

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday May 12, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

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

Roll Call: Olson, Hollingsworth, Baker, Green, Murphy

Absent: none

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda & additional items: Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Green seconded. All aye.

Approve minutes of Special meeting mins of 3-10-26 & 3-24-26 2026: Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the 3-10-26 Special meeting minutes as presented. Green seconded. All ayes. For the March 24, 2026, minutes, Baker noted Fred Hackl's name was misspelled. Should be "*Hackl*," not "*Hackyl*." **Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the 3-24-26 minutes with changes. Green seconded. All aye.**

Visitors: George & Carol Tippet, Alison Adams, Garon Gopigian, Lisa Morris, Ed Taylor, Kathy & Steve Erber, Kieran Fleming, (LTC) Cora Waite

Public Comments – George & Carol Tippet expressed concerns about speeding, heavy truck traffic, safety issues, property damage, and the need to lower the speed limit on Middle Rd. Alison Adams echoed the Tippet's concerns about the safety and traffic. Murphy said he has spoken with the Sheriff's department regarding the speeding and will pursue it further.

Review Correspondence not listed below: The Board reviewed the memo from ZA Lane regarding the Otis SUP correction of an address.

Thorne Swift Report – Hammond reported on the number of visitors being down due to the road closure, the ongoing trail maintenance and the winter clean up around the Preserve. Hammond proposed a few improvements to the Nature Center such as a Sound Clip Board for identifying bird sounds, an enclosed bulletin board outside the Nature Center for updates, etc. and a mounted Resin Animal Track Replica board for identifying animal tracks within the Nature Center as well. Olson stated that Textmygov could be used to alert the Township residents of the detour to Thorne Swift. **Murphy made the motion to approve the proposed improvements for Thorne Swift Nature Center. Green seconded. All aye.**

Action Items:

- a. Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Review – Olson informed the Board of the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment results noting no issues were identified. The full report is on the Township website.

- b. Project Centennial Updates – Olson informed the Board of the final Design meeting for the new Township Hall on Friday May 15, 2026. Timeline for receiving bids was covered when and where the Advertisement for Bid was published and how long the ads will run. Olson also updated the Board on the progress in researching the side services, phone, sound, and security systems.
- c. Existing Township Hall Discussion – Nothing new to report. Olson mentioned ongoing discussions with interested parties.
- d. Barns Discussion – The Board discussed and approved the purchase and removal of the two (2) barns along with other various wood structures located on the property noting the conditions for purchase and removal; remove the buildings along with the foundation and return the property to “green space”. The advertisement to receive bids will run in the Harbor Light beginning May 20, 2026. Open houses to view the barns/structures are scheduled for prospective bidders on Wednesday May 27, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday June 10, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. with the Township Board considering the proposals at the July 14, 2026, Board meeting. Green made the following motion. ***“I move to approve the request for a proposal regarding the purchase and removal of the barns as presented.”*** Roll Call vote: Baker – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes, Green – yes, Olson – yes. Five (5) ayes. The Supervisor declared this motion adopted.
- e. Resolution to Amend FY 2026-2027 Budget – Green made the following motion. ***“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 operating budget is hereby amended to increase the CAP-OUTLAY-NEW HALL-EXCAVATION (101-264-963-002)is corrected as follows; from \$4,200 to \$42,200.”*** Hollingsworth seconded. Roll Call vote: Baker – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes, Green – yes, Olson – yes. Five (5) ayes. The Supervisor declared this resolution adopted.
- f. Township 80 Proposal for Little Traverse Conservancy – Baker presented a proposal to sell the Township 80 acres to the Little Traverse Conservancy emphasizing the potential financial benefits for future Township Recreation opportunities along with improved management of the land. The Board discussed the pros/cons of selling the land with some Board members expressing concerns regarding the price, the timing, citing the need for further consideration, the possible potential of appraisals in the future and the Deed restriction. Green made the following motion. ***“I move to reject the proposal to sell the Township 80 to Little Traverse Conservancy.”*** Hollingsworth seconded. Roll Call vote: Baker – no, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – no, Green – yes, Olson – yes. Three (3) yes, two (2) no. The Supervisor declared the motion adopted.

Reports & Updates

- a. Clerk – Olson updated the Board on the May 5 election; number of votes cast in person along with the number of absentee ballots and the results. Olson stated he will begin getting ready for the August election in the next month or so.
- b. Treasurer – Hollingsworth provided an update on the delinquent taxes and the preparation for the upcoming Audit. Hollingsworth presented a motion for the Board to allow changes for the three (3) 4Front accounts. Green made the following motion. ***“THEREFORE, Motion is made to have the Township***

Treasurer make the following changes to the three (3) Township accounts: Remove the following designated signers: Katherine Kloss, Cynthia Fisher, Cindy Baiardi. Add or confirm the following as designated signers of record: Kristi Hollingsworth – Treasurer, Amy Peters – Deputy Treasurer, Jay Olson – Clerk.” Roll Call vote: Baker – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes, Green – yes, Olson – yes. Five (5) ayes. The Supervisor declared this resolution adopted.

- c. Planning Commission – Green reported that Ann’s Nest and the Polo Field on Hughston Rd will be on the Planning Commissions agenda for their May 13, 2026, meeting.
- d. Zoning Administrator – provided in packet.
- e. Recreation/Thorne Swift Committee – Baker pointed out the Proposal from Becket & Raeder for the Township property across the road. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- f. Supervisor – Murphy updated the Board on the recent Harbor Springs Fire Authority meeting noting that they purchased a new Tanker Truck with its delivery in Spring of 2027 along with the update that Harbor Springs Police Dept hired a new officer. Murphy informed the Board that the Otis SUP Appeal was rejected by the court and of the ongoing negotiations with a cell tower company.

Approve March & April payables & payroll – Green made the motion to approve the March & April payables & payroll. Hollingsworth seconded. Five (5) ayes.

Public Comments – George Tippet noted that there would be a lot of interest in the Township 80 should it ever be up for sale. Garon Gopigian asked Olson if the Trusted Timber company would be notified of the Barns sale and inquired if there were any updates on when Lower Shore Dr would be fixed and open. Cora Waite expressed an interest in the Township 80 Deed. Olson said it will be posted on the website as soon as possible.

Board comments – Baker requested that she no longer receive hard copies of Township packets in the future to help cut back on paper usage. Baker noted her concerns about the Township 80 saying that the journey to sell it to LTC is to protect the land, its future and how best to maintain and/or improve it. Cora Waite suggested a Conservation Easement if necessary.

Next Regular Meeting – The next West Traverse Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn – Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn the May 12, 2026, Township Board meeting. **Hollingsworth made the motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Green seconded. Five (5) ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jay Olson, Clerk
Transcribed by: Amy Peters