

Merrill Township Special Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

June 5, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

1. **Call to order** at 7:18 pm. Bonnie gave Prayer. (Pledge of Allegiance)
2. **Roll call**, Bonnie St. Amour - Present, Dave Miedema - Present, Harold Yancy, Present, Tabatha Glezman – Present. Pete Morgan-Present.
3. **Approval of Special meeting agenda.** Pete makes motion to add deputy supervisor to the agenda with board approval to add to the agenda Dave seconded. Harold, yes, Bonnie, no, Dave, yes, Pete, yes, Tabatha, yes. Motion passed.
4. Pete stated he is hiring Randy Fulton as his deputy supervisor.
5. **Resolution No. 06-05-25** Tabatha made to approve, Bonnie seconded, roll call vote, Bonnie -yes, Harold-yes, Dave- asked to open floor for discussion among board members. Dave made a statement saying he joined the board to help this community and he and his wife have helped many people in the community, but is very disappointed in seeing people tell lies about him and he is hurt to see people act that way. Tabatha made the motion to approve the resolution no. 06-05-2025 Bonnie seconded. Roll call vote Bonnie, yes, Harold, yes, Dave, yes, Pete, No Tabatha, yes, Motion Passed
6. Tabatha made a motion to move to go to closed/executive session of the Merrill Township Board to discuss a privileged and confidential legal opinion/memorandum from attorney. Bonnie seconded. Roll call vote Bonnie, yes, Dave, yes, Harold, yes Tabatha, yes Pete no and he recused him self from participation of closed session. Went into closed session at 7:27 pm. Close session ended at 7:46 pm.
7. Motion made by Tabatha to reopen the open session of the meeting at 7:51pm. Roll call vote Dave, yes, Bonnie, yes Harold, yes Pete, yes, Tabatha Yes. Motion passed.

Based the discussion in closed session Tabatha makes a motion to hire Mary Jane Rhodes environmental attorney with Dave being the authorized contact person. Bonnie seconded. Roll Call vote; Harold, yes, Pete, yes, Bonnie, yes, Dave, yes, Tabatha, yes. Motion passed.

Public comment

Mark Stockwell would like to thank everyone for what we do. We all have a right to face our accusers, Pete has an option on whether being in public or not.

Jason Misner this community voted for Pete, they did not vote to take his authority away We the people are moving towards what you did to Pete, we will do to you.

Alan Parsons, very curious about the lawyer and who pays the lawyer, asked who hired them. Asked who takes supervision from, the lawyer stated they take direction from the Merrill Township Board.

Cathy Fulton asked if rules have changed who runs meeting.

Randy Fulton asked how many times was Pete contacted.

Debra Fisher stated the board is a whole and they all have equal voting. Each member has one vote, no member runs the township.

Randy Fulton spoke out of order and asked what meeting was held to go after Pete.

Mike Seaman, asked what did Pete do wrong, clerk stated we provided you with the information we can provide right now.

Leslie Anderson- Thanked all the people who showed up for Pete. Discussed several different issues, concerned about it being a American Disabilities Act Violation issue. She stated we are jeopardizing the grant that Pete has been part of. Stated we can recall you too.

Ford Redding brought Pete won by 6 votes in the primary. Discussed oil at the transfer station. The board is all doing a thankless job, he has heard many times about Pete not returning calls.

Joe Cook works for American Classic and is a Merrill Township Planning Commission member, stated heard the oil situation that Pete had mentioned at the previous board meeting. He stated do we realize how much oil and chemicals are thrown away at transfer stations. Pete stated a company he had come in to the transfer station stated that the ground was tested and it is ok. Joe stated what we are doing is not right, stated some board members are doing what they want. He used the **(F)** word, two community members asked him not use such foul language and he stated "It is my **(F ing)** 1st amendment right and I will say whatever the **(F)** want."

Dave left meeting at 8:13pm.

Kelly Crawford stated as the board we want to do what is good for the township, stated we are working our own agenda and she does not trust anyone but Pete.

Mary Bos asked about oil spill size., Pete stated testing was done, questioned why need EPA.

Bruce Bos- Concerned about what spending money.

Nina Wallace gave Kathy Fulton her 3mins. To speak Kathy Fulton questioned how much are we paying the attorney. She was elected to ZBA at the last meeting and hasn't received a call from the township yet about the position. Tabatha asked Pete why she hasn't received the hiring packet yet.

Chris Berthume discussed how Pete is treated at meetings, doesn't feel like change is going to happen. How can we put our integrity on the line as a grant member. Doesn't feel she can participate in grant at this time.

Jim Wallace first board meeting attended, we have a lawyer paid by the taxpayers why can't Pete have a lawyer paid by us.

William Tetzlaff worried if can happen to Pete it can it happen to anyone, everyone is on the chopping block.

Judy Morris stated we all make mistakes, Pete made a mistake why are we crucifying him, it must be something else. The board would not have a closed meeting and special meeting if it wasn't something important. Pete stated after Judy was done speaking, the transfer station sample is at the oil spill is cleaner than the other sample taken in a different area, and the oil spill is not why we are here tonight.

Rich Hale gave Jason Misner his minutes. Jason stated the man we gave Pete responsibilities to walked out.

Carl Morse stated we all know what the problem is it is the lake association against others.

Pete stated everyone on the board works hard.

8. Adjourn Motion made by Tabatha to adjourn at 8:30 seconded by Bonnie. All in favor. Motion approved.