

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday May 13, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

Supervisor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Olson, Murphy, Baker, Green

Absent: Hollingsworth

Visitors: Kathy & Steve Erber, John Baker, Garon Gopigian, Ed Taylor, Kristin Dolsen

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve agenda & additional items: Green made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Olson seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.

Public comments: Kristin Dolsen approached the board asking if while Lower Shore Dr is being re-paved, Thorne Swift Ct. could be included in the re-paving. Murphy will contact Emmet County Road Commission to inquire and will let the Dolsens' know.

Approve minutes of regular meeting on March 25, 2025. Green asked to change the wording of the first sentence under the Thorne Swift Managers report from, "The board welcomed Hammond back and are excited for the new season," to: "*The board welcomed Hammond back and he is excited for the new season.*" **Green made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Olson seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Review correspondence not included below: none.

Thorne Swift Manager Report: Managers report is included in the packet along with the new 2025 TS Flyer with copies available here at the Hall. Hammond reported that it has been a busy Spring with clean up from the winter, planning the events for the season, trail maintenance and that the Preserve survived the ice storm with little to no damage. Hammond reported the new Power Washer is working out great. Hammond also mentioned that he is bringing back the "Children in Nature" program and that Yoga classes will be held over the summer as well. The HT Roofing quote for replacing the Pavillion roof was updated with the work beginning in June. **Green made the motion to approve the updated quote. Baker seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Action Items:

- a. Barn Property Update – HS Fire Chief Cupps reported that due to the burn ban it may be awhile before they can do it, hopefully in the Fall.
- b. New Township Hall discussion – Olson noted the next meeting is Wednesday May 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. here at the Hall. The consultant the Board hired to evaluate the building, its usability, functionality, etc., should have the report available on or before July 1, 2025. Green stated concerns about the impacts on the budget from all the unplanned expenditures and how it may affect the future Township Hall.
- c. Alanson Library Contract Renewal – There was discussion by the Board on continued contribution to the Alanson library. **Green made the motion to postpone the Alanson Library contract renewal to our June Board meeting agenda and have Olson investigate it further. Murphy seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Baker – yes, Murphy – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**
- d. Lakeview Cemetery Township Representative Re-Appointment – Murphy brought Bob Sandford's name forward for the three-year re-appointment, expiring 4-30-2028, as the West Traverse Township representative to the Lakeview Cemetery Board. **Green made the motion Bob Sandford to be re-appointed to the Lakeview Cemetery Board as the West Traverse Township Representative for the three-year term expiring 4-30-2028. Murphy seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Baker – yes, Murphy – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**
- e. Zoning Atlas and Community Planning Project - Housing North is asking for support for a new Zoning Atlas and Community Planning Project for Emmet County. It was decided to postpone the discussion, add it to the June Board meeting agenda and have a representative from Housing North come to explain the project to the Board. **Green made the motion to postpone the Zoning Atlas and Community Project for Housing North to our June Board meeting agenda. Olson seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Baker – yes, Murphy – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**
- f. Lift Station Repair Update – Olson informed the Board about the recent repairs to the two sewer Lift Stations found at Pine Trail and Forest Beach. Green asked if the repairs could be covered by insurance and if there would be an impact to our premiums if a claim was filed. Olson to contact the insurance company and will update the Board members.

Reports and Updates:

- a. Clerk – Olson reported that Textmygov notification system has been implemented, people are signing up and that is has been linked to our website. Olson also informed the Board that on Thursday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m., the Township auditors will be here to begin our 2025 full audit.
- b. Treasurer – no report
- c. Planning Commission – Green informed the board of the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday May 15, 5:30 p.m. They are in process of updating the Master Plan.
- d. Zoning Administrator – Included in packet.
- e. Recreation/Thorne Swift Committee – John Baker reported that the clean-up from the damage from the ice storm on the main trail in the Township 80 is in progress and that the

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Accepted: June 10, 2025

volunteer group helping has been highly effective. Baker mentioned possibly applying for grants for a future project extending the sidewalks on State Rd and Cemetery. Baker also mentioned the idea of creating a Director of Parks position for the Township. The Township Board thanked Baker and the committee for their hard work and commitment to the Township.

- f. Supervisor – Murphy reported that the Fire Authority meeting was canceled but noted that the Harbor Springs Fire Dept has outdated Air-Packs and that there is a need for new ones.

Approve payables & payroll – **Green made the motion to approve the payables & payroll as presented. Baker seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Public comments – Ed Taylor asked if there were any updates about the Polo Field on Hughston.

Board comments – Baker informed the Board that she may not be at the June meeting. Baker had questions about how the Harbor Springs Airport funds are distributed and how it benefits the Township. Green asked to have the Harbor Springs Airport Authority placed on the June Board meeting agenda and will provide the Airports By-Laws for the Board members. Baker asked for suggestions on how to manage future communications in case of an emergency, referencing the ice storm noting there was no way to get information out to the residents.

Next Regular Meeting – **June 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

Adjourn – **Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn the May 13, 2025, Township Board meeting. Olson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Green seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jay Olson, Clerk

Transcribed by: Amy Peters