WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP

New Hall Committee Meeting minutes
May 14, 2025

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

Roll Call: Olson, Green, Baker

Absent: none

Visitors: Garon Gopigian, Lisa Morris, Linda Hoisington, Andy Keen, Neil Ahrens

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of March 20, 2025, minutes: Olson made the motion to approve March 20, 2025, minutes as presented. All ayes.

Member Report on activities assigned at March 20, 2025, meeting:

Committee Member Baker update: Baker spoke with Cleary Builders and touched base with Morton Builders. Baker introduced Andy Keen, a local builder, and asked him to give insight on various building types. The board discussed the overall size of a new Township Hall; it would be around 4000 sq ft and have three to five offices, a large hall for voting and meetings, plus storage, electrical room, kitchen, bathrooms etc. There was discussion on making it a "safe site" for emergency purposes, using the ice storm as an example. Having charging stations, full kitchen, showers, non-cable internet, etc.

Member Green update: Green reported that he is currently analyzing what the debt might be and looking through past financial statements from previous years. An estimated cost for a new Township Hall would most likely be $2 million. Green said the goal is to not increase Township residents taxes and suggested seeking a public accounting firm to investigate the Township's financials once they have been compiled.

Committee Member Olson update: Olson updated the Board on the work that the consultant has done thus far noting the thoroughness of work. Olson hopes to get the results of the evaluation no later than July 1. Olson spoke with Lindsey Dotson from Housing North and is setting up a meeting with her to discuss the current Township Hall from a historical standpoint.

Public Comment: Morris commented on how well the process is going with the committee. Gopigan asked about what kind of presentation the Township would have for the residents, and if the Township residents would vote on whether to have a new building. Green answered there will be open houses, and that the decision of a new Township Hall would be decided by the West Traverse Township Board.

Proposed: May 14, 2025
Approved: August 12, 2025

Review Communication Plan and Presentation suggestions: The board agreed to having Open Houses in the summer and to utilize various methods of communication, newspaper, open houses, and the textmygov notification system.

Schedule meetings for New Hall Committee: The next meeting will be Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Respectively submitted by: Jay Olson

Transcribed by:

Amy Peters

Proposed: May 14, 2025
Approved: August 12, 2025