

BAUCKHAM, THALL, SEEBER, KAUFMAN & KOCHES P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

470 W. CENTRE AVE., SUITE A
PORTAGE, MI 49024-5362

201 STATE STREET, SUITE 10
CHARLEVOIX, MI 49720-1371

TELEPHONE (269) 382-4500
FAX (269) 382-2040
www.michigantownshiplaw.com

ROBERT E. THALL
ROXANNE C. SEEBER
CATHERINE P. KAUFMAN
T. SETH KOCHES
LORI COATES HAY
JOSHUA E. THALL
MICHAEL W. BILA
ERIN J. GESCHWENDT
NICOLE E. ESSAD
MATTHEW A. BUCK

JOHN H. BAUCKHAM
1923 – 2015

HARRY F. SMITH
1906 – 1972

April 8, 2026

Fabius Township Board

Re: Township Business and Unskilled Interpretations Thereof

To Whom it May Concern:

As general counsel for Fabius Township, St. Joseph County, Michigan, the office of Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches has been consulted numerous times over the past year with respect to challenges that have been made to the operation of the Township, and particularly with respect to the Township Board and some of its individual members. Because the Township takes allegations of impropriety seriously, members of the board have consulted this office on numerous occasions regarding espoused interpretation of law relative to the functioning of a general law township in Michigan. These comments and challenges have cost the Township several thousand dollars in attorneys' fees, not to mention distress that has been caused to individual members of the board. While a member of the public can certainly exercise his or her rights to make individual interpretations and set forth their positions in his/her own way, such as on a blog or in social media, I advise that unskilled interpretations of law and "fact" do not have a place in Fabius Township government.

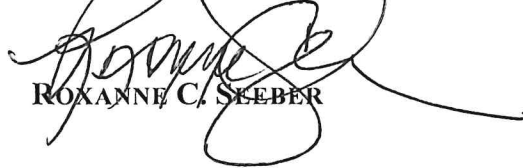
Please note that Fabius Township DOES NOT charge an operating millage and has not done so for more than 30 years. However, with costs, particularly attorneys' fees, continuing to rise, it may be forced to do so. This is to advise that, heretofore, any outside attempt to interject oneself into the operations of Fabius Township government in the fashion of an "auditor" are disruptive to Township operations, costly, unwelcome and need not be addressed except as required by law. In short, Township Officials and members of the Township Boards need not respond to or give credibility to extraneous efforts for participation in township government beyond that which is available to any other member of the public which are as follows:

- 1- Any person may participate in meetings of the board during public comment time and in accordance with the rules for public comment put forth by that board or commission. Public comments that may exceed the allotted time may be submitted to the board or commission in writing, via the Township Clerk and addressed to the board or commission; and

- 2- A person making a FOIA request must identify a record that is being requested. If the FOIA coordinator is unable to identify a record, as defined by the FOIA, from a particular request, it will be rejected with a request for identification of a record. Response to a FOIA request that contains extraneous commentary or information from the requestor does not lend any credibility to those comments or to interpretations of law that are being espoused.

This office has advised the Township that it need not continue to respond to commentaries and requests that go to individual board members; for board agenda items that are not sponsored by a member of the board; or to “petitions” for things such as broadcasting of meetings. The entire board or commission can be addressed at a public meeting or in writing; however, dialogue or back-and-forth correspondence with individuals in elected and appointed positions is not required, nor is it recommended by this office.

Sincerely,
**BAUCKHAM, THALL, SEEBER,
KAUFMAN & KOCHES, PC**



ROXANNE C. SEEBER

RCS/DAL