

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday June 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

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

Roll Call: Olson, Murphy, Green, Hollingsworth

Absent: Baker

Visitors: Kathy & Steve Erber, Garon Gopigian, Lindsay Dotson, Lisa Morris

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

Public comments: Garon Gopigian, a representative from Heritage Hwy/Tunnel of Trees informed the Board of the possibility of restrooms being constructed on M-119. The issues of restrooms on M-119 will be added to the July agenda for further discussion and a more formal response. Steve Erber had questions about the Pine Trail/Forest Beach sewer system. Morris and Erber mentioned concerns about the recent Algae blooms on the beaches at Pine Trail/Forest Beach.

Approve minutes of regular meeting on May 13, 2025. **Green made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Olson seconded. Three (3) ayes, one (1) absent and Hollingsworth abstaining.**

Review correspondence not included below: The Board members reviewed the Lakeview Cemetery Board meeting minutes from April and May, a communication from Steve Erber about the Forest Beach/Pine Trail Sewer system and the Harbor Inc. Ice Storm Debrief meeting minutes.

Thorne Swift Manager Report: Hammond gave his monthly report; visitor traffic is picking up, the success of pressure washing the boardwalks, the programs are ready for the season, and he complimented his staff. Hammond informed the Board that the re-roofing of the Pavillion has been delayed as the owner of HT Roofing passed away. Hammond has been in contact with the gentleman taking over the company and is waiting to hear back. Green asked if the down payment can be returned so another company can do the work. Hammond said he would contact HT Roofing and let the Board know.

Action Items:

- a. Barn Property Inquiry – Lisa Morris expressed her desire to purchase the big Barn on site to restore it and retain the Historical significance. The Board hasn't considered selling the property, but if they do in the future, she is welcome to submit a bid.

- b. New Township Hall discussion – Olson informed the Board that the New Township Hall meeting scheduled for June 19, will be canceled as there are no recent updates. Once the report from the consultant is received, they will have more information and be able to move forward.
- c. Alanson Library Contract Renewal – The Board agreed to table the decision until a presentation from the Library President can be made at the July meeting. **Green made the motion to table the Alanson Library Contract Renewal until July. Hollingsworth seconded. Roll Call vote: Green – yes, Murphy – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Olson – yes, Baker – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**
- d. Zoning Atlas and Community Planning Project – Representative Lindsey Dotson gave an overview of the project. The Zoning Atlas would combine each communities ordinance text and spatial data about zoning boundaries into a single interactive map accessible, comparable, and usable for policymakers, researchers and public. The Board discussed the project expressing concerns about the cost and ultimately, the need for the project. **Green made the motion to deny the Housing North request. Hollingsworth seconded. Roll Call vote: Green – yes, Murphy – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Olson – yes, Baker – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**
- e. Lift Station Repair Update – Olson informed the Board that insurance will cover the cost of the repairs from water damage to the lift stations. There will be no impact on rates.
- f. Harbor Springs Airport Authority – Green presented the financial status of the HS Airport Authority, noting declining trends in revenue over the years. The Board discussed whether there are any benefits or profitability for the Township to continue to support the HS Airport. **Murphy made a motion to request to be released from the Townships' agreement with the HS Airport Authority. Hollingsworth seconded. After Board discussion, Murphy withdrew his motion to be released from the Townships' agreement with the HS Airport Authority.** Green will inform the HS Airport Authority at their June 26 meeting of the motion from the Board requesting to be released from the HS Airport Authority agreement. He will also let them know that it would have been supported but was withdrawn to give HS Airport Authority the opportunity to address the Townships' concerns. Murphy polled the Board members on what their votes would have been; four (4) ayes, one (1) absent in support of withdrawing from the HS Airport Authority agreement.
- g. Resolution to Support House Bill 4328 Emergency Storm Disaster Relief – The Board agreed to support House Bill 4328 which would provide disaster relief funding to assist with identifying and securing disaster assistance for individual residents, businesses and communities that have realized a significant financial hardship caused by the recent storm damage. **Green made the motion to support House Bill 4328 Emergency Storm Disaster Relief. Hollingsworth seconded. Roll Call vote: Green – yes, Murphy – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Olson – yes, Baker – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent. Murphy declared the resolution passed.**
- h. Thorne Swift Rental Oversight – The Board discussed and agreed to having yearly inspection of the Thorne Swift Rental House to ensure it is maintained properly for the Thorne Swift Manager.

- i. Emmet County Hazard Mitigation Plan - **Hollingsworth read the following motion for resolution: “Now, therefore it be resolved West Traverse Township does hereby adopt the 2025 Emmet County Hazard mitigation Plan 5 Year Update as an official plan of West Traverse Township”. Olson seconded. Roll Call vote: Green – yes, Murphy – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Olson – yes, Baker – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent. Murphy declared the resolution passed.**

Reports and Updates:

- a. Clerk – Olson informed the Board the Audit is complete with the Auditor’s draft report scheduled to be on the July 8 Board meeting agenda. Olson read the DTE report on the Ice Storm Damage; number of poles, miles of lines replaced, etc.
- b. Treasurer – Hollingsworth informed the Board that the Summer 2025 taxes will be mailed on July 1 and are due on September 14. All winter 2025 Sewer bills have been paid, the summer 2025 sewer bills have gone out and are due July 31, 2025. Hollingsworth reported that she has one (1) Leased Land and one (1) Personal Property still outstanding.
- c. Planning Commission – Green gave an update on the Planning Commission’s meeting on Wednesday June 11. They are working on two chapters of the Master Plan and will hear Pond Hill Farms’ request to amend their Special Use permit to allow for increased vehicle capacity for their Fall Festival.
- d. Zoning Administrator – Included in packet.
- e. Recreation/Thorne Swift Committee – John Baker was absent. Hammond informed the Board that he and a Thorne Swift employee have been out helping clean up debris from the ice storm on Township 80.
- f. Supervisor – Murphy reported that the Harbor Springs Fire Department will be holding fundraisers to purchase new Air-packs.

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

Public comments – Steve Erber thanked the Board for their time and will be submitting FOIA requests for Sewer documents. Lindsey Dotson commented on the Airport Authority issues.

Board comments – Hollingsworth commended the Township’s accountant Claire from TwoRavens, on her hard work, not just on the audit, but for everything she does. Hollingsworth also thanked the Township residents in attendance for their interest and questions.

Next Regular Meeting – **July 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

Adjourn – **Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn the June 10, 2025, Township Board meeting. Olson made the motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Green seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jay Olson, Clerk

Transcribed by: Amy Peters

Proposed: June 10, 2025

Accepted: July 8, 2025