

MINUTES

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, FILLMORE TOWNSHIP, HEATH TOWNSHIP & MANLIUS TOWNSHIP

HAMILTON REFORMED CHURCH

3554 Lincoln Av, Hamilton MI

OCTOBER 28TH, 2025 7:00pm

1. Attorney Jeff Sluggett called the meeting to order & then each Township Supervisor called their township boards to order w/ a rollcall, all present & no absentees. Each Township introduced their attorney. Attorney Sluggett laid out how the meeting would proceed.
2. Approval of August 26th, 2025 Hamilton Fire Board minutes: Motion by Mark Geurink, seconded by Matthew Rooks, vote 6-0, motion passes.
3. Approve agenda by each body: Hamilton Fire Board all aye's 0 nay's, Fillmore Twp all aye's 0 nay's, Heath Twp all aye's 0 nay's, Manlius Twp all aye's 0 nay's. Agenda passes by all 4 bodies.
4. Each body is asked to adopt a motion to designate HFD to preside at the meeting. Have Barbara VanGelderen chair on behalf of HFD; Matthew Rooks act as recording secretary to take minutes for the joint meeting; & take all other actions required by law under Open Meetings Act.
 - a. Billy Harvey brought up why changes to the HFD chair & secretary.
 - b. Explained by Attorney Sluggett that this is a special meeting & only applied tonight but to change the chair/secretary since Heath Twp questions ownership.
 - c. Motion made by Chuck Schaup & seconded by Mark Geurink of HFD, no opposition. Fillmore Twp: motion made by Elaine Mokma & seconded by Leah Folkert, no opposition. Manlius Twp: motion made by Tom Nolan & seconded by Tammy Postma, no opposition. Heath Twp: motion made by Billy Harvey & seconded by Hilda Boerman, no opposition.
5. Presentation by HFD legal counsel Andy Gordon on the history & the Inter-local Agreements. VanGelderen asked if the Fire Board has any questions.

6. Public Comments: Attorney Sluggett advised the public would be allowed to ask questions, the Fire Board would write them down & answer then after public comments.

Many people asked questions & expressed opinions that this situation needs to be resolved. The public also expresses they were in favor of continuing w/ the HFD & the Inter-local agreement but wanted more historical documentation to be presented to them.

7. Questions/comments were answered & commented on by legal counsel, the HFD & each municipality.

- a. HFD, Fillmore Twp, Manlius Twp boards & legal counsel all advised they want to continue w/ the Inter-local & their opinion is the HFD is jointly owned by the entities.

- b. Heath Twp legal counsel Attorney Homier advised he thinks this is up for interpretation & not a clear-cut situation. He suggests if the Inter-local is to continue it needs to be redrafted & cleaned up.

Heath Twp Board was asked & they all expressed they did not want to dissolve the Inter-local agreement. B Harvey expresses wanting to investigate contracting w/ area townships.

8. Action Items: It was agreed investigation would continue into gathering documentation on ownership of HFD & this documentation would be forwarded to the HFD Attorney Sluggett's office.

9. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

- a. HFD: motioned by M Harvey, seconded by Geurink, motion carried.

- b. Fillmore Twp: motioned by Schaup, seconded by Folkert, motion carried.

- c. Heath Twp: motioned by Boerman, seconded by Lindholm, motion carried.

- d. Manlius Twp: motioned by Nolan, seconded by Postma, motion carried.

- e. Meeting adjourned at 9:27PM.