

**Liberty Township Special Meeting
Public Hearing Minutes
January 13, 2026
Liberty Township Hall
7478 N 41 Rd, PO Box 334
Manton MI 49663**

- 1) **Call to Order:**
 - a) The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Supervisor Swanson. Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) **Roll Call:**
 - a) Present: Treasurer Tanja McCane-Clark, Clerk Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Trustee Brian Neihardt. Trustee James Heady, Supervisor Bradley Swanson
 - b) Absent: none
- 3) **Open Public Hearing on Liberty Township's intention to withdraw from the Wexford Joint Planning Commission (WJPC).**
 1. Supervisor Swanson read the agenda and explained that the numerous public meetings were necessary because we are conducting our due diligence.
- 4) **Public Comments**
 - i) John Harvey had asked for the cost of being a member of the WJPC and Kimbel-Sparks announced the last 4 years. He inquired about the future of zoning in Liberty and discussion was had about forming a committee after the successful removal from the WJPC.
 - ii) Carol Gorman asked if the township had performed a cost analysis and questioned what benefits of being a member of WJPC benefit the community.
 - iii) Connie DeHaan spoke against WJPC due to Liberty not being similar to the rest of the members of the WJPC and we need to focus more on rural area,
 - iv) Ron DeHaan stated he is ready to get out because our vote had no weight.
 - v) John Harvey asked board to articulate the negatives and discussion continued on what Liberty might be loosing. He also asked if other townships are looking at leaving and the board answered yes, Slagle Township.
 - vi) Swanson shared with the public the next steps, explaining how WJPC will be preparing a budget to reflect the cost of removing Liberty from their documents, website and the like.
 - vii) Mr. Harvey suggested Liberty prepare their own budget that would cover Liberty covering the zoning services. Asked if we are looking at grants and board responded yes.
- 5) **Adjourn** Motion made by Heady seconded by Neihardt to adjourn at 7:20pm. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by *Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Clerk*