	APPROVED MINUTES Thursday, June 25th, 2026 9:00 AM
SPECIAL Meeting	**Whitewater Township Board** 5777 Vinton Rd Williamsburg MI 49690
CALL TO ORDER	Supervisor Slopsema called meeting to order at 9:00AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
ROLL CALL **Quorum established**	Members present: Supervisor Linda Slopsema, Clerk Wendy Hoeksema, Treasurer Jill Koester, Trustee Randy Mielnik, Trustee Tim Arends Also present: Recording Secretary Kay Held
SET APPROVE AGENDA	Motion made by Mielnik, seconded by Slopsema to approved Agenda as presented. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried***
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	None expressed.
PUBLIC COMMENT	T. Squire: Concerns over lack of communication regarding new placement of recycling bins to Hi-Pray Park. Supervisor responded, stating this was still in process. P. Gruenwald-Dow: Expressed multiple concerns with relocation of recycling bins to Hi-Pray Park.
REPORTS **Retirement Presentation**	The Board received a ZOOM presentation from Ms. Behnke of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) regarding retirement plan options for township employees. Officials learned about potential cost savings, investment options and financial planning services available through the program. The Board discussed in detail with questions answered by the representative. Further consideration of the proposal is expected at a future meeting.
Break	A five-minute break was announced at 9:45 AM to resolve IT connection issues. Arends and Koester left the table and returned. The meeting reconvened at 9:49 AM
Land Division Ordinance Update	Trustee Mielnik reviewed pending State law changes affecting the Township's Land Division Ordinance and related Master Plan considerations. He discussed development options and recommended maintaining current provisions for original tract definition and allowable splits while encouraging open space design. The Board discussed land division, parent parcels, and development.
Planning Commission	Trustee Mielnik also reports that the Planning Commission has been working with the planners Giffels-Webster on the review of Ordinances labeled

REPORTS Planning Commission (cont'd)	"Bundle #1", which includes planning and development, condominium requirements, site plan review, and special uses. The Planning Commission is also working on the proposed Winery Ordinance, which is under review by Giffels-Webster. The Short-Term Rental (STR) survey is now live. A special public workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, 7/1/26, at 6:00 p.m. at Township Hall, immediately before the Planning Commission's 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. The workshop will inform M-72 property owners about possible zoning changes. The Planning Commission will be forwarding Zoning Ordinance amendments to the Board next month for recommended approval.
Audit Progress Update	Clerk Hoeksema reported that the Township's annual audit has been rescheduled for mid-August coordinated by the Supervisor. Additional accounting support from Maner Costerisan is being provided during the next month to help ensure audit readiness and compliance with the September 30 state deadline.
Website Redesign Update	Clerk Hoeksema updated the Board on the Township website redesign as the project lead working with website designer. It was appreciated that Board members are providing feedback via e-mail survey to help prioritize improvements. The consensus is that it should be focused on usability and public access to documents.
Clean Up Day	The Board heard Clerk Hoeksema's report on the Township's annual Clean Up Day, held Saturday, June 13, at Mill Creek Academy. Bay Area Disposal had a record 17 dumpsters on site, with an estimated 380 vehicles participating. Resident feedback was positive, with reduced waiting times noted this year. Appreciation was expressed for assistance from ZA Graber, Trustee Mielnik, and Clerk Hoeksema. The Fire Department was also present with its newest fire engine.
CONSENT CALENDAR	**Treasurer's Report:** in meeting packet **Fire/Emergency Services Report – Chief Morgan:** in meeting packet **Zoning Report – ZA Graber:** in meeting packet **Consideration of Approving Change to Land Use Permit – ZA Graber:** in meeting packet - REMOVED **Parks Report – Chief Morgan:** in meeting packet **MMR (Ambulance Report):** in meeting packet **GT County Sheriff Report:** in meeting packet **PC Minutes:** https://www.whitewatertownshipmi.gov/planning-commission.html **ZBA Minutes:** https://www.whitewatertownshipmi.gov/zoning-board-of-appeals.html **Correspondence:** None **Minutes for Approval:** https://www.whitewatertownshipmi.gov/township-board-subcommittee-meeting-minutes.html

	June 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes **Bills for Approval:** in meeting packet **CPA Services Purchase Order:** in meeting packet **MTA Membership Dues:** in meeting packet - REMOVED **Budget Amendments – Memos in Packet (Clerk/Supervisor):** in meeting packet **Revenue and Expenditure Report – May, 2026:** in meeting packet Mr. Arends made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mielnik, to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried*** **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR:** **Consideration of Approving Change to Land Use Permit:** The existing document incorrectly stated that the Treasurer must sign off on the application. This requirement is not lawful and must be removed. The document has been corrected and updated accordingly. Motion by Arends, seconded by Koester to approve the updated Land Use Permit application and to update the Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried*** **MTA Membership Dues:** There was discussion about the MTA membership renewal, benefits and dues as well as the Legal Defense Fund. Expenditures will need to be corrected in proper cost centers through a budget amendment. Motion by Arends, seconded by Hoeksema, to approve payment of the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) annual membership dues invoice for the period of 7/1/26 through 6/30/27, in the amount of $5,574.00 together with the legal Defense Fund contribution of $167.21 and the Premium Online Learning Subscription in the amount of $1,900 for a total expenditure of $7,641.21. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.*** Motion by Koester, seconded by Arends to amend the FY 2026-27 General Fund budget by transferring $1,500 from account 101-101-840 Dues/Membership to 101-101-880 Education/Training to provide sufficient appropriations for MTA Premium Online Learning Subscription to be paid. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS **Recycle Bin Relocation**	There was extensive discussion about the recycle bins/dumpster relocation after the many concerns expressed by residents and GFL/site logistics. The Board will re-evaluate these considerations before making any final decision. GFL will be contacted about curbside service availability. Motion by Arends, seconded by Mielnik, that the Board rescinds its vote on 6/11/26 to relocate the recycle bins to Hi-Pray Park. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.***
Boat Wash Station Update	Trustee Arends reports that an ad was placed seeking a General Contractor to install the boat wash station and is awaiting replies.
Road Speed Signs Update	The Board discussed map locations for potential installation of speed signs on Church Street and Skegemog Point Road. The Clerk noted that the speed study request also included Vinton Road. Data from the speed signs will be reviewed before additional sites are prepared for sign rotations.
5-Year Recreation Plan	The Grand Traverse Land Conservancy previously delivered a presentation to the Township Board. The 5-year Recreation Plan is not complete/approved. This needs to be done before applying for a development or acquisition grant and the DNR grant, for which the deadline is in February. The process is involved and will require Public Hearing. Trustee Mielnik is willing to assist with the editing and desktop publishing and asked the Board for approval under the Additional Compensation policy. There was discussion hoping prior members of PRAC would also be willing to assist. Chief Morgan (as lead) would also like to be involved in this process.
NEW BUSINESS **Ambulance Millage Renewal Discussion**	The current millage expires at the end of 2026. The MMR contract will also be ending. (in 2029) Chief Morgan is requesting a renewal of the existing millage. This was discussed by Board Members. The Clerk will locate existing millage language, and the Board will revisit this topic at the next meeting.
Meeting Minutes Synopsis Discussion	Trustee Arends presented information from the Michigan Township Association (MTA) in the packet regarding meeting minutes and expressed concern that the current minutes contain too much detail particularly in public comment and should focus more on summarized actions rather than dialogue. Board members agreed. Clerk Hoeksema explained that her approach was based on MTA guidance and training and having a neutral minute taker. She noted consistently minutes had not been changed in many months, and that the Supervisor is given the summary before publishing. She believed the public comments should be reflected in a way that allows the public to be heard and was already considerably summarizing lengthy meetings. Board discussion clarified the final approval of minutes lies with the Board. Discussion was held about the statutory requirements of the Clerk. It was

	pointed out that draft meeting minutes are required 8 business days after a meeting, and the newspaper summary is required before 21 days after to allow public to read. Board consensus agreed to remove Meeting Minutes from the Consent Calendar in future meeting Agendas in order to ensure discussion and oversight.
ANNOUNCEMENTS	**Township Board Special Meeting: Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Elk Rapids Governmental Center, Elk Rapids, MI** Civil Infraction **Next Township Board Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Whitewater Township Hall** **Board Member Announcements:** Clerk Hoeksema reported Absentee Ballots were mailed out 6/22/26. Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at the Township Hall or the Secretary of State website. Election Worker training is still ongoing if any public would like to help. Treasurer Koester reported Summer Tax Bills went out Tuesday, 6/23/26. (*Note- tax bills mailed 06/30/2026)
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
BOARD DISCUSSION	The Board further discussed the MERS presentation. The Board will continue considering Land Division information and revisit it at the next meeting. Board Members discussed agenda items needed for the July 9th meeting.
ADJOURNMENT	Moved by Slopsema, seconded by Mielnik to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried*** Meeting adjourned 11:52AM
Minutes submitted by Kay Held, Recording Secretary	Wendy Hoeksema 07/09/2026 Wendy Hoeksema, Township Clerk Date