

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

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

Roll Call: Baker, Lauer, Sandford, Hollingsworth, Baiardi.

Visitors: Kevin Hollingsworth.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approve Agenda and Additional Items: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Public Comments: None.

Approve Minutes: **Baiardi made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 10, 2017 as presented with one correction: correct the spelling of *Review* in the title of *Resolution Regarding Board of Review* on the first page. Lauer seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

Baker made a motion to approve the Special meeting minutes of January 23, 2017 as presented. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

Correspondence: Correspondence was reviewed.

Lauer made a motion to approve an extra \$500 to pave through the right of way where there is a gravel driveway on Amy's Way. Baker seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

Consider Approval of Compensation Changes for Fiscal Year 2017-2018: **Hollingsworth made a motion that therefore be it resolved that as of April 1, 2017 the salary of the West Traverse Township Supervisor be increased by 2%, or \$307.20, from \$15,360.00 to \$15,667.20. Baiardi seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote: Lauer – no, Baker – no, Hollingsworth – yes, Baiardi – yes, Sandford – no.

Baker made a motion that be it resolved that as of April 1, 2017 the salary of the West Traverse Township Clerk will be increased by \$3,000 from \$15,360.00 to \$18,360.00. Baker said that he feels strongly that the Clerk does an excessive amount of work, all for standard Clerk duties. He thinks that with State Regulations, the amount of work has increased as well as bookkeeping. He acknowledged that everyone is here partly because they have a civic duty to be here, but he thinks that the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer are all underpaid at the current levels because of the excessive amount of time that is put in and the responsibility that they take on. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Baker – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Lauer – yes, Baiardi – yes, Sandford – no.

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Lauer made a motion that therefore be it resolved that as of April 1, 2017 the salary of the West Traverse Township Treasurer should be increased by \$3,000 to a total of \$18,228. Lauer said that she did a lot of research with the Treasurer and she thinks that there have been a lot of changes since she did the Treasurer's job herself and it is a very responsible job, that she is responsible for these monies, she does a great job and that she is underpaid for what she does. Lauer thinks that it takes a lot of bookkeeping, a lot of calculations to balance with the County. The Treasurer has done a lot of things to make the job easier. Lauer does not think that someone else could be elected and put into this position without schooling. Even though it is a community service, Lauer thinks that there has to be compensation for it. Baker seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Lauer – yes, Baker – yes, Baiardi – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Sandford – no.

Lauer made a motion to offer a resolution for \$0 increase for the Township Trustee's Salaries, to be left at \$5,328. Lauer felt that the Trustees are compensated sufficiently for what they do. Baker seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Hollingsworth – no, Baiardi – no, Baker – yes, Lauer – yes, Sandford – yes.

Hollingsworth made a motion that therefore be it resolved that as of April 1, 2017 John Riggs' salary shall be increased by 2% from \$35,136.00 to \$35,838.72 (to be adjusted to be equally divided by number of pay periods). Baiardi seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Lauer – yes, Baker – no, Baiardi – yes, Hollingsworth – yes, Sandford – no.

Sandford made a motion that be it resolved that as of April 1, 2017 Susan Matsko's hourly rate be increased by 2% from \$17.65 to \$18.00 per hour, that she be granted 7 days of paid vacation consisting of 28 hours at her hourly rate; and that she be granted several paid holidays consisting of 4 hours of pay for each if they fall on a regularly scheduled work day. Baker seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Lauer – yes, Baker – yes, Baiardi – yes, Hollingsworth – no, Sandford – yes.

Baker made a motion that be it resolved that the compensation per the attached proposed compensation schedule, not otherwise approved by the separate resolutions, for the fiscal year of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 be approved. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Hollingsworth – yes, Lauer – yes, Baker – yes, Baiardi – yes, Sandford – yes.

Consider Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018: The proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 was reviewed. There was discussion regarding raising the sewer fees in order to better fund the sewer fund.

Baker made a motion to increase the sewer rate from \$464 a year to \$500 a year, billed semi-annually. Lauer seconded the motion.

Vote: All yes.

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Review Poverty Exemption Guidelines for 2017: The exemption guidelines for 2017 were reviewed.

Consider Township Board Meeting Dates for 2017-2018: **Baiardi made a motion to approve the Township Board meeting dates for 2017-2018. Baker seconded the motion.**
Vote: All yes.

Consider Approval of a 3 year Contract with Mead & Hunt for Water System Cross Connection Contamination Program:
Baiardi made a motion to approve the new contract with Mead & Hunt for the water system cross connection contamination program and authorize Supervisor Sandford to sign it. Baker seconded the motion.
Vote: All yes.

Clerk's Report: Baiardi presented her written report.

Treasurer's Report: Hollingsworth presented her report.

Planning Commission Report: The Planning Commission is continuing its review of the Zoning Ordinance.

Recreation/Thorne Swift Committee: Baker presented the minutes from the recent meeting. Baker stated that in response to some target shooting on the Township 80 acres, it was felt that there should be some rules and regulations put into place on all Township property. The Committee recommended some signage and that an Ordinance be created with these prohibitions, with the understanding being that the property is used almost exclusively for pedestrians, snowshoeing, skiers, biker, etc. That is why they wanted to recommend that there not be any motorized vehicles except for maintenance purposes. It is also being recommended that there be prohibition of discharging firearms and any kind of archery weapons except for during hunting seasons, prohibit campfires, camping and fireworks. Vehicles have to be allowed on seasonal roads, but not necessarily within the 80 acres. Sandford stated that the Township attorney had said that the Township has the authority to write an ordinance to prohibit whatever it wants except hunting during hunting season. If there is an ordinance, it can be posted. Sandford said that the sheriff is not obligated to enforce the ordinance. Lauer is not in favor of this ordinance. She believes that there are tax payers in the Township who snowmobile, use ATVs, who help to pay the taxes on these properties, and are not walkers, hikers, etc. and they should be able to use these properties. She also feels that the ordinance would have to be enforced which has always been a struggle to get done. Baker pointed out that the County only has two designated sites for target shooting on Robinson Road or on private property. Baker said that this is the first complaint of its kind in 45 years that he knows of. Sandford stated that the State prohibits any target shooting on State

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land. The subject of allowing horseback riding was brought up. Baker was not opposed to horses. Baiardi pointed out that there is almost always something that is in season for hunting. Sandford asked if the Board wanted to direct the Recreation Committee to move forward on the ordinance. Baiardi said that she was not comfortable telling sportsmen that they cannot use the property for shooting or using ATVs. She stated that it would not be enforced, all that would be done was to put signs up; everyone pays taxes and it is not right to not allow the use of the property for all activities. Hollingsworth agreed that the Board knows up front that the ordinance will not be enforced. Sandford said that everyone was being chicken (expletive deleted). If there is no ordinance, there is no avenue to go back on whatsoever. Baiardi says that everyone pays taxes to take care of the property. Sandford said that just because you pay taxes, it doesn't give you the right to go across the street and shoot your gun. Baiardi said that if it is being done legally, it should be allowed. Baker said that they are trying to prohibit target shooting. Hollingsworth said she thinks the Township should just follow the State's regulations and guidelines in respect to the use of guns. She does not want to see any other limits placed on the Township property. Lauer agreed with Hollingsworth as far as the target practice is spelled out, but there is really no way to prove that people are target shooting. Sandford said that for what little is going to be on it, it is not worth the effort to pay the attorney to prohibit camping, campfires and fireworks. Sandford said that this Board is absolutely ridiculous, as all the ones have been before, chickens to do anything that might make things better for the Township. Baker will go back to the Recreation Committee and let them know what was discussed at this meeting.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Randy Frykberg had presented his written report.

LTBBOI Litigation: No report.

Payables and Payroll: **Hollingsworth made a motion to approve the payables and payroll as presented. Baiardi seconded the motion.**

Vote: All yes.

Public Comments: None.

Board Comments: Hollingsworth wanted to know how the Township is coming along with remote access. Nothing is happening so far. Hollingsworth also asked how the Township Assessor is doing with updating photos for the files.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., beginning with a public hearing on the proposed millage rates and budget for FY 2017-2018.

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Respectfully submitted by:

Cindy Baiardi, Clerk

Transcribed by:
Susan Matsko
Township Secretary

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