

WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday July 14, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Clerk Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Olson, Hollingsworth, Green, Baker

Absent: Murphy

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda & additional items: Green asked to add item “G”, Discussion of Township Newsletter. **Baker made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Hollingsworth seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Approve minutes of regular meeting June 9, 2026: Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the June 9, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Green seconded. **Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Visitors: Sally Olson, Garon Gopigian, Lisa Morris, Kathy & Steve Erber, Dawson Moore, Abby Martin

Public Comments – Garon Gopigian updated the Board on the recent Tunnel of Trees meeting asking if the Township would consider a Welcome packet for new homeowners in the Township. Dawson Moore talked about the Township’s cost sharing with the City of Harbor Springs Parks and Recreation, the recent issues at City Beach and suggested a Township Board member be a representative on the City’s Parks & Recreation Board.

Review Correspondence not listed below: Olson pointed out correspondence, the Polo Field schedule, a copy of Lakeview Cemetery’s budget and a letter from Lanette Fort stating her support in saving the Barn.

Thorne Swift Report – Hammond gave his report noting attendance is still down due to Lower Shore wash-out adding that he spoke with ECRC and currently there is no timeline for opening that section. Hammond informed the Board that the new displays, Bird Sounds/Track Castings, are in place, Board walks are being pressure washed and are in good shape. Hammond also talked about a potential playground for Thorne Swift, how much money will need to be raised, \$40k and that there are fundraising opportunities for it.

Action Items:

- a. Receive & Review Finance Committee Recommendation for Financing – Green discussed the need for a Tax Collection (administration fee) and its potential impact on future revenue. Baker had questions about the tax collection fee and was there any reason to delay instigating it. Hollingsworth informed Baker that the information

is compiled and the need for the Board to approve it. She also informed the Board that she has been contacted by private investors for the new Township Hall that may be interested in the bidding process as well. Green informed the Board of the recent Project Centennial Finance Committee meeting where they unanimously approved authorizing the issuance of the Bond to be sent to the Township Board. **Green made the motion that the Board authorize the issuance of an RFP for \$2 million in bonds for financing of the new Township Hall. Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Baker – yes, Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent. The clerk declared it approved.**

- b. Budget Amendments – The Township Board discussed and approved the following budget amendments. **Green made the following resolution. “Therefore, be it resolved that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 To Balance, GL 101-999-999.000, be amended to \$6,312 from \$0 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue”. Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.**

Green made the following resolution. “Therefore, be it resolved that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Reimbursements, GL 101-000-676.000 be amended to \$341 from \$3000 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue.”

Baker seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Green made the following resolution with corrections. “Therefore, be it resolved that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Interest Income GL 101-000-665.000 be amended to \$17,822 from \$7000 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue”. Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution with corrections. “Therefore, be it resolved that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 State Shared Revenue, GL 101-000-574.000, be amended to \$193,486 from \$140,000 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue.” Green seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution. “Therefore, be it resolved that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Zoning Permit Fee, GL 101-000-480.000, be amended to \$10,925 from \$7000 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue.” Green seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution. “Therefore, be it resolved that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Summer Tax Management Fee, GL 101-000-448.000, be amended to \$6,165 from \$6,100 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue. Green seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Glen Beach Agreement, GL 101-000-404.000, be amended to \$28,014 to \$19,500 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue.”* Green seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Budget Current Property Tax, GL 101-000-402.000, be amended to \$424,800 from \$391,500 to more accurately reflect the Township’s current revenue.”* Baker seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the Township’s FY 2026-2027 Budget Taxable Value is changed from \$472k from \$428k.”* Green seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the New Hall Budget expense of CAP Outlay New Hall Consultant Contracts, GL 101-264-963-025, be changed to \$110,000 from \$70,000 to more accurately reflect the Township’s expenses.”* Baker seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Hollingsworth made the following resolution with corrections. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the FY 2026-2027 New Hall Budget expense of New Hall Interest on Bond, GL 101-264-962.000, be changed to \$0 from \$90,000.”* Baker seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Green made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the Budget Expense of Hall Misc. Expense, GL 101-265-955.000, be added to the FY 2026-2027 Budget in the amount of \$292 to more accurately reflect the Township’s expenses.”* Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Green made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the Budget expense of Infotech Equipment expense, GL 101-228-935.000, be increased to \$15,000 from \$12,000 to more accurately reflect the Township’s expenses.”*

Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green – yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

Green made the following resolution. *“Therefore, be it resolved, that the Budget Expense, Clerk Misc. Expense, GL 101-215-955.000, be added to the FY 2026-2027 Budget in the amount of \$517 to more accurately reflect the Township’s expenses.”* Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Green –

yes, Baker – yes, Olson – yes, Murphy absent. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent. The clerk therefore declared this resolution adopted.

- c. Recreation Committee Township Board Re appointment – The Board thanked Baker for her time and efforts as the Township Board Rep to the Recreation Committee. The Board agreed to appoint Jay Olson as the Township Board Rep. **Hollingsworth made the motion to appoint Jay Olson as the West Traverse Township Board Representative to the Recreation Committee. Green seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**
- d. Project Centennial Updates – Olson updated the Board on the new Township Hall progress including the finalization of the General Contractors contract and a target date of August 24, 2026, for groundbreaking. Green noted early August for bid returns.
- e. Existing Township Hall and Barn Discussion – Olson reiterated that the Township wants to save the current Township Hall. Regarding the Barns, he discussed the various options that the Township has taken and that the Board is open to options from the public.
- f. Forest Beach/Pine Trail Sewer System update – Hollingsworth explained the Forest Beach/Pine Trail expensive and extensive repairs needed for the system, the cost of repairs and the potential for a one-time invoice for users. The Board agreed on the need for a presentation and Q& A session between Mead & Hunt and the two associations.
- g. Township Newsletter Discussion – Green provided a sample for the Board to consider for a possible newsletter. The Board decided to go ahead with a Winter Newsletter noting various items that could be included and the deadline to get it to the County for printing. Baker volunteered to design it and requested an early October deadline for information so as to complete it in time for the County's deadline.

Reports & Updates

- a. Clerk – Olson updated the Board on the amount of AVCB ballots have been mailed, 612, and that the Early Voting dates for the August Primary are Saturday July 25, 2026, through Sunday August 2, 2026, at the VFW Hall on Conway Rd.
- b. Treasurer – Summer 2026 Property taxes were mailed at the end of June and are steadily coming in.
- c. Planning Commission – Green updated the Board on the recent PC meeting noting the discussion regarding Data Centers, Battery Storage and the discussion of issuance of a moratorium for possible future construction in West Traverse Township.
- d. Zoning Administrator – provided in packet
- e. Recreation/Thorne Swift Committee – Hammond reported on investigating the possibility of a playground at Thorne Swift and that he and Olson walked the Township/Cook property to assess the property for future trails, etc.
- f. Supervisor – no report

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

Public Comments – Steve Erber read a letter to the Board regarding a new sewer system connection for his Association. (see attached) Dawson Moore cautioned the Board to not give a lot of time or effort to Data Centers as it may never come to Northern Michigan. Garon Gopigian inquired if the Township would consider keeping the barns if public donations could support its restoration and upkeep.

Board comments – Hollingsworth thanked Moore for his comments regarding the City of Harbor Springs Recreation Dept and the suggestion of a Township Rep on the City Parks and Recreation Committee. She also informed the Board that the Township 80 was mentioned on a local radio station.

Next Regular Meeting – The next West Traverse Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn – Olson asked for a motion to adjourn the July 14, 2026, Township Board meeting. Hollingsworth made the motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Baker seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jay Olson, Clerk

Transcribed by: Amy Peters

Letter from Steve Erber read into minutes

Emmet Beach and Bluff Association
8103 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
erbersteve@gmail.com

July 14, 2026

West Traverse Township Board

Attn: Township Clerk

P.O. Box 355

Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Dear West Traverse Township Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Emmet Beach and Bluff Association (the “Association”), a nonprofit organization representing property owners within Outlot 2 of the Plat of Emmet Beach commonly referred to as the Bluff area within the broader Forest Beach and Pine Trail community. Our members include owners of residential properties in this historic subdivision located in Fractional Section 15, West Traverse Township.

The Association is committed to preserving the environmental integrity, public health, and quality of life in our community. We recognize that the Forest Beach/Pine Trail Sewer System (the “System”) currently serves properties within the Plat of Emmet Beach, specifically lots 1 through 43 and the Hotel Site, while excluding Out Lot Nos. 1 and 2. In light of growing concerns regarding aging septic systems, potential groundwater contamination, and the need for sustainable infrastructure, we are formally requesting that West Traverse Township consider extending sewer services to our members’ properties in Outlot 2 through the System or an alternative arrangement, such as system expansion or a new connection agreement.

As outlined in the Township’s Sewer Rate and Connection Ordinance No. 80-1 (as amended), particularly Article III, Section 3, the Township has the authority to enter into contracts with incorporated associations like ours to provide sewage collection and treatment services. We believe such a contract would align with the Township’s goals of equitable and efficient management of the System, as stated in the Rules and Regulations for the Forest Beach/Pine Trail Sewer System adopted on June 13, 2000. Our request is focused on properties in Outlot 2 that may qualify for new or unused benefits, subject to approval by the Township and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), ensuring no adverse impact on the System’s capacity, which is limited to a maximum of 42 benefits.

We kindly request a meeting with Township representatives to discuss this proposal in detail, explore available capacity or expansion options, and outline next steps. Please contact me to schedule a discussion at your earliest convenience. The

Association looks forward to collaborating with the Township to enhance our shared community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven Erber

Emmet Beach and Bluff Association