

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 24, 2009**

Supervisor Sandford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Baker, Bartlett, Sandford, Hollingsworth, Fisher.

Visitors: Tim Grimm, John Riggs, Danielle Kapral, Joey Arbaugh, Jerry Lauer, Sophy Carpenter, Alford LaCount, Jeanne Benjamin, Paul Mooradian, Scott Carbeck, Martha Lancaster, Sue Matsko.

Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget: **Bartlett made a motion to go to the Public Hearing. Baker seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

The Public Hearing notice was published in the Harbor Light on March 11, 2009. There were a lot of questions from the public in regards to the expenditures for recreation, land development, services, Thorne Swift, information technology, water and roads. Supervisor Sandford explained each expenditure and exactly what it was supposed to cover.

Bartlett made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

Additional Items for the Agenda: Landfill expenses under Reports and MTA spring meeting under New Business.

Public Comments: Joey Arbaugh congratulated the Trustees for not taking a raise in pay for the upcoming fiscal year.

Approve Meeting Minutes: **Baker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2009 as presented. Bartlett seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed. There was some discussion regarding a possible non-motorized off-set trail on Hoyt Rd.

REPORTS & UPDATES:

Board of Review: Tim Grimm gave an overview of the March Board of Review, the 2009 assessments and taxables. There was some discussion regarding Harbor Point.

Proposed: March 24, 2009

Approved: April 14, 2009

Clerk's Report: **Bartlett made a motion to approve payment of pre-approved routine bills, as presented, before the monthly Board meetings. Baker seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

Treasurer's Report: Revenue sharing was received in the amount of \$17,184. Hollingsworth settled her 2008 taxes with the county. There are two outstanding sewer bills. The Board agreed with the Treasurer that she was correct in billing for interest on a late sewer bill payment.

Planning Commission Report: Two seminar videos were viewed. The Planning Commission is still reviewing the C-1 and I-1 district ordinance revisions.

Thorne Swift Seasonal Employees: John Riggs outlined the schedule of seasonal employees for this summer to make sure that someone is always on site during hours when the gate is open. The park will open when all of the boardwalks are free of ice and snow.

Recreation Committee: **Hollingsworth made a motion to accept Sandy Baker's resignation from the Recreation Committee, effective March 24, 2009. Bartlett seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

Fisher made a motion to appoint Laurie Ford to the Recreation Committee as Sandy Baker's replacement, effective March 24, 2009. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

Water System: The water reservoir tank is being installed at this time. Supervisor Sandford has received a plan from Benchmark showing the water system in West Traverse Township.

Fire Authority Update: The Township's bill for 2008 was \$41,540.

Landfill Expense: The Township's share for maintaining the landfill for 2008 was \$1,125.36.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2009-2010 Budget: Baker made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt the West Traverse Township Budget for 2009-2010, whereas, a properly noticed public hearing on the draft budget for 2009-2010 dated March 20, 2009 has been conducted by the West Traverse Township Board at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 2009, now therefore, be it resolved by the West Traverse Township Board that the draft budget, dated March 20, 2009, be adopted for 2009-2010 with no changes.

Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Fisher – yes, Baker – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Bartlett – yes, Sandford – yes.

2009 Millages:

Fisher made a motion that therefore, be it resolved by the West Traverse Township Board, that the Township millage for 2009-2010 be set at 1.4 mils, with 0.70 mils designated for the Township General Fund and 0.70 mils designated for the Road Improvement Fund. Bartlett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Bartlett – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Fisher – yes, Baker – yes, Sandford – yes.

Bartlett made a motion that be it resolved, by the West Traverse Township Board, that the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve millage for 2009-2010 be set at 0.15 mils.

Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Baker – yes, Fisher – yes, Bartlett – yes, Sandford – yes.

Hollingsworth made a motion that be it resolved, by the West Traverse Township Board, that the Property Tax Collection Administration Fee for 2009 be set a 0.60%. Fisher seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Baker – yes, Fisher – yes, Bartlett – yes, Sandford – yes.

2009 Road Projects: Baker made a motion to authorize Supervisor Sandford to sign a contract for the road project on Middle road from Hughston Road to just past the Birchwood entrance. Bartlett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Fisher – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Baker – yes, Bartlett – yes, Sandford – yes.

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Employment Contracts: Contracts were submitted for Thorne Swift Resident Manager and Planning/Zoning Administrator. The compensation for the Thorne Swift Resident Manager was corrected to read \$1,273 twice a month.

Bartlett made a motion that the Township Board approve the contract of employment between West Traverse Township and
1. Resident Manager of Thorne Swift Nature Preserve; 2. The Planning/Zoning Administrator, per the details specified in the contracts dated March 15, 2009 with the correction of the pay so noted in the minutes under compensation for the Resident Manager of Thorne Swift. Baker seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Fisher – yes, Baker – yes, Bartlett – yes, Sandford – yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Amendments 2008-2009: **Fisher made a motion that therefore, be it resolved that the Township's 2008-2009 operating budget is hereby amended by providing the additional appropriations listed below: Thorne Swift Fund for legal services, non-capital improvements; Cook Property Fund for utilities. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote: Baker – yes, Bartlett – yes, Fisher – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Sandford – yes.

Township Wi-Fi Hotspot: Expenditures for establishing a Wi-Fi spot at the Township hall were discussed.

Curbside Recycle: There was a lot of discussion regarding curbside recycling and the possibility of spring cleanup in the Township.

Office Improvements: **Bartlett made a motion to approve the bid from Ballards for the hot water heater for the Township hall at a price of \$461.00. Baker seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

It was agreed to purchase two storage cabinets for a price of \$499.00 each.

Bartlett made a motion to approve Supervisor Sandford to purchase a laptop computer for the Township. Fisher seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

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Township Board Meeting Dates: **Fisher made a motion to accept the meeting dates from April, 2009 through March, 2010 for the West Traverse Township Board meetings to be held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception of March 30, 2010. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

MTA Spring Meeting: There will be a spring MTA meeting in St. Ignace on May 20, 2009.

Approval of Payables & Payroll: **Hollingsworth made a motion to approve the payables as presented. Bartlett seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

Public Comments: Alford LaCount had some comments regarding the video screen and recycling.

Board Comments: None.

Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cynthia Fisher, Clerk

Transcribed by:
Susan Matsko
Township Secretary

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