

**Liberty Township Special Meeting
Public Hearing Minutes
June 26, 2025
Liberty Township Hall
7478 N 41 Rd, PO Box 334
Manton MI 49663**

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Supervisor Swanson. Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Supervisor Brad Swanson, Clerk Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Treasurer Tanja McCane-Clark, , Trustee Brian Neihardt. Absent: Trustee Jim Heady
- III. **Open Public Hearing on Liberty Township's intention to withdraw from the Wexford Joint Planning Commission (WJPC).**
 - a) Supervisor Swanson opened the Public Hearing, noting that the certified letters of notice to the members of the Wexford Joint Planning Commission were sent out on May 13, 2025, and Clerk Kimbel-Sparks confirmed that all entities that are currently members of the organization signed for the notice letter.
 - b) **Public Comments**
 - i) Supervisor Swanson read text message from Beverly Monroe declaring her interest in staying in the WJPC due to unwanted development and to clarify Supervisor's Swanson's understanding of zoning. Supervisor Swanson clarified that the WJPC does not allow for separate ordinances for each separate jurisdiction and a one-size-fits-all ordinance is what is in place and that each of the 10 jurisdictions votes on policies for all.
 - ii) Clerk Kimbel-Sparks read an email from Connie DeHaan stating their desire to see Liberty Township leave WJPC to save money and spend it on the locals. She stated that we are a rural community that can better take care of ourselves.
 - iii) Micheal Fulton – property owner wanted some discussion on how the township plans to move forward. Will there be zoning? Can see how the local level better meets the township needs based on the vast differences in the rest of the WJPC participants and Liberty.
 - iv) Michael Mix Colfax Supervisor spoke to the fee schedule and how the costs are much higher in Wexford County.
 - v) Shelley Bigelow, Greenwood Supervisor, spoke about Greenwood Township's experience removing themselves from the WJPC and their frustrations with the non-stop Master planning. Presented a postcard from the WJPC to Greenwood residents urging them to educate their township officials about staying in the WJPC and it appeared to come from Ms. Bigelow and not the WJPC. Her contact information was listed as the author.
 - vi) A resident from Cedar Creek township mentioned he was ~~there~~ HERE to get information and learn more. Cedar Creek is in the middle of updating their zoning and are interested in Liberty's plans. He believes sharing information with the connecting township communities to tackle the concerns of the locals by the local government is in the best interests of those in our area.
- IV. **Adjourn** Motion made by Neihardt seconded by McCane-Clark to adjourn at 7:30pm. All in favor.