

The Clark Township Board of Trustees is continuing development work for a new ordinance regulating cryptocurrency mining and use, as well as data centers. The board discussed the current proposals during a Friday, March 20, meeting. A [12-month moratorium](#) on their development was passed last June in the wake of the [controversy over a Dafter Township facility](#).

Township Supervisor Mark Clymer said the proposed ordinance has been updated to cover possible state-run central bank digital currencies in addition to private cryptocurrencies. The goal is for neither to be a valid currency for doing business locally or paying township bills. Township officials are seeking attorney input before finalizing what the policy will entail.

Environmental concerns are driving the ordinance's development, with board members seeking to limit water table, noise, and heat impacts from data centers. The ordinance is geared towards restricting data centers to only small, local uses instead of the larger facilities needed for crypto currency mining or surveillance operations.

“A lot of it is just scratching the surface of its impacts across the country,” Clymer said.

The meeting began with a public comment period regarding the push to get a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to help fund construction on the second phase of the proposed Kerri Mertaugh Multi-Use Path to link Cedarville and Hessel. No comments were received outside general support of the project. The board approved paying Pam Blough up to \$4,850, reimbursable through project funds held by the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, for her work toward the grant.

The Wilkinson Corporation of Mayville has again been hired to provide dust control services for local dirt roads. A calcium chloride-based solution will be applied to keep down the dust at a cost of 41.5 cents per gallon.

The approved deal includes having the truck applying the compound make two passes down Blind Line Road. Blind Line has two commercial gravel pits, with dust becoming an issue in recent years due to the related dump trucks. The dust control truck's sprayer is only one lane wide. Most roads only get only pass, with the truck driving down the center, but Blind Line will have one pass in each lane.

Feedback-focused public meetings for the development of the new master plan have been scheduled for Sunday, April 19, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. inside the Clark Township Community Center. The meetings will cover the same topics, but will be broken down into separate presentations about different themes.

A township contract with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 324, is set to expire Wednesday, July 1. Township officials have until Thursday, April 30, to notify the union and negotiate a new contract if they feel changes are needed.

Applications are being accepted at the township hall for both the vacant deputy clerk position and township election inspector roles. Those interested in the deputy clerk role can reach out to

Clerk Linda Sherlund. Those seeking to be election inspectors are asked to inquire about the role now, allowing time to receive the necessary training.

The Tuesday, August 4, primary election will see a renewal of the fire and ambulance vehicle and equipment millage brought before township voters. The millage is worth one mill, and would be in place from 2026 to 2030 if approved.

The Clark Township Volunteer Fire Department has answered seven calls in the last month, including a February car accident on M-134 and a mutual aid fire call from St. Ignace. Department officials have recently completed arson investigation training. A DNR grant is allowing the purchase of new firefighting equipment.

The proposed purchase of a new mower from Skinner's Garage of Pickford for \$5,950 was tabled. The mower is intended for use in Snows Heritage Park, but with the park buried under several feet of snow by the recent blizzard, it is not expected to be needed before the spring thaw. Some of the "Light Up the Park" Christmas decorations were still up when the blizzard hit and will likely remain in place until the snow melts.

Traditionally, the Clark Township Board's meetings are always held on the third Wednesday each month. The March meeting was delayed two days by the blizzard. The storm closed the Clark Township Offices Monday, March 16, with the first half of the week spent clearing snow across the area before normal operations resumed. Heater intakes and exhausts were blocked by snow at both the township offices and the fire hall, requiring both to temporarily close until they could be cleared.