

The regular meeting of Macon Township was held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 7:00p.m. with Supervisor, Dean Montrief presiding. Roll call: Dean Montrief: present; Julia Marshall: present; Beth DeJonghe: present; Joe Rine: present; Charley Downing: present. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Important Dates:

Township Board Meeting September 8, 2025 at 7p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting October 15, 2025 at 7p.m.

Public Comment:

Thomas Schroeder – Milan resident – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. His research found the last recorded meeting was ^{May} ~~May~~ 9, 1930. In 1906 the township board voted to use township funds to pay for upkeep of Lake Ridge Cemetery. The State of Michigan considers the cemetery abandoned. Approximately 6,000 cars pass by the Cemetery each day.

Sharon Schroeder Douglas 4892 Braun Rd. for Donald & Margaret Schroeder 8960 Britton Hwy – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. Copy of the public comment is attached to the minutes.

Scott Niblack – 9541 Pennington Rd. - Public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. Read a list of last names of people who are buried at Lake Ridge Cemetery. Copy attached to the minutes.

Mary Tommelein – 111 N. Oneida – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. Copy of the public comment is attached to the minutes.

Yvonne Schroeder – Brighton Resident – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. Yvonne read a letter from Dr. Aubrey Schroeder that is attached to the minutes.

Robert Elliott – Historical Society of Tecumseh – public comment was heard regarding Lake Ridge Cemetery. He gave a short history of Lake Ridge Cemetery. Neglect is never good. It's about taking care of the deceased.

Joe Rine moved, seconded by Charley Downing, to approve the July 6, 2025 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Ledger Account Balances:

Solar Account balance remains the same at \$1,764.46

Road Account: Receipts: \$34.26. No Disbursements. Total balance in the Road Account \$32,050.77

Fire Account: Receipts: \$107.20. No Disbursements. Total balance in the Fire Account \$79,492.45

Cemetery Account: Receipts \$1,100. Disbursements: \$1,435. Total balance in the Fire Account \$41,825.87

Perpetual Care Fund: Receipts \$1.91. No Disbursement. Total balance in the Perpetual Care Fund \$16,033.62

General Fund: Receipts: \$26,282.83. Disbursements: \$10,026.67. Total balance in the General Fund \$329,894.03

Julia Marshall moved, seconded by Joe Rine to approve the ledger account balances.

Dan Merritt from Rehman Robson finished up the F-65 and Chart of Accounts for the Township and said the following: "Kudos to the Township for yet another year of adding to fund balance across the board. You always seem to manage your expenses very carefully and prudently."

Julia Marshall moved, seconded by Beth DeJonghe to amend the Audit budget to allow for \$2,725 over the budgeted \$7,000 amount. Motion carried.

Julia Marshall moved, seconded by Beth DeJonghe to pay all bills. Motion carried.

No Old Business

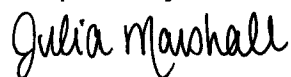
New Business:

Lake Ridge Cemetery – Julia will forward all the information from Mary Tommelein to the board members. Joe suggested looking for a Cemetery Administrator and to check with Marilyn Bagby first to see if she is interested. Beth will check with her. Julia will look for a job description.

Joe suggested putting the minutes in a box at the town hall for residents that don't have access to internet. It would be too costly to mail a flyer every month to residents. A brochure already goes in the Winter Taxes when Beth mails them. Julia will get cost of a box and check with other townships about what their process is.

Julia Marshall moved, seconded by Charley Downing to adjourn the meeting at 7:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Marshall
Clerk
Macon Township

Guests: 34

Outline for Lake Ridge Cemetery

Hello. I am Sharon Schroeder Douglas of 4892 Braun Road, Saline and representing Donald and Margaret Schroeder of 8960 Britton Highway, Macon Township.

Goals/Description of Macon Township

From the Macon Township webpage (<https://www.macontwp.com/about.php>) and I quote "We are proud of our heritage and hope to pass down lasting traditions to the younger generations.

Macon Township is excited about its future and strives to make a positive impact on its community. Our Township is focused on creating a healthy, safe, and active environment where friends and neighbors support one another."

Request

As a descendant of several that are buried in Lake Ridge Cemetery, as a former citizen of Macon Township, as a representative and daughter of Donald and Margaret Schroeder, and on behalf of many who have similar connections and believe the current and future generations have a responsibility to honor those who have gone before, I, and we, request that Macon Township take responsibility for the care and maintenance of Lake Ridge Cemetery.

Facts of Lake Ridge Cemetery

Members of the Township Board need to have an accurate understanding of Lake Ridge Cemetery.

Lake Ridge Cemetery's earliest burial is documented as Elizabeth Stewart buried in 1837. Lake Ridge Cemetery was officially incorporated with the formation of an Association Board and deed in 1855. Reference Page 20 of the Title Search performed by Prestige Title Company (February 21, 2025) at a cost of \$3,000 out of pocket by concerned citizens. Summary is that Lake Ridge Cemetery was owned by an Association, but all the members of that Association are deceased. The Township submitted documentation to the State of Michigan by Clerk Beatrice Gilmore in 1975 that Lake Ridge Cemetery was abandoned.

Note the Lenawee County GIS system had an error in listing the ownership of portions of the cemetery which has now been corrected and lists no owner.

Lake Ridge Cemetery is a public cemetery. The law contemplates generally two categories of cemeteries, public and private. A public cemetery is one used by the general community, a neighborhood, or a church, while a private cemetery is one used only by a family or a small portion of the community. However, public use rather than ownership determines whether a cemetery is public. <https://cemeteries.uslegal.com/public-vs-private-cemeteries/>

Macon Township has established a precedent for the care and maintenance of Lake Ridge Cemetery as it has been provided by the township for over 100 years. Mary Tommelein provided the documentation supporting these facts to Dean Montrief, township supervisor, following an April 1 communication between Mary and Dean.

In summary, Lake Ridge is not owned by the Joy Hintz Trust. It was declared abandoned by your own submissions to the State of Michigan. It is a public cemetery. And you have paid for its care for over 100 years. There is no difference between Lake Ridge and Osborne Cemetery. Respectfully, I/we demand you do the right thing.

AGNER

● ALLEN

AUSTIN

BABCOX

BACH

BACHMAN

BACON

BALLOU

BARNS

BARRETT

● BECKLEY

BELAND

BOYCE

BURNETT

CARTER

CHILDRESS

CHOMANN

COLLUM

● COLMAN

COOK

CORNVILLE

COX

CRAIG

CURRY

DAICHER

DAISHER

DEBRABANDER

DECHERT

DECUYPER

DOWNING

EASLICK

EAST

EDLER

EMANS

EYLER

FARGO

FISCHER

FISHER

FROST

FULLER

GOODRICH

GORDON

GOULD

GREENFIELD

GREGG

GREGORY

HAMMOND

HAND

HARBISON

HELM

HENRY

HERSHEY

HILLER

HINTZ

HOAGLAND

HOHMANN

HOPPER

INSELMANN

ISSEN

JOHNSTON

KARCHER

● KIDD

KEMPF

KENWAND

LANGTHOM

LARSON

LOESCH

MALTBY

MAYNARD

MARTIN

● MELLON

MEYER

MILLER

MUELLER

NACKER

OLDS

PALMER

PATTERSON

● PAYNE

PHELPS

PHILLIPS

PILBEAM

POLLIZ

PRICE

PRINDLE

RAYMOND

ROBERTSON

ROBEY

SAMPLE

SCHMIDT

SCHOMBERG

SCHROEDER

SCHREYER

SCHWARTZ

SCHWEDE

SHALER

SHAW

SISSON

SMITH

SOMAGE

SPAULDING

ST GEORGE

STANCLIFF

STEEL

STEWART

SWICK

LEIDER

UPELL

VERSHUM

WIGGINS

WILSON

WINTERSTEEN

WONDERLY

WOODWARD

WUNDERLICH

115 Family names

497 burial plots

Good evening trustees – My name is Mary Tommelein 111 N Oneida Tecumseh (former Macon Resident)

I would like to present to you a packet of information in hard copy. Your clerk and trustee have been sent an electronic version of materials. The packet includes a number of documents pertinent to showing that Lake Ridge is an abandoned cemetery with no active association. There is also a timeline of activities and emails since we were first notified (March 2024) that township funds were not going to be received for the care of Lake Ridge.

We came before you in April or May of 2024 with information from the Township Cemetery Management Guideline book and referenced: Chapter 14 Cemetery Maintenance from Upkeep to Restoration Please pay careful attention to Chapter 21 Closing or Abandoning a Cemetery. As stated at that time we contacted the following townships as to their practices: Raisin, Lodi and Saline.

Attached you will find a number of documents from former Macon Twp. Clerks that were completed and filed with the state saying that Lake Ridge was a Macon Twp. cemetery and abandoned.

There are a number of financial documents dating back to 1906 where tax money was received on a yearly basis and recorded – that last till 2023.

Enclosed is the Association paperwork formed in 1855 with the state. The Cemetery itself started in 1833.

I have included a timeline including emails to Mr. Montrieff on behalf of the cemetery as well as a quote from lawyer David Lacasse's attempt to work out a situation on our behalf. David was told that Macon Twp did not want to be involved with Lake Ridge. Interesting though since they took over Osborn because it was abandoned in 70's and the Cemetery on Mills Hwy just in the last couple years. I have included the title search results Mr. Lacasse our attorney had conducted and per his advice that we go through the state archives and contact the Michigan Association of Cemeteries. Documents of those conversations and findings are included in your packet.

Lastly, we asked the Lenawee Road Commission for a report on traffic from Britton Hwy to Clinton Macon Rd in a 24-hr. period and included the report for your review. 5,887 vehicles. Your website mission reads

"Since its formal organization in 1834 Macon Twp. has experienced population and growth and agricultural prosperity.

Our community is known for its hospitality, independence and innovation. We are proud of our heritage, and hope to pass down lasting traditions to the younger generations.

Macon township is excited about its future and strives to make a positive impact on its community. Our Township is focused on creating a healthy safe and active environment where friends and neighbors support one another."

I request that you honor your public mission and heritage by supporting Lake Ridge Cemetery

Thank you for your time,

Mary L. Tommelein

August 2, 2025

Dear Macon Township Board Members,

My name is Dr. Aubrey L. Schroeder. I am writing this letter in strong support of the request of the Macon Township Board to look to the future of the township and include in the next township budget and future budgets the money needed to maintain the Lake Ridge Cemetery.

I was born in Tecumseh and raised in Macon/ Tecumseh Townships in Michigan, the proud son of Frank Schroeder and Ardyth Eaton Schroeder. My father farmed in Macon Township his entire life. Starting with his father (Arthur) and brothers (Clarence, Melvin, Willis and Don) and for the last 34 years of farming over 1100+ acres as a partner in farming with his brother, Don. My father worked for the Lenawee County Road Commission for over 42 years maintaining roads in Macon Township (and numerous other Lenawee County townships) for many years. I grew up farming with my dad and Uncle Don in Macon Township from the base Schroeder family farm on Welch Road about a half mile across the field from Lake Ridge Cemetery. My mother was a well-known seamstress making many a wedding dress and clothes for friends and clients throughout Lenawee County, southern Michigan and northern Ohio for over 50 years until her passing.

Together, my parents were integral to the success of the farming community in Macon and Tecumseh Township and the Lenawee County Fair. My parents were raised in Lenawee County (Macon Township and Tecumseh Township), as were all my aunts, uncles, and grandparents on both sides of the family. My relatives have contributed much to the county and townships over the years – including brokering the sale of the land for the Michigan International Speedway, maintaining our roads, farming our rich lands, preaching the gospel, teaching local youth at the elementary and high school level and in 4-H, and serving our country in the military. My Uncle Willis, who died in service to our country, is buried in the Lake Ridge Cemetery. The Schroeder and Eaton roots run deep in Macon/ Tecumseh Townships and Lenawee County.

Having been raised with a farming base in Macon and Tecumseh Townships, I ventured out to Michigan State gaining my degrees that prepared me for a 37+ year career in agriculture focused on animal health.

Maintaining a grave is a crucial aspect of preserving the memories of our loved ones. It not only shows respect, but careful maintenance ensures that the resting place remains a peaceful and serene place for those who visit. To learn that the county has not maintained the cemetery where my Grandparents (Art and Lavina (Price) Schroeder), Uncle Willis Schroeder, my Uncle Louis Price and his wife, Emma, and several second uncles (John Schroeder) and cousins (Donna Price) are laid to rest is hurtful and concerning.

It has been said that there are only two lasting bequests we can give our children – one is roots, and the other, wings. I want my children to be proud of their roots. I want them – and the relatives of all those who rest in the Lake Ridge Cemetery – to know that the community where their ancestors lived shows: their gratitude; respect by maintaining their final resting place and is committed to leaving the world a little better place than you found it.

Thank you for considering our request.

Aubrey L. Schroeder, PhD