks

Check Date	Check Number	Name	Amount
08/29/2025	13694	PHILLIPS, BRETT	211.08
12/31/2025	13702	BEAN, SUSAN	15.85
12/31/2025	13703	MONTROSS, JOHN	14.99

Total - 27 Outstanding Checks: 20,986.28
Adjusted Bank Balance 3,979,599.98
Unreconciled Difference: 0.00

REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE: _____

01/07/2026 09:17 PM
User: Dena Marek
DB: Big Rapids Town

BANK RECONCILIATION FOR BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
Bank TAX (CURRENT TAX FUND)
FROM 12/01/2025 TO 12/31/2025
Reconciliation Record ID: 220

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GL Number	Description	Beginning Balance
703-000-001.000	Cash - SAVINGS+CHECKING TAX	22,380.08

Beginning GL Balance:	22,380.08
Add: Cash Receipts	494,668.97
Add: Tax Receipts	146,720.80
Less: Cash Disbursements	(270,486.75)
Add: Journal Entries/Other	191.26
Ending GL Balance:	393,474.36

GL Number	Description	Ending Balance
703-000-001.000	Cash - SAVINGS+CHECKING TAX	393,474.36
Ending GL Balance:	393,474.36	
Ending Bank Balance:	844,401.64	
Add: Miscellaneous Transactions	201.21	
Add: Deposits in Transit	27,120.48	
	01/05/2026 *Deposit ID: 820	
	CORELOGIC DEPOSIT EARLY	
		(307,290.11)
		(280,169.63)

Less: Outstanding Checks

AP Checks

Check Date	Check Number	Name	Amount
12/20/2025	4444	BIG RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOL	5,690.38
12/20/2025	4446	MECOSTA COUNTY AREA TRANSIT	10,694.90
12/20/2025	4447	MECOSTA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER	9,260.39
12/20/2025	4448	MECOSTA COUNTY TREASURER	24,084.71
12/20/2025	4449	MOISD	107,591.72
12/20/2025	4450	MORLEY-STANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	5,953.91
12/20/2025	4451	RYAN CREEK LIMITED D.H.A.L.P	7,682.85
Total - 7 Outstanding Checks:			170,958.86
Adjusted Bank Balance			393,474.36
Unreconciled Difference:			0.00

REVIEWED BY: _____

DATE: _____

MECOSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Brian Miller

225 S. Stewart Avenue, Big Rapids, MI, 49307

(231) 592-0150 Fax (231) 796-5577

Big Rapids Township Monthly Report: December 2025

Traffic Stops-16

Traffic Tickets-3

Appearance Tickets-3

Property Damage Crashes-20

Physical Arrests-4

Animal Control-2

VSU Call Outs-0

Total MCSO Complaints-69

Activities/Information:

On 12-03-2025 at approximately 1632 hours, a deputy was dispatched to a business on Perry Ave near 215th Ave. The loss prevention department had detained two females, aged 22 and 23, for retail fraud. The two were provided with appearance tickets for the theft.

On 12-04-2025 at approximately 1707 hours, a deputy was dispatched to a reported breaking and entering at an address on New Millpond Rd near McKinley. A 17-year-old male has been identified as the suspect. Investigation into the matter continues.

On 12-07-2025, at approximately 1945 hours, a deputy arrested a 36-year-old male on an outstanding warrant at an address on Northland Dr near 14 Mile Rd.

On 12-08-2025 at approximately 1722 hours, a deputy took a retail fraud complaint at an address on Perry Ave near 215th Ave. The store's loss prevention advised that a male had pushed a cart full of toys out the grocery door, putting the items in a silver or white car. Investigation into the matter continues, with a 40-year-old male being identified as a possible suspect.

On 12-09-2025 at approximately 0024 hours, deputies were dispatched to an address on 12 Mile Rd near Northland Dr for a reported B&E. Information received was that a female had shown up at the resident's house with her kids. They let her in, then shortly after, the male half had come back and kicked open their door and was assaulted by the male. The complainant did not know either of these people. The male and female left the residence. The couple were eventually located, with the male, 46 years old, being arrested for Breaking and Entering and Assault. The 47-year-old female victim was not cooperative with deputies during their investigation.

On 12-09-2025 at approximately 2004 hours, a deputy was dispatched to Mile Marker 139 of US 131 (northbound) in reference to a property damage accident. After investigating, a 32-year-old male was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Kent County and False Information to a Police Officer.

On 12-19-2025 at 1221 hours, a deputy took a larceny from an auto complaint at an address on 14 Mile Rd near Northland Dr. There are no suspects at this time.

On 12-19-2025 at 1829 hours, a deputy made a traffic stop on Jefferson Rd near 190th Ave, which resulted in a 24-year-old female being given an appearance ticket for No Insurance.

On 12-20-2025 at approximately 1948 hours, deputies arrested a 29-year-old male on a probation violation warrant at an address on 190th Ave near 15 Mile Rd.

On 12-27-2025 at 0301 hours, deputies were dispatched to an address on 15 Mile Rd near 180th Ave for a report of a domestic assault Big Rapids Township, Mecosta County, for a domestic issue. Deputies arrived and spoke with the 34-year-old female complainant/victim. Her 34-year-old husband was not present and deputies were unable to speak to him. Investigation into the matter continues.

On 12-29-2025 at 0621 hours, a deputy was dispatched about a larceny from auto complaint that had occurred at an address on 14 Mile Rd near Northland Dr. The complainant/Victim reported that she had several items taken from her vehicle, which was last seen the day before (12-28-2025) at 1400 hours. She advised that when she was on her way to work this morning, prior to 0600 hours, she noticed that all the items in the back seat of her vehicle had gone missing. Currently, there are no leads to further this investigation.

On 12-30-2025 at 1338 hours a deputy was dispatched to the front lobby of the Mecosta County Sheriff's Office reference a walk-in larceny from a vehicle that had occurred a an address on 14 Mile Rd near Northland Dr. Upon meeting with

the complainant/victim, she advised that her vehicle had been broken into in the evening to morning hours of 12-28-2025/12-29-2025. There are no suspects at this time.

Big Rapids Charter Township

Cemetery and Grounds Monthly Report

January 2026

Activity:

- 1- Grounds at the cemetery.
- 2- Grounds at parks/township/FD.
- 3- Building and Equipment Maintenance
- 4- Full Burials Cremains
- 5- Foundation completed

Month summary:

Cemetery:

- Regular grounds maintenance (Plowing)

Township:

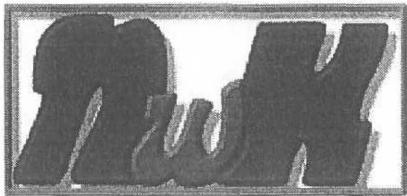
- Regular grounds maintenance (Plowing and Salting)
- Took the truck in to have the salt spreader repaired.

Industrial Park:

- Regular grounds maintenance (Plowing)

Stephen Mckay

Grounds and Maintenance Manager



Northwest Kent Mechanical Co.

Commercial • Industrial • Institutional
P.O. Box 216K • 4095 16 Mile Road
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 696-9026 • Fax (616) 696-9327
www.nwkentmech.com

January 30, 2026

Mr. Bruce Borkovich
Big Rapids Township
14212 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307

RE: Monthly Lift Station Report

Dear Bruce:

Well, we made through a rather cold month with just a couple of hiccups. We had a heater issue at North State Street Station, a pump seal leak failure at Venlo Lift Station, and several Miss Diggs. The heating alarm was a tripped GFI, not sure why, heater checked out fine, reset and been fine since. Venlo had been reporting only (1) pump operating and upon investigation we found a failed Pump Seal, pump has been pulled and sent to motor shop for repair estimate, will keep you posted on that.

All in all, the stations are in good general condition, everything is operating as designed with the exception of previously stated. We are concerned about the snow removal in that it gets done in a timely manner and that we have ample space to be able to turn around to get back out. This needs to be a priority so that in the event we have an emergency we can get to it.

Monthly Gallon numbers are: Industrial Park = 7175.73

Gilbert St = 1423548

Perry St = 14364.84

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, and Thank You for the opportunity to serve both the township and the community in the capacity.

Sincerely,

Mark Ducat
Northwest Kent Mechanical Co.
616-885-6050

Big Rapids Township Industrial Park Water Plant Monthly Report

DECEMBER 2025

All operations are normal at the plant. Well number 2 has been working great and producing plenty of water for the distribution system, the chlorine residual has been maintaining between 0.5 and 0.6 mg/L or parts per million.

I got emailed back from our Sanitarian Noland Ensing regarding the wells for the cemetery and High banks park. Neither of those two wells are designated as Type II, but they are designated as Type III. So before opening either location up to the public we will be required to take two bacteriological samples from each well before opening either bathroom to the public every year. This will just require some communication so that I can take samples the week before the expected opening date. The diesel fuel is slightly below 2/3 full for the generator, and the distribution pumps and motors are all working well.

Monthly Permit List

01/28/2026

Building

Permit #	Contractor	Job Address	Fee Total	Const. Value
PB26-0001	WAL-MART PROPERTY TAX D	21400 PERRY AVE	\$710.00	\$0
Work Description:				
PB26-0004	WALLS, JAMES R. ET UX	13500 215TH AVE	\$206.00	\$0
Work Description:				
PB26-0009	SCHUELKE BRETT & BRANDY	19235 FOX GLOVE CIRCLE	\$230.00	\$0
Work Description:				

Total Permits For Type: 3

Total Fees For Type: \$1,146.00

Total Const. Value For Type: \$0

Plumbing

Permit #	Contractor	Job Address	Fee Total	Const. Value
PP26-0001	GREEN DEVELOPMENT VENT	16487 BIRCH TOP RIDGE	\$155.00	\$0
Work Description: Water hook up, Sewer hook up				
PP26-0002	GREEN DEVOPMENT VENTUR	16281 MITCHELL CREEK TRL	\$155.00	\$0
Work Description: Water Hook up, Sewer Hook up				
PP26-0003	SCHUELKE BRETT & BRANDY	19235 FOX GLOVE CIRCLE	\$140.00	\$0
Work Description: 1 Sewage Ejector Sump, ! Final Inspection.				

Total Permits For Type: 3

Total Fees For Type: \$450.00

Total Const. Value For Type: \$0

TAP IN FEE

Permit #	Contractor	Job Address	Fee Total	Const. Value
PT26-0001	GREEN DEVELOPMENT VENT	16487 BIRCH TOP RIDGE	\$2,500.00	\$0
Work Description:				
PT26-0002	GREEN DEVOPMENT VENTUR	16281 MITCHELL CREEK TRL	\$2,500.00	\$0
Work Description:				

Total Permits For Type: 2

Total Fees For Type: \$5,000.00

Total Const. Value For Type: \$0

Zoning Clearance

Permit #	Contractor	Job Address	Fee Total	Const. Value
PZ26-0003	THEDE KYLE & JEANA	18395 TAFT ROAD	\$25.00	\$0
Work Description: New Single family residence.				
PZ26-0004	ZUNIGA JULIE	20535 EDGEWOOD DRIVE	\$25.00	\$105,055
Work Description: New Construction single family 3 bedroom dwelling with garage and finished basement.				
PZ26-0005	GREEN DEVELOPMENT VENT	16487 BIRCH TOP RIDGE	\$25.00	\$147,450
Work Description: New construction Single family dwelling				
PZ26-0006	GREEN DEVOPMENT VENTUR	16281 MITCHELL CREEK TRL	\$25.00	\$135,885
Work Description: New construction single family dwelling				
PZ26-0007	FEWLESS ANDREW BRUCE	12796 NORTHLAND DR	\$25.00	\$24,000
Work Description: New construction 30' x 40' metal garage.				
PZ26-0008	COMPTON JOSEPH C & SUZET	21830 WOODWARD AVE	\$25.00	\$343,224
Work Description: Construction of new 3,600 sq.ft. barndominium single family dwelling.				

Total Permits For Type: 6

Total Fees For Type: \$150.00

Total Const. Value For Type: \$755,614

Report Summary

Population: All Records

Permit.DateIssued Between
1/1/2026 12:00:00 AM AND
1/31/2026 11:59:59 PM

Grand Total Fees: \$6,746.00

Grand Total Permits: 14

Grand Total Const. Value: \$755,614



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program
Mecosta Conservation District
18260 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 349-9805
brook.baumann@macd.org
www.mecostacd.org



January 29, 2026

Dear Big Rapids Charter Township Board,

On behalf of the Mecosta Conservation District and the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Committee, I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous financial support of the 2025 HHW Collection Day. Thanks to your partnership, the event was a resounding success, allowing for the safe disposal of 43,276 pounds of hazardous materials from 476 households. This program continues to make a meaningful impact in our community and would not be possible without the support of our township partners. I am especially grateful that every single township contributed to the success of this program. This is an extraordinary show of collaboration that truly made this effort possible at the local level.

The cost of operating the HHW program often comes as a surprise. In 2025, the direct disposal cost alone totaled \$54,232.93. This amount reflects only the fees paid to certified disposal companies for properly handling toxic materials and does not include additional expenses such as advertising, supplies, equipment, or staff time. Your contribution, along with support from other townships and community partners, helped offset these significant costs and ensured that this essential service remained accessible to local residents.

In addition to the HHW Collection, we were thrilled with the success of our annual Tire Recycling Event. While the funding request included in this packet pertains solely to the HHW Collection, we would like to share that we are not requesting township support for the tire recycling program at this time, as it is currently funded through grants. We do, however, appreciate your assistance in helping spread the word. Last year's collection resulted in the recycling of 54,020 pounds of tires, approximately 2,401 standard passenger tires, from 151 households. The strong participation in both collections clearly demonstrates the community's ongoing demand for these programs.

2026 Collection Dates: Flyers for these events are included in this packet and are also available at www.mecostacd.org

- Household Hazardous Waste: August 6th, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds
- Tire Recycling Collection: August 13, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds

These collections play a critical role in providing residents with a safe, responsible option for disposing of hazardous materials. We work exclusively with certified disposal companies that adhere to the highest standards of recycling and waste management, ensuring these materials do not contaminate our soil, water, or landfills. Improper disposal can lead to serious environmental consequences. Proper disposal is essential to protecting our natural resources and the health of current and future generations.

Enclosed with this letter is an allocation request packet containing relevant information to assist your board in determining your level of support for the 2026 HHW Collection. Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued commitment to environmental protection and for supporting this vital community program. We are truly proud to partner with you and appreciate the role your township plays in making these efforts possible.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this important cause.

Sincerely,

Brook Baumann
On behalf of the Household Hazardous Waste Committee



2026 Household Hazardous Waste Program

Mecosta, Osceola & Lake Counties

18260 Northland Drive

Big Rapids, MI 49307

(231) 349-9805

brook.baumann@macd.org

www.mecostacd.org



Big Rapids Charter Township

Past level of support:

2025 - \$4,000

Number of Households that participated from your township: 37

Average cost per household: \$114 (based on 2025 collection data, rounded to nearest dollar)

Cost we anticipate your township spending: \$4,218

Amount requested: \$4,200

If it is possible to contribute more than the requested amount, we would greatly appreciate any additional support. Every \$1.35 helps safely dispose of one pound of hazardous material, directly protecting local residents, waterways, and the environment.

Enclosed, you will find additional information regarding this program. A contract agreement is also included; please complete and return it with a check to the following address:

Mecosta Conservation District

18260 Northland Drive

Big Rapids, MI 49307

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at (231) 349-9805 or brook.baumann@macd.org. If requested, I would also be happy to attend and present at an upcoming township meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

AND

MECOSTA AND OSCEOLA-LAKE CONSERVATION

DISTRICTS

Big Rapids Charter Township and the Mecosta and Osceola-Lake Conservation Districts desire to act cooperatively to provide the proper disposal of household hazardous waste for residents of Big Rapids Charter Township and Mecosta County. Therefore, Big Rapids Charter Township contracts with Mecosta and Osceola-Lake Conservation Districts for collection and disposal of household hazardous waste in the amount of \$_____. This service agreement will promote the public health, safety, and welfare of Township and County residents.

Date: _____ by: _____
Big Rapids Charter Township Representative

Date: 1-29-26 by: Brook Baumann
Mecosta Conservation District Representative

Date: 1-29-26 by: Mark Swappenhiser
Osceola-Lake Conservation District
Representative



CERTIFIED BUSINESS PARKS

The Certified Business Park (CBP) program is a revamp of the Certified Industrial Park (CIP) program as defined in the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Act, PA 282 of 1986, amended by PA 248 of 2000. The Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) administer the program. They have adopted a set of standards for qualified developments.

Any municipality/owner/developer can prepare a park based on the CBP standards. There is no minimum acreage requirement. For purposes of certification, conforming zoning uses would include all activities typical for a business/industrial park setting with the exception of residential and retail. The local zoning ordinance or protective covenants will define those uses allowed. However, eligible property as defined for tax increment financing within an LDFA (see Section 2(p) of PA 248 of 2000) may differ.

Industrial park developers and communities use this identification as a marketing tool. MEDA builds and maintains web pages for each individual park in the program based on the information that the parks provide. Prospective clients can take occupancy without delay. Eligible developments must have a set of protective covenants in place that address:

- Compatible zoning uses allowed (as noted above)
- Types of building materials
- Landscaping
- Improved parking
- Screened outdoor storage
- Location of loading docks
- Continuous management of park by municipality, major property owners within park or developer of park
- Setback specifications
- Signage requirements

This is a voluntary program and currently includes 62 parks throughout the state.

Any development that meets the above qualifications is eligible for certification. All parks certified are reviewed every three years by a certified review team to ensure that the guidelines and requirements are being maintained.

For applications, please contact MEDA:

PO Box 15096
Lansing, Michigan 48901-5096
cjorae@medaweb.org
517.241.0011
www.medaweb.org/certifiedbusiness-parks

The new certification application fee is \$425 (\$275 annual fee + \$150 one-time processing fee). The recertification process requires a \$275 annual fee along with completing a recertification application and inspection every three years.

For more information, contact the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) customer contact center at 888.522.0103.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Available Grants

Recreation Grants

Boating Infrastructure Grants

To support construction of public transient boating facilities in the state that meet certain program goals.

Approximately \$9-14 million available nationwide annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Clean Vessel Act - Boat Pump-Out Grants

To support new or upgraded pump-out stations and waste reception facilities to safely dispose of recreational boater sewage. Approximately \$200,000 available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

To provide matching grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas. Approximately \$5 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

To support acquisition and development of land for natural resource conservation and public outdoor recreation projects. Approximately \$23 million available each fiscal year. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-284-7268.

Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Program

To provide funding for maintenance of ORV trails and facilities as part of the designated statewide trail system.

Approximately \$5.5 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

To provide grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas.

Approximately \$100 million available nationwide annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division,

517-242-8737. → Park? Finish playground?

Recreation Passport Grant Program

To provide funding to local units of government for development and renovation of public outdoor and indoor recreation facilities. Approximately \$2 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program

To maintain snowmobile trails as part of the designated statewide trail system. Approximately \$8.1 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

→ Rails to Trails?

Waterways Program Grants

To provide assistance for design and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities. Approximately \$3 million available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.

→ Highbanks ADA kayak launch?

Michigan.gov/DNRGrants



Aquatic and Wildlife Grants

Fisheries Habitat Grant Program

To support a variety of activities to benefit fisheries, aquatic resources and the public, including fish habitat conservation, dam removal and repair, and access to recreation. Approximately \$1.825 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program

To address strategic issues of prevention, detection, eradication and control for both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in Michigan. \$3.6 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-284-7268.

Deer Plan – Northern Lower Peninsula Deer Private Land Assistance Network Grant Program

To produce tangible deer habitat improvements; foster productive relationships between the DNR, hunting organizations and private landowners; and increase opportunities for deer harvest in the northern Lower Peninsula. Approximately \$50,000 available annually. Contact: Deer Program, 231-340-1821.

Upper Peninsula Deer Habitat Improvement Program

To foster productive relationships between the DNR, hunting organizations, concerned citizens and other partners that improve deer habitat and educate the public. Approximately \$100,000 available annually. Contact: Wildlife Division, 906-250-6781.

Wildlife Habitat Grant Program

To enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat. Approximately \$1 million available annually. Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-281-1705.

Forestry Grants

DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants

To increase the number of properly planted, established and maintained trees within the service territory of DTE Energy. Approximately \$100,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-582-3209.

Community Forestry Grants

To provide funds for projects that address the urban forestry needs of municipal governments, schools, nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups throughout Michigan. Approximately \$300,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-582-3209.

Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant

To assist fire departments in acquiring firefighting equipment for local communities. Approximately \$250,000 available annually. Contact: Forest Resources Division, 517-930-4294.

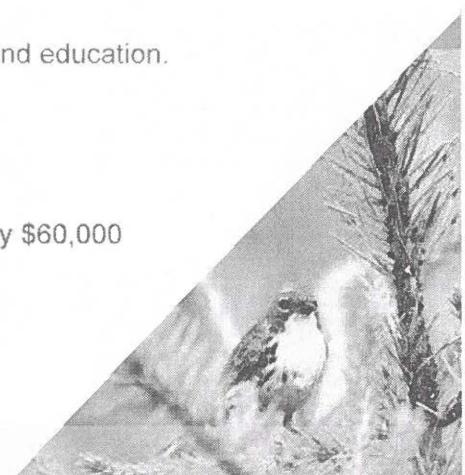
Law Enforcement and Safety Grants

Marine Safety Grants

To promote safety in the use of recreational watercraft through law enforcement and education. Approximately \$2 million available annually (\$900,000 federal, \$1.4 million state). Contact: Finance and Operations Division, 517-242-8737.

Off-Road Vehicle Safety Education Grants

To promote safety in the use of off-road vehicles through education. Approximately \$60,000 available annually. Contact: Parks and Recreation Division, 517-284-7275.



DATA CENTERS

BRUCE BORKOVICH, BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

I have hopefully created a 'digestible' primer on data centers (DCs), intended for elected officials, municipal administrators, land use/conservation groups, or others who want to be more informed about the interest and need in the construction and operation of DCs. I am in no way an expert on data centers, nor am I a physicist or any kind of engineer. I am an average citizen in a position of leadership in a township with the responsibility to protect the people and environment in our community and facilitate appropriate business development. I hope to describe the nature and operation of DCs, the reason why the need for DCs is increasing, and potential impacts on both people and the environment in communities, especially communities in rural Michigan.

WHAT IS A DATA CENTER?

A data center (DC) is basically a giant warehouse full of computers, that runs 24-7. They may also be referred to as a HPC (high performance computing). These differ from office computers, as they are powerful servers stacked tightly in rows, processing and storing massive amounts of information. Every time you stream Netflix, use Google, store photos in the Cloud, send emails, use social media, or ask ChatGPT a question, the data is processed and stored in a data center somewhere. They never shut down, and as a result, they generate substantial heat which requires considerable amounts of water for cooling, and they have a constant demand for electricity.

DO THEY REALLY USE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ELECTRICITY?

According to the U.S Department of Energy in 2023, DCs consumed 4.4 % of all electricity generated in the U.S.! I suspect that number has increased significantly by the end of 2025.

The energy and water draw is directly related to the size of the facility. A small to medium facility would be considered 50,000 to 100,000 square feet. Small to medium facilities would use from 5-20 megawatts of power (a megawatt is equal to 1,000,000 watts, or 1,000 kilowatts).

The large DC's are 500,000 square feet and over, some requiring over 900 acres. They use from 100-1,000 megawatts of power, which is equivalent to a medium to large city- for perspective, the average home in the U.S. uses about 30 kilowatt hours per day (1,000 watts), while a large DC can use as much power as 80,000 to 100,000 homes.

Currently, Michigan utilities DTE and Consumers Energy are making deals to produce almost 14 gigawatts to meet the increasing demand for the operation of DCs. I had to look this up, but a gigawatt is 1,000,000,000 (one billion) watts. This is the equivalent to adding six or seven major cities to the grid in just 2-3 years.

This becomes even more interesting when you consider that Michigan legally mandated clean energy commitments are 100 % clean energy by 2040; this seems to indicate a colossal collision is looming- the

irresistible force of demand for DCs and the subsequent plan to drastically increase current-technology (fossil fuel) energy production vs the immovable force of the government and law. According to the Energy and AI, IEA (International Energy Agency) report in 2025, the current demand for energy for DCs will double by 2040.

WILL MY ELECTRIC BILL GO UP AS THESE DATA CENTERS ARE BUILT?

In Michigan, PA 181 of 2024 was passed, offering DCs sales and use tax exemptions worth millions. In exchange, the new law prohibits DCs from receiving a rate that causes residential customers to subsidize infrastructure and costs required to service the facility. This sounds like a good law, but as with anything, what protections will exist regarding future developments in the industry? For instance, the billions of dollars that are being invested in new DC developments could become 'stranded assets' if DCs don't materialize as predicted, or if they downsize or are obsolete due to new technology, or if the public outcry that we are observing prohibits or greatly restricts the development of new and larger DCs. The Michigan MPSC administrates and applies this law, and the reputation of the MPSC in Michigan seems dubious to many.

As mentioned, DCs require 24/7 reliable power. According to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, U.S. electricity demand is estimated to increase by 50% by 2050, based in great part on the development of DCs. Michigan law includes a 'safety valve' that would keep fossil fuel electricity operational if renewable energy cannot fulfill this increased demand, in spite of the 2040 clean energy mandate.

IS IT TRUE THAT THEY NEED A GREAT VOLUME OF WATER?

Computers, especially high-capacity servers stacked tightly indoors, generate tremendous heat when they are operational, which is 24-7 in a DC. The water demand for cooling ranges from hundreds of thousands of gallons per day to millions of gallons per day. A mid-sized DC (100,000 square feet and up) needs approximately 300,000 gallons of water per day, which is the equivalent to the water used by 1,000 homes. A hyperscale or mega-DC needs from 1-5 million gallons per day, which is equivalent to the needs of a small city.

The water used for cooling evaporates in the cooling process, and obviously is not returned to the watershed in the area. It appears that technology to create 'closed loop' systems (systems that recover water vapor and reduce or eliminate the demand for removing water from the ground), dry-air cooling (which conserves water but demands more energy) and hybrid systems are being developed, and may actually be available, but I have no idea if they are cost prohibitive, or being considered by the operators of DCs.

It seems reasonable that in rural communities, the removal of the water necessary for cooling a DC could result in lower water tables, depleted wells, competition for municipal water supplies, and reduced stream flows that would affect local ecosystems and watersheds.

DO DATA CENTERS PRODUCE NOISE?

Yes, they produce substantial noise, due to the high number of servers, the use of cooling fans, high-capacity HVAC systems, back-up generators, etc. Hundreds of high-capacity fans are needed to cool densely packed servers which can create up to 90 decibels of noise (similar to a lawnmower or jackhammer).

Depending on the size of the DC, the noise escaping the DC can be from 50-90 decibels, or higher. Typical “quiet neighborhood” standards limit noise to a maximum of 40-50 decibels. Based upon locations and individual township, city, or county standards, an average seems to be 50-65 decibels during the day, and 45-55 at night.

I am uncertain if technology is being developed to use quieter equipment, or the ability to sound-proof the building.

WILL DATA CENTERS PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES? WILL THEY PROVIDE TAX REVENUE?

Promises have been and will be made about the employment opportunities that DCs will provide. But according to one report (not substantiated by me), the Switch DC near Grand Rapids originally pledged 1,000 jobs at the operation. By 2022, that DC provided just 26 jobs, yet continues to receive \$1,000,000 annually in tax breaks.

Excluding temporary jobs during the construction of a DC, the number of permanent, direct jobs is relatively small compared to the substantial capital investment.

COULD DATA CENTERS BE A TARGET FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS?

It's hard to say. As a former law enforcement official, it seems logical that attacking data centers would certainly disrupt what many of us consider our way of life, which depends on the availability of functioning data centers. If terrorists attacked strategic data centers, could we all get by without so much of the technology that we are accustomed, or addicted to?

CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES?

Contrary to what many people think, a local government, for example, a township, cannot arbitrarily deny a company from purchasing property and building a business. This is a question for the local unit of government to be answered by legal counsel. If a local government cannot prohibit DCs, zoning efforts may need to consider restricting and controlling DCs, rather than trying to simply ‘outlaw’ them. For example:

- Require that DC developers specifically state the electrical and cooling demands (water), and anticipated noise levels of the proposed project
- Require an environmental impact study to be completed, considered, and approved by the board
- Require the developer to provide information regarding fire and explosion risks, or other potential safety concerns, to determine if existing emergency response capabilities can adequately respond to and mitigate an emergency

- Require that DC developers produce their own, clean energy (as established by the Michigan mandate for 2040)
- Require that DC developers use a “closed loop” water recovery system, or other system that does not threaten the local water supply whether from existing ground water or municipal water systems
- Require “noise deadening” technology to be installed in the operation that will comply with established or acceptable noise standards for the community; and that the noise emitted will not be unreasonable, unnatural, or unusual
- Require that DC developers post significant bonds to be recovered by local residents and/or governments in the event of unforeseen negative environmental impacts, including but not limited to ground water or municipal water supply issues
- Require that the DC developer pay for an assessment of nearby residential water delivery systems, including but not limited to the volume of water supplied to the residence prior to construction, and a contaminant baseline test prior to construction

This list of restrictions should not be considered exhaustive. Based upon each location of a proposed DC site, and upon local ordinances, and perhaps most importantly, the interest of your community members, restrictions can be added or deleted.

I am hopeful that this summary is helpful as you consider the future of data centers in your own communities. I encourage you to act now- do not wait until property is purchased, and plans are submitted for consideration. Good luck!

**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

DATA CENTER TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ORDINANCE

At a meeting of the Township Board of Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta County, Michigan, held at _____, Big Rapids Charter Township, Michigan 49307 on the _____ day of _____, 2026, at ___:00 p.m., the following moratorium was offered by Township Board Member _____ and supported by Township Board Member _____.

An ordinance enacting a temporary moratorium for a period of one year, subject to an extension by resolution, on the permitting, consideration, approval, location, construction, review, and/or installation of any Data Center facilities.

WHEREAS, due to concerns from the public and Township officials about appropriate regulations to regulate Data Centers, among other issues, associated with Data Centers; and

WHEREAS, Data Center means a facility used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data, which houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances and other associated components related to digital data operations. The facility may also include air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities, utility substations, and other associated utility infrastructure to support sustained operations at the Data Center; and

WHEREAS, the typical physical characteristics of Data Centers include, but are not limited to the following: (1) power systems; (2) cooling systems (3) battery energy storage energy systems (4) use of equipment to cool the hardware and operating space; and/or (5) power generators; and

WHEREAS, the Township has a legitimate purpose in addressing the proper design, size, location, and operation of a Data Center in the Township; and

WHEREAS, the amount of water and energy consumed by, and noise produced by, Data Centers raises concerns that necessary regulations may be required to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Township is reasonably concerned future Data Centers, without proper regulations, would be established in inappropriate or inadvisable locations within the Township; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to forestall such issues for the Township and to enact a temporary moratorium on such Data Centers for one year or until any necessary regulations can be enacted; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has upheld imposing moratoriums as tool to temporarily pause the consideration of potential development to study appropriate regulations and ordinances. *Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council v Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*, 535 US 302, 341; 122 S Ct 1465; 152 L Ed 2d 517, 552 (2002). Temporary moratoriums of a year or less in length are generally presumed to be valid; and

WHEREAS, Michigan courts have upheld the enactment of moratoriums to study and adopt new regulations. See *Central Advertising Co v St Joseph Twp*, 125 Mich App 548, 554; 337 NW2d 15 (1983). This includes Michigan courts upholding the enactment of moratoriums even by resolution and have held that the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act does not require moratoriums to be enacted by zoning ordinance amendment due to their temporary nature and governance over ministerial functions. *Metamora Twp v Am Aggregates of Mich, Inc*, ___NW2d___; 2021 Mich. App. LEXIS 2090, at *45 (Ct App, Apr. 1, 2021); and

WHEREAS, the Township determines that the adoption of this moratorium, which is necessary to preserve the public peace, health, and safety, by preventing the inappropriate location and establishment of Data Centers in the Township during the time needed to study and review, due to conditions within the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, Big Rapids Charter Township, Mecosta County, Michigan, Ordains:

Section 1. Title: This Moratorium shall be known and cited as the Big Rapids Charter Township Data Center Moratorium Ordinance.

Section 2. Definition: Data Center means a facility used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data, which houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances and other associated components related to digital data operations. The facility may also include air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities, utility substations, and other associated utility infrastructure to support sustained operations at the Data Center.

Section 3. Moratorium: The Township enacts a temporary moratorium on the permitting, consideration, approval, location, erection, construction, review, and/or installation of all Data Centers in the Township for one year, subject to six month or less extensions by resolution, or the Township's implementation of regulations governing Data Centers. For the purposes of this moratorium, Data Center encompasses all like operations, whether referenced in the Big Rapids Charter Township Zoning Ordinance.

Section 4. Severability: The provisions of this moratorium are hereby declared to be severable and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction it shall not affect the remainder of the moratorium which shall continue in full force and effect. In addition to being considered an ordinance upon publication, the above-mentioned provisions shall also be deemed to be passed as a resolution of the Township Board governing an issue on a temporary timeline and regulating the internal affairs of the Township (e.g., when the Township will accept applications for the Data Center land use and when it will schedule the review of such applications versus adoption of new regulations and standards that would bind third parties).

Section 5. Repeal: All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with this Moratorium are hereby repealed.

Section 6: Waiver: In the event that the Township Board decides by resolution to extend this moratorium for an additional period over 12 months, and a landowner will suffer immediate and irreparable harm for the duration of the extension by resolution, or such an extension otherwise violates applicable provisions of the state or federal constitution or other applicable law, a landowner may apply in writing for a waiver of the extended moratorium from the Township Board. At a public hearing held on such an application, the landowner must bear the burden of demonstrating immediate and irreparable harm because of the extended moratorium. The Township Board, upon a sufficient showing, may grant a waiver of the extended moratorium to the degree necessary to avoid the demonstrated immediate and irreparable harm.

Section 7. Effective Date: The moratorium shall take effect as an ordinance immediately upon passage by the Township Board upon roll call vote and publication.

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT/ABSTAIN:

MORATORIUM ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

Bruce Borkovich, Big Rapids Charter Township Supervisor

CERTIFICATION

Check Date	Bank	Check Number	Name	Check Gross	Physical Check Amount
01/30/2026	GEN	DD862	BECHAZ, JOSEPH	291.67	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD863	BORKOVICH, BRUCE W	4,386.30	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD864	CASSIDY, CINDY L	360.75	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD865	CLARKE, ADDISON R	95.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD866	CLARKE, AIDEN A	361.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD867	CURRIE, PATRICK B	17.50	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD868	DANIELS, LAURIE A	665.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD869	ELDER, CHRISTOPHER A	3,149.53	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD870	EVERETT, JERALD D	291.67	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD871	IAFRATE, DEBRA J	731.50	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD872	KANOUSE, CHAD E	525.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD873	LUTHER, MELANIE S	1,391.75	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD874	MAREK, BRYAN D	327.75	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD875	MAREK, DENA R	4,364.66	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD876	MASON, BRENT	1,916.67	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD877	MCKAY, STEPHEN W	2,544.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD878	MOSS, MARK E	1,305.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD879	SAEZ, HANNAH C	4,364.66	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD880	SMITH, STEVEN L	225.00	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD881	TECENO, CHRISTOPHER S	291.67	0.00
01/30/2026	GEN	DD882	WELCH, RONALD J	291.67	0.00

Totals:

Number of Checks: 021

27,897.75

0.00

Total Physical Checks:

Total Check Stubs:

21

CHECK REGISTER FOR BIG RAPIDS TOWNSHIP
CHECK DATE FROM 01/07/2026 - 02/03/2026

DB: Big Rapids Twp

Check	Date	Bank	Check	Vend
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Bank GEN GENERAL TOWNSHIP CHECKING

Description

Amount

01/15/2026	9930737(E)	CON00	HIGHBANKS PARK	901.12
01/16/2026	9930738 (E)	SBS00	ANNUAL AND MONTHLY HRA FEE	277.50
01/16/2026	35265	CHAO1	FIRE DPT, CEM, TWP OFFICES	679.65
01/16/2026	35266	WIL02	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LEGAL OPINION, PRIVA	2,296.00
01/16/2026	35267	GRANGER	BRT HALL, OFFICE, FIRE DEPT	219.49
01/16/2026	35268	SHELDON	HALL, TWICE, OFFICE CLEANING,	225.00
01/16/2026	35269	LANG	CSD-1 INSPECTION	680.00
01/16/2026	35270	TERMINIX	FIRE HALL MONTHLY PEST MAINT	110.32
01/16/2026	35271	XEROX	MONTHLY CONTRACT PAYMENT	510.82
01/28/2026	9930743 (E)	CON00	XEROX FINANCIAL SERVICES	4,710.11
01/28/2026	9930744 (E)	CON00	CONSUMERS ENERGY	0.00
01/28/2026	9930745 (E)	DTE00	VOID	V
01/28/2026	9930746 (E)	DTE00	DTE ENERGY	1,598.60
01/30/2026	9930747 (E)	PRIORITY H	VOID	V
01/30/2026	9930739 (E)	CHE00	PRIORITY HEALTH	8,265.36
01/30/2026	9930740 (E)	JHI00	HUNTINGTON BANK	5,185.66
01/30/2026	9930741 (E)	STA00	JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	2,677.75
01/30/2026	9930742 (E)	VOYA	STATE OF MICHIGAN	1,032.91
02/01/2026	9930748 (E)	DELTA	VOYA FINANCIAL	688.94
02/03/2026	35273	ACC00	DETA DENTAL	480.75
02/03/2026	35274	APPLIEDDINO	ACCIDENT FUND COMPANY	526.10
02/03/2026	35275	FAR01	APPLIED INNOVATION	260.69
02/03/2026	35276	BS&00	BIG RAPIDS FARM & GARDEN	494.20
02/03/2026	35277	COOKSTREE	BS&A SOFTWARE	3,101.00
02/03/2026	35278	FIR00	COOK'S TREE SERVICE LLC	1,200.00
02/03/2026	35279	VOID	FIRST NATIONAL BANK	2,317.26
02/03/2026	35280	SHELDON	HALL/OFFICE CLEAN 1/22	0.00
02/03/2026	35281	LAKE MICH	ASSESSING, PAYROLL, TAX	3,101.00
02/03/2026	35282	BUR01	REMOVE TREE READY TO FALL ON FENCE IN C	1,200.00
02/03/2026	35283	TERMINIX	2026 MTA CONFERENCE SUP	110.32
02/03/2026	35284	VC3	HALL/OFFICE CLEAN 1/22	298.10
33				

GEN TOTALS:

Total of 31 Checks; Less 3 Void Checks:

Total of 28 Disbursements

39,582.65
0.00

39,582.65

33