

Bill To:

Lake Township (Roscommon County)
 1380 Michelson Road
 Houghton Lake MI 48629

Time Entries	Rate	Hours	Sub
7/1/2025 Conference w/co-counsel regarding township hall property	\$190.00	.8	\$152.00
7/1/2025 Review Twp Hall property land use agreements; conference w/co-counsel re: same	\$250.00	.5	\$125.00
7/2/2025 Review and analyze applicability of 1993 and 2003 easements and land maintenance agreements	\$250.00	2.0	\$500.00
7/2/2025 Review documents re: township hall property, legal research re: same; call with co-counsel re: same	\$190.00	3.10	\$589.00
7/2/2025 Review planning commission documents	\$225.00	1.70	\$382.50
7/3/2025 Conference w/ co-counsel re: Planning Commission matters	\$225.00	.4	\$90.00
7/3/2025 Telephone conference re: PC matter	\$250.00	.3	\$75.00
7/7/2025 Draft legal opinion re: township hall property; correspondence with co-counsel re: same	\$190.00	5.9	\$1,121.00
7/7/2025 Review 1993 and 2003 land use agreements; correspondence w/co-counsel re: same	\$250.00	.8	\$200.00
7/7/2025 Telephone conference with Supervisor, draft correspondence re: attorney client privilege, nonconforming uses, and PC matters	\$250.00	3.10	\$775.00
7/8/2025 Draft memorandum and conduct legal research re: planning Commission issue	\$225.00	.8	\$180.00
7/8/2025 Correspondence with Supervisor regarding public hearing requirement for zoning amendments	\$250.00	.6	\$150.00
7/9/2025 Legal research re: easement scope	\$250.00	.3	\$75.00
7/9/2025 Legal research re: easement scope; revise legal opinion re: same	\$190.00	1.7	\$323.00

Time Entries	Rate	Hours	Sub
7/9/2025 Telephone conference and correspondence with Supervisor regarding attorney communications	\$250.00	.9	\$225.00
7/9/2025 Draft memorandum re: Planning Commission issue	\$225.00	.6	\$135.00
7/10/2025 Review materials and draft correspondence regarding maintenance of township property, correspondence regarding the same	\$250.00	1.2	\$300.00
7/10/2025 Draft memorandum re: Planning Commission issue	\$225.00	1.5	\$337.50
7/10/2025 Correspondence w/ co-counsel re: real property easements	\$250.00	.2	\$50.00
7/10/2025 Telephone conference and correspondence with Supervisor regarding zoning amendment	\$250.00	.6	\$150.00
7/11/2025 Prepare memorandum re: Planning Commission issue	\$225.00	.1	\$22.50
7/14/2025 Legal Research re: Lake Improvement Board Representative Qualifications	\$250.00	.2	\$50.00
7/14/2025 Draft legal opinion re: township hall property; call with co-counsel re: same	\$190.00	2.3	\$437.00
7/14/2025 Telephone conference, legal research, and correspondence with client regarding Houghton Lake Improvement Board representative	\$250.00	1.4	\$350.00
7/14/2025 Draft legal opinion re: Planning Commission Issue	\$225.00	.1	\$22.50
7/14/2025 Conference with SCM re: easement issue.	\$250.00	.2	\$50.00
7/16/2025 Telephone conference with Supervisor regarding township park property matters	\$250.00	.2	\$50.00
7/16/2025 Draft legal opinion re: township hall property	\$190.00	1.3	\$247.00
7/16/2025 Draft legal opinion re: planning commission issue	\$225.00	1.0	\$225.00
7/17/2025 Correspondence with co-counsel re: township hall property	\$190.00	.2	\$38.00
7/17/2025 Review conveyance documents and analyze; draft opinion email to SCM.	\$250.00	.5	\$125.00
7/18/2025 Review/respond to email question from SCM.	\$250.00	.1	\$25.00
7/18/2025 Draft legal opinion re: Planning commission issue	\$225.00	.3	\$67.50

7/18/2025 Draft legal opinion re: township hall property; correspondence: w/co-counsel re: same	\$190.00	1.2	\$228.00
---	----------	-----	----------

Time Entries	Rate	Hours	Sub
7/21/2025 Draft legal opinion re: township hall property	\$190.00	1.5	\$285.00
7/21/2025 Conference call w/ co-counsel re: board policies	\$250.00	.2	\$50.00
7/21/2025 Telephone conference and correspondence with Supervisor regarding FOIA request for legal communications and access to Township Attorney	\$250.00	1.1	\$275.00
7/21/2025 Review legal opinion regarding Township Park property	\$250.00	.5	\$125.00
7/21/2025 Tel Conf w/ J Witte re Attorney Communications	\$250.00	.4	\$100.00
7/22/2025 Review and revise legal opinion regarding Township Park property	\$250.00	.9	\$225.00
7/24/2025 Revise legal opinion re: township hall property; legal research re: same	\$190.00	1.4	\$266.00
7/25/2025 Review meeting minutes, telephone conference with Supervisor regarding the same, correspondence with Clerk regarding FOIA request	\$250.00	.8	\$200.00
7/28/2025 Revise legal opinion re: township hall property	\$190.00	2.2	\$418.00
7/29/2025 Correspondences w/ co-counsel re: Planning commission issue	\$225.00	.1	\$22.50
7/30/2025 Correspondences w/ co-counsel re: Planning Commission issue	\$225.00	.1	\$22.50
7/31/2025 Review and finalize legal opinion regarding Township Hall property adjacent to Super 8, correspondence with Supervisor regarding the same	\$250.00	.8	\$200.00
			\$10,061.50

JULY BILL:

Township policy assigns responsibility for FOIA administration to the Township Clerk, not the Supervisor. While the Clerk may have participated in certain FOIA related communications with legal counsel, attorney billing records reflect that the Supervisor has direct oversight or initiated those communications. The Supervisors' repeated

involvement in FOIA-related attorney conferences represents a departure from established township policy and contributed to approximately \$8,600.00 in taxpayer-funded legal expenses associated with FOIA matters.

In our opinion, these expenditures did not advance timely disclosure or compliance with the purpose of Michigan's FOIA law. Instead, these actions appear to **raise serious concerns about the use of public funds in connection with actions that limit transparency and public access to information.**

Township Park Property: There was an existing deed researched and approved by the township's attorneys in June 2023 when the township purchased the property. Despite that another \$7,000 in legal fees were incurred to review what had already been approved just 2 years earlier. The township board made no request or pre-approved to have this money spent. The township attorneys charged nearly \$3,000 to **draft the same legal opinion seven (7) separate times within 3 weeks.** What was changed 7 times? Who requested the 7 updates? Why are taxpayers footing the bill for previously done research?