

# ***West Traverse Township - 2017 Newsletter***

8001 M-119, PO Box 528, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

(231) 526-7361 Fax: (231) 526-0028 E-Mail: [secretary@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:secretary@westtraversetownship.com)

[www.westtraversetownship.com](http://www.westtraversetownship.com)

## **West Traverse Township**

(Established 1897)

### **Township Board**

Bob Sandford - Supervisor  
Cindy Baiardi - Clerk  
Kristi Hollingsworth - Treasurer  
John Baker - Trustee  
Eva Lauer - Trustee

### **Planning Commission**

Nancy Sarowski - Chair  
Cindy Baiardi  
Dan Gorman  
Scott Kennard  
Paul Opfermann  
Paul Repasky  
Pete Wallin

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Sam DeCamp - Chair  
Jim Bartlett  
Dick Collie - Alternate  
Jeff Ford  
Eva Lauer  
Nancy Sarowski  
Pete Wallin - Alternate

### **Board of Review**

Jim Frang - Chair  
Bill Borglin  
Curt Regentin

### **Recreation/Thorne Swift**

#### **Committee**

John Baker - Chair  
Darrell Amlin  
Joey Arbaugh  
Cynthia Fisher  
Sam DeCamp  
Laurie Ford  
John Riggs  
Carolyn Sandford

### **Zoning Administrator**

Randy Frykberg  
First & Third Tuesdays  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Other times by appointment

### **Planner**

Randy Frykberg  
By Appointment

### **Assessor**

Joe Lavender  
Mondays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

### **Administrative Assistant**

Sue Matsko

### **Township Hall Office Hours**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Daily

### **Township Board Meetings**

2nd Tuesdays - 7:00 pm

### **Planning Commission Meetings**

2nd Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

Your summer property tax bill is enclosed. It is due on **September 14, 2017**.

Your winter tax bill will be mailed at the end of November and is due on **February 15, 2018**. If you don't receive it by early December, please contact the Township Office. It is your responsibility to make sure the Township has your correct mailing address.

Interest will be added to late payments at the rate of 1% per month. On March 1, 2018, any unpaid bills, including underpayments, will be turned over to the Emmet Count Treasurer, at which time additional interest and penalties will be applied.

Remember to make out your check to West Traverse Township and send it to **PO Box 528**. The Township is not responsible for payments not received for any reason. Post marks will be accepted for the due date only. Payments may be made in person at the Township Hall. The exact amount is needed if paying by cash.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Treasurer by calling the Township Office or by e-mail to [treasurer@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:treasurer@westtraversetownship.com).

### **Notable happenings over the past year include:**

- Had 31% and 75% turnout of registered voters for the August primary and November general elections, respectively.
- Passed the 4-year renewal of the operating millage for Thorne Swift Nature Preserve.
- Welcomed Eva Lauer back to the Township Board, this time as a trustee (replacing Jim Bartlett who chose not to run again).
- Completed construction of the Lower Shore Drive retaining wall after a frustratingly long delay, especially to residents of Lower Shore Drive, due to relocating the underground utility lines to accommodate the new guard rail.
- Finished the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 with revenues minus expenses exceeding budget for all Township funds (General, Road, Thorne Swift, Sewer, and Water) except the Sewer Fund, where an unanticipated repair caused it to be over budget.
- Welcomed the return of Randy Frykberg as Planner and Zoning Administrator.
- Issued 38 zoning permits in 2016: 6 new construction; 18 remodel and additions; 13 accessory buildings; 1 sign.
- Making progress on the Planning Commission project to upgrade the zoning ordinance to address ambiguities and organization deficiencies, to bring it into compliance with changes in zoning laws and regulations, and to utilize the latest technology to make it more interactive and user-friendly.
- Had 19 appeals of property assessments at the Board of Review, which resulted in 10 being adjusted.
- Benefitted from 117 medical first responder service runs throughout the Township by Birchwood Farms Security and Emergency Medical Services.
- Completed removal of the Townships' rental house and restoration of the property on Lake Road across from the Township Hall..

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## **Plans for coming year:**

- Please refer to the enclosed Thorne Swift Nature Preserve newsletter for 2017 activities. It is also available on the Township website.
- Complete the following road improvement projects:
  - Ultra-thin asphalt overlay on Carpenter Lane, Tamarac Trail, Cottontail Lane, Hemlock Court, Pine Hill Drive, Golf Side Court, Heynig Road (from State Road west), Heynig (from State Road to Odawa Lane), Hughston Road (from Lightfoot Road to Cemetery Road), and Hughston Road (from Middle Road to LaCount Road), a total of 3.18 miles.
  - Pave Amy's Way from Middle Road to Hoyt Road, 0.52 miles.
  - Replace the Middle Road bridge (over Greenbriar Drive) if a federal grant from the BIA is received. The 20% local match will be split between the Township and the Emmet County Road Commission.
- Complete the upgrade of the Zoning Ordinance and approve it following a public hearing.
- Install new voting machines prior to our next election as part of a statewide initiative at no cost to the Township.
- Township Assessor Joe Lavender will be visiting 20% of the properties with a building (i.e. house) on them to verify and update the record card information in the assessing database.
- Continue to participate with other Emmet County townships in intervening in the lawsuit filed by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians asking a federal court to declare that the entire township is part of the LTBBOI reservation based on an 1855 treaty.
- Levy the same total township millage rate of 1.60 mills: 0.70 for township operations; 0.68 for road improvement projects; and 0.22 for Thorne Swift Nature Preserve operations.

## **General information:**

- The Township website ([www.westtraversetownship.com](http://www.westtraversetownship.com)) remains a good resource for information about the Township.
- Free library services are available for Township residents at the Alanson Area Public Library ([www.alansonlibrary.org](http://www.alansonlibrary.org)).
- Neil Ahrens, our Township's representative on the Emmet County Board of Commissioners may be contacted at [nahrens@emmetcounty.org](mailto:nahrens@emmetcounty.org), 231-881-6607 (cell), and 231-242-4075 (home).
- The Permanent Absentee Voter List remains popular and options are available for young voters attending college out of the area to register to vote. For more information, please contact Clerk Cindy Baiardi at the Township Hall.