

The regular meeting of the Clare City Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers of Clare City Hall, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan by Mayor Pro Tem Bob Bonham who led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Kim Bussell, Maegan Jenkins, and Gus Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey. Also, present: Laurie Jackson, Deputy Clerk; Jeremy Howard, City Manager; and Dave Saad, Police Chief.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Bussell second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*) (Minutes, Agenda, Department Reports, Communications, Bills, and Professional Development) that are considered routine by the City Commission. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Kim Bussell, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Pat Humphrey. *Motion Carried.*

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES;
Approved by Consent Agenda.

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA;
Approved by Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. GAMING LICENSE – CLARE ALL SPORTS BOOSTERS

The Clare All Sports Boosters have requested that the City Commission consider adopting a Resolution enabling them to apply for the issuance of a state gaming license, thereby allowing their organization to conduct a Queen of Hearts fundraiser to support the All Sports Booster program.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the gaming license by adoption of Resolutions 2026-015. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Kim Bussell, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Pat Humphrey. *Motion Carried.*

B. DISCUSSION TOPIC – ROAD FUNDING – GRANT TOWNSHIP/COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Grant Township Supervisor recently approached the City regarding possible cost sharing on two roads that abut both Grant Township property and City property. The two roads where work is planned later this year are Eberhart Avenue from Colonville Road to Washington Road, and Washington Road from Eberhart Avenue to Cornwell Avenue. A portion of each road abuts the airport with Eberhart Avenue on the East side, and Washington Road on the South side. Each section is about a half mile long of the full mile of each road to be completed. Therefore, the requested cost sharing would be for one-quarter of the cost of each project (half of the half mile abutting the airport on both roads). Project estimates and cost sharing are currently as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Project Estimate</u>	<u>Grant Twp</u>	<u>City of Clare</u>
Eberhart Avenue	\$134,981.80	\$101,236.35	\$33,745.45
Washington Road	\$111,588.58	\$83,691.43	\$27,897.15

The City Attorney has prepared a confidential legal opinion, which was shared with the City Commission. The discussion tonight is intended to determine whether this is an expense the City Commission wishes to participate in at this time. By way of background, when the City completed a mill and fill project on Witbeck Drive in 2022, Grant Township paid for half of the cost (the total project was approximately \$83,000, with Grant Township contributing approximately \$41,500). Witbeck is a City street, but that section includes Grant Township residents on the north side and City residents on the south side. If the Commission chooses to participate in the partial funding of these road projects, staff will work with the Clare County Road Commission to prepare a finalized cost sharing agreement for approval at a future meeting.

Commissioners discussed the proposed cost sharing request and the potential for similar requests from other townships, including interest in future road work on Colonville Road. Reference was made to the City's prior cost sharing with Grant Township. Discussion included the applicability of the Urban Cooperation Agreement (UCA), with clarification that the airport is not within District II, though past cost sharing has occurred outside of the agreement. Concerns were noted regarding the condition of Colonville Road, particularly the eastbound lane, and potential repairs. Commissioners reviewed possible funding sources, including Act 51 and millage funds, and emphasized the importance of prioritizing City residents when considering use of millage funds.

The City Manager will develop next steps and bring a proposal forward for consideration as part of the FY 2026–2027 budget process.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was delivered by the City Manager.

9. *DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
Approved by Consent Agenda.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging by the City will continue at the west end of the lake as time and weather permit, but operations are subject to the fish spawning restriction beginning March 15, with work resuming July 1. Savin's hydraulic dredging remains paused due to temperature and ice conditions. The fish spawning restriction runs from March 15 through June 30, after which Savin is expected to return in early July to complete dredging. Approximately 4 to 6 weeks of hydraulic dredging remain, with anticipated completion by mid- to late August. Some pipes moved and were damaged during recent weather; Savin responded to address the issue.

Lake Shamrock Dam Project. Engineering firms GEI and Spicer have completed design work for the new dam, emergency/auxiliary spillway, and walkway. Bids came in higher than anticipated by \$2–3 million. Fisher Contracting submitted the low bid at \$8,891,895, and Anlaan Corporation bid \$9,970,000. Current grant funding is insufficient to cover both project phases. Engineers are reviewing bid items for potential cost reductions. A meeting with engineers and Fisher occurred on March 12. Additional funding opportunities through EGLE and FEMA are being pursued, and a federal budget request has been submitted. A recommendation will be brought to the Commission once review is complete. We have not yet received the FEMA grant agreement for consideration.

DDA Meeting. The DDA held their meeting on March 12, 2026. Discussion included:

- Discussion continued regarding the possible establishment of a DDA Social District. At this time, the DDA has decided to not pursue it due to several constraints that were discovered in the research that do not make it feasible at this time.
- Reviewed and approved the recommended DDA budget for FY 26/27.
- Discussion on the status of the future downtown entry/gateway signs.
- Discussion on the status of the Downtown/Depot Public Restrooms project.
- Approved the attendance excusal of two members of the DDA Board.
- Approval of Minutes and Financials.

51st Annual Irish Festival. By the time of our meeting, the Irish Festival events were complete. There were many great events during the week and weekend, supported by significant volunteer and community participation. The weather was favorable, and there were no significant disturbances.

Sketch Plan Review and Approval – Fair Salvage. Seiter Brothers Lumber closed on March 3, 2026, after over 88 years of operation. The buildings and property have been sold to Fair Salvage. They plan to operate a portion of their business on the property as permitted under C-2 zoning regulations. After review by staff and the City Attorney, the Sketch Plan and Use by Right for the property was approved by the City Manager.

Fair Salvage's plans:

- 1) The property will be used mainly to store and load scrap onto railroad cars. This scrap will be steel mill ready, no shredding or processing on site.

- 2) Fair Salvage would have at least one bunker to hold scrap materials that are brought in by truck, then loaded over the fence onto railroad cars.
- 3) Fair salvage would demolish the buildings on the Southern portion of the property, which consist of the longer open-wall building, and the adjacent building that is closer to W 5th Street. The remaining buildings will stay on site to “be used for permitted uses”.
 - a. Fair Salvage intends to use the buildings to sort metals, which would include a small vertical mill for grinding up auto shredder residue.
 - i. It would either be located outside with appropriate screening, or it is possible it may be located entirely within the building.
 - ii. Regardless of where this equipment is located, all sorting activities would occur inside the building. A cyclone bag/house will control any dust generated by this process.
 - iii. The auto shredder residue is all non-hazardous, and is material that has already been reduced in size at the main scrap yard. It consists of things like seats, plastic components, etc. The material goes into a vertical mill where it is further reduced in size, then goes to sorting tables. The process is designed to separate all the metal from non-metallic components in this material. The non-metallic components go to the landfill, while the metallic components are recycled. Right now, all the materials involved here would just be going to the landfill, but Fair Salvage sees value in recovering metals from this waste stream.
- 4) All of the auto residue is material that currently goes to the landfill as non-hazardous waste. Any fuel, antifreeze, oil, transmission fluid, etc. has already been removed from the material before processing at the scrap yard, so those fluids are not present in the materials that would come to this site for processing. Fair Salvage will also not be storing these materials on the site, other than a small amount that would be present pre- and post-processing.
- 5) Fair salvage will comply with all screening, hours of operation, and noise requirements. It expects to operate only during normal business hours.

City Commission Nominating Petitions. The City of Clare is accepting nominating petitions for the non-partisan offices of City Commissioner (2 seats). Nominating Petitions will be accepted up to 4 p.m. on April 21, 2026. City Commissioners serve a four-year term. For additional information, contact City Clerk Diane Lyon, dlyon@cityofclare.gov, 989-424-4068.

Addendum:

Commissioners Discussion on Fair Salvage: Commissioners voiced concerns on various topics regarding Fair Salvage, to include: noise, operating hours, public access, trucking route and volume, security, amount of debris/dust, screening types, and train routes. Commissioners requested a member of Fair Salvage attend a future meeting to answer these questions.

11. *COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
12. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
13. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS:
Commissioners discussed drainage in the City following the warm weather and snow melt. Luke Potter, Director of Public Works, confirmed the dam height is at 8.2. Another deer cull is scheduled at the Airport on March 25th. The City plans to apply for any funding for the fence upon future availability.
14. *APPROVAL OF BILLS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
15. *PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
16. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Murphy seconded by Commissioner Bussell to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Kim Bussell, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Pat Humphrey. None. *Motion Carried.* The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.