

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday August 11, 2026  
6:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Absent:** Baker (due to unavoidable family issue)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Approve Agenda & additional items:** Green made the motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Hollingsworth seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.

**Approve minutes of regular meeting July 14, 2026, and the Special meeting minutes of July 17, 2026:** Green made the motion to approve the July 14, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Hollingsworth seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent. Hollingsworth made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2026. Green seconded. Four (4) ayes, 1 absent.

**Visitors:** Sally Olson, Kathy & Steve Erber, Ed Taylor

**Public Comments** – none

**Review Correspondence not listed below:**

**Thorne Swift Report** – Hammond gave his report noting attendance is still down due to the Lower Shore wash-out adding that he spoke with ECRC about the timeline for repairing the road. He also pointed out that sales of tee shirts and donations are about equal to last year's donations. He discussed the ongoing Boardwalk maintenance. Hammond informed the Board that donations are being received for a Thorne Swift Playground and that he is looking into designs and costs for the playground.

**Action Items:**

- a. **Baiardi/Birchwood Lawsuit** – Murphy recused himself at 6:08 p.m. due to his position on the Birchwood Farms Board of Trustees. Olson explained the lawsuit involving Cindy Baiardi and Birchwood Farms, and the Township's position of filing a Consent to Entry of Judgement. **Hollingsworth made a motion to approve the Consent of Entry of Judgment and read the full Consent to Entry of Judgement;** *"NOW COMES West Traverse Township and for the Consent to Entry of Judgement in this above matter as follows: 1.) West Traverse Township is a named defendant in this litigation. 2.) West Traverse Township has been served with the Complaint to Vacate Part of Plat concerning the combination of two lots within the plat of Birchwood Farms Golf & Country Club No. 4. 3.) In answer to said*

*Complaint, West Traverse Township is not involved in and accordingly does not contest the matters set forth in the Complaint. Therefore, subject to the court's resolution of contested issues that may involve any other parties, West Traverse Township consents and stipulates to the relief sought in the Complaint with regard to the vacation of a portion of the Plat of Birchwood Farms Golf & Country Club No. 4 sought by plaintiff. Green seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Baker– absent. Three (3) ayes, one (1) absent and one (1) recused. The clerk declared it approved. Murphy rejoined the Board at 6:13 p.m.*

- b. Project Centennial Updates – Olson provided updates on Project Centennial including the groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for August 24, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The Board discussed the various side services such as Security, Communication Services/Devices, Data Network Wiring, Audio Visual for the new building, the costs involved for all services, the quotes received for each company and them being within budget. After reviewing each, the Board approved the following four (4) motions:

1.) Vanbelkum Communication Services/Devices. **Hollingsworth made the following motion.** *“I move to approve Vanbelkum Communication to provide the Business Communication and Device Solutions for the new Township Hall as noted above and presented in the proposal dated February 17, 2026.”* **Murphy seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes Baker– absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

2.) Mercury Sound and Lighting: **Green made the following motion:** *“I move to approve Mercury Sound and Lighting to provide the Integrated AV System for the new Township Hall as presented in the proposal dated May 6, 2026.”*

**Hollingsworth seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes Baker– absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

3.) EPS Security: **Hollingsworth made the following motion:** *“I move to approve the EPS proposals dated April 15, 2026, and July 27, 2026, to provide the proposed Security/Access Control/Fire/CCTV Camera Solution for the new Township Hall with the one-time amount of \$20,842 and \$105/mo. monitoring fee.”* **Green seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes, Baker– absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

4.) Common Angle IT Services for Data Server and Computers: **Hollingsworth made the following motion.** *“I move to approve Common Angle and Vanbelkum to provide the Server, Data Network Switches, User Devices with Phone Closet infrastructure and Network Wiring as proposed on Common Angle quotes’ dated July 31, 2026, July 28, 2026, and July 31, 2026, proposal dated February 17, 2026, and Vanbelkum quote dated June 22, 2026, respectively as noted above.”* **Green seconded. Roll call vote: Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes Baker– absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

5.) Acrisure Builders Risk Insurance Rider: Green noted the need for competitive bids for the Township's entire insurance package in the future. **Hollingsworth made the following motion.** *“I make the motion to approve the Builders Risk Insurance for the new Township Hall building project not to exceed \$7500.”* **Green seconded.**

**Roll call vote: Green – yes, Olson – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Murphy – yes  
Baker– absent. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

- c. Barn and existing Township Hall discussion – The Board discussed Lisa Morris’ offer to purchase land with large barn on it. The Board noted the need to weigh the options of selling the property or maintaining it with Green emphasizing the need to make decisions regarding the property and Barns. Hollingsworth expressed her opposition to selling any property.
- d. \*see above for combined discussion\*
- e. Bond discussion & update – Green updated the Board on Bond sale results noting Huntington Bank was the winning bid at 4.36% with First Community, Citizen’s Bank and Commercial Bank as the backup bidders.
- f. Bond & Construction update – Green informed the Board that the Bond closes on August 27, 2026, noting there is a small risk that the Bond may not close before construction begins on August 24, 2026, but that he is confident that it will close.

#### Reports & Updates

- a. Clerk – Olson reported on the Primary Election results. 833 total votes cast. Informed the Board that due to an ordering error by the County, the Township ran out of ballots and had to finish the night on the VAT voting machine.
- b. Treasurer – Hollingsworth reported on the disbursement of taxes noting significant amounts going to the State, Harbor Springs Public Schools, and the County. Hollingsworth discussed the investment of the Bond money with Huntington offering the best rate. She informed the Board that there is no need to amend the Investment Policy. Hollingsworth also updated the Board on the recent sewer system progress, when the work will begin etc.
- 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 Data Center construction in West Traverse Township.
- d. Zoning Administrator – provided in packet
- e. Recreation/Thorne Swift Committee – Olson and Hammond informed the Board that they are working together to map out a path system. Olson updated the Board on the meeting he and Murphy had with the Harbor Springs City Manager and the Administrative Assistant regarding becoming involved with the City’s Parks and Recreation Committee.
- f. Supervisor – Murphy noted the Board of the recent Emmet County Road Commission report in the packet.

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

**Public Comments** – Ed Taylor commented on the upkeep of the Township 80 stating it’s been well maintained and inquired about whether Zoom meetings were available now and is there any way to track who access the website.

**Board comments** – Hollingsworth thanked Olson for all he has done to help bring the new Township Hall to fruition.

**Next Regular Meeting** – The next West Traverse Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjourn** – Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn the August 11, 2026, Township Board meeting. **Hollingsworth made the motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Green seconded. Four (4) ayes, one (1) absent.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jay Olson, Clerk

Transcribed by: Amy Peters