

	APPROVED MINUTES Monday, April 13th, 2026 6:00 PM
Special Meeting	Whitewater Township Board 5777 Vinton Rd Williamsburg MI 49690
CALL TO ORDER	Supervisor Slopsema called meeting to order at 6:00 PM The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
ROLL CALL	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	Moved by Slopsema, seconded by Mielnik to approve Agenda as presented. <i>Motion carried</i>
CONFLICT OF INTEREST	None expressed.
PUBLIC COMMENT 1st	None.
REPORTS	None.
CONSENT CALENDAR	None.
CORRESPONDENCE	None.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	None.
NEW BUSINESS	Consideration of Planning Commission Rezoning Recommendation: # ZDA 2026-01 The Board discussed two memos in the meeting packet from the PC Chair and PC Board Representative explaining an applicant's split zoning situation of two parcels. The proposed amendment would correct this. The applicant was present and explained a brief history of why this happened. The proposed amendment would rezone small portions of property south of M-72 highway, west of Broomhead Road. Moved by Arends, seconded by Mielnik, to approve Ordinance #2026-91 based on the recommendation of the Whitewater Township Board's own findings of compliance with Section 21.05 of the Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance. AYE: Arends, Koester, Mielnik, Hoeksema, Slopsema NAY: None <i>Motion carried</i>

<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>Consideration of Payments made to the Township Clerk: Supervisor Slopsema summarized concerns regarding additional compensation paid to the Clerk in 2025 with related approval questions. The matter was identified during budget planning preparations. Legal counsel was engaged. The Clerk provided information to counsel, and an attorney’s opinion was released to the public. No resolution had been reached prior to the meeting. The Clerk stated the payments were for additional work performed necessary for operations, processed through payroll, and she does not believe repayment is warranted. The Treasurer and a Trustee expressed concerns regarding documentation, approval processes, and compliance with Township policy. Board members also discussed prior wage adjustments, auditor concerns and related costs for special meetings. The Supervisor noted the need for policy and process improvements and had also suggested a repayment option.</p> <p>Moved by Arends, seconded by Koester that if the Township Clerk has not submitted a repayment plan by payroll deduction, that is acceptable to the Board, no later than three business days prior to the Township Board’s next regular meeting, to refer the issue to the County Sherriff’s Department, State Police and/or County prosecutor for investigation of possible criminal conduct by the Township Clerk.</p> <p>AYES: Mielnik, Slopsema, Arends, Koester NAY: Hoeksema</p> <p><i>Motion carried</i></p>
<p>TABLED ITEMS</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<p>Next regular Board meeting Thursday, April 23rd 9:00 AM Township Hall</p> <p>Planning Commission will be holding a special meeting on Monday April 20th 7:00 PM to review survey questions regarding short-term rentals.</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT 2nd Began 6:25 PM End 6:36 PM</p>	<p>K. Mangus: Inquired on how to obtain Attorney opinion letter if it was made public. (<i>Supervisor replied it is available via FOIA</i>) Expressed misunderstandings occur, some things need to be private and perhaps the attorney advised a repayment plan but that may not be for the Board to decide.</p> <p>M. Jacobson: Recalled Clerk’s approved raise based on workload, and comments about trust. He believes Clerk should be removed.</p> <p>A. Boyd: Dissatisfied with Board’s lack of oversight and passing off of duties by a Supervisor [sic to Arends]. Gave the Board a “D” grade.</p>

BOARD DISCUSSION	None.
ADJOURNMENT	Moved by Slopsema, seconded by Arends to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned 6:37 PM <i>Motion carried</i>
Minutes prepared by Kay Held, Recording Secretary	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 60%; text-align: center;"> <i>Wendy Hoeksema</i> </div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30%; text-align: center;"> <i>04-23-2026</i> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> Wendy Hoeksema, Township Clerk Date </div>