WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP

New Hall Committee Meeting minutes
March 20, 2025

Olson called March 20, 2025, New Township Hall mtg, to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call: Olson, Green, Baker

Absent: none

Visitors: Garon Gopigian, Lisa Morris, Linda Hoisington

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of February 25, 2025, Minutes: Olson made the motion to approve February 25, 2025, minutes as presented. All ayes.

Member Report on activities assigned at February 25, 2025, meeting:

Committee Member Baker update: Baker spoke with Morton Buildings, gave an update on the cost, and will obtain a more detailed breakdown of their cost estimates. She will also reach out to Andy King for his input on new building costs. Baker also contacted the City of Harbor Springs regarding providing electricity to the new building which can be done. Baker will continue to follow up with other builders to compare costs, etc. She will also consider people to add to her committee.

Committee Member Green update: Green is working on forming a Finance committee. Green will obtain the 2020-2021 audit report to help analyze the township financial position. Green shared contact information for potential banks or credit unions for possible financial assistance. Green would like to obtain a third-party to get an opinion on the Townships financial standings. Green will communicate with the Township Board regarding debt availability and financial statements.

Committee Member Olson update: Olson discussed the need to assess the value and capabilities of the building as an office. Olson will bring to the West Traverse Township board a proposal from a consultant, Paul White, for their approval. This consultant will be able to provide a report on modifying the current hall, constructing a new hall and the viability of the current hall. If the board approves the proposal, a report should be available within thirty-one days. Olson appointed Lisa Morris and Garon Gopigan to his committee.

Public Comment: Gopigan had comments/concerns about "texting" of information, echoed Greens statement about physical letters but agreed that getting information out to the residents is important. Morris mentioned that keeping the township residents informed of the plans for old and/or new buildings would be appreciated.

Proposed: March 20, 2025
Approved: May 14, 2025

Review Communication Plan and Presentation suggestions: Olson introduced the idea of a text messaging platform called "Textmygov" which will allow for communication with Township residents. Residents will have the option to opt in or opt out. Green expressed concerns about the cost and accuracy. Discussion continued regarding the use of text messages versus newsletters for Township communication. Olson and Morris are working together to create a format for communication with Township residents. The board discussed the importance of holding Open Houses to engage the public and provide information about the building project. Baker suggested holding open houses during the summer months when summer residents are here. Green expressed the need for effective communication. The board agreed to having Open Houses in the summer and to utilize various methods of communication, newspaper, open houses, and a communication system.

Schedule meetings for New Hall Committee: Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Olson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectively submitted by: Jay Olson

Transcribed by:

Amy Peters

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