

**WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**Whitewater Township Hall, 5177 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690**  
**231-267-5141 Phone**

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Supervisor Slopsema called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL:** Clerk Hoeksema called Roll.

**Present:**

Supervisor Linda Slopsema  
Clerk Wendy Hoeksema  
Treasurer Jill Koester  
Trustee Tim Arends  
Trustee Randy Mielnik

A quorum was established.

**Absent:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Recording Secretary Kay Held

**SET/ADJUST/APPROVE AGENDA:**

-Add to Unfinished Business, Item J(2): "Discussion about Joint Meeting with Planning Commission"  
-Move Item M "Board Comments and Discussion" to after second "Public Comment."

**Board Action:** Ms. Slopsema made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Mielnik seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. K. Mangus: Commented on the Civil Infractions Ordinance and has concerns with enforcement clarity, fines, timelines and the ability to appeal.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive and File:**

Correspondence: None.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.

Any Park and Recreation Items: None.

**Discussion of Joint Meeting with Planning Commission:**

Mr. Mielnik brought forward idea of a joint meeting with the Board with May/June being the preferred timeline. This will be coordinated with the PC Chair.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2026-2027 Budget Review Continuation – All Funds**

There was extensive Board discussion regarding all budget centers including adjustments made at the prior budget planning meeting and areas not previously covered. The Board addressed current fiscal year budget items and projected expenditures for the incoming fiscal year. The accompanying budget notes were reviewed. Budget corrections to the new budget were discussed and entered.

**Fire Fund Discussion:** Clarification was made regarding the \$16,500 Tribal grant monies for turnout gear, the 60/40% (Fire/Township) salary share for the proposed Firefighter/Park Manager salary, and documentation of the sale of fixed assets.

A Wage Structure Executive Summary was submitted by Chief Morgan and reviewed. It more clearly identifies rates of pay based on years of service, levels of experience and training.

**General Fund Discussion:** Detailed discussion and reporting of a sufficient fund balance to allow for unforeseen expenditures.

**Fire Capital Improvement Fund:** Delivery of the new fire truck is expected in April/May 2026.

**Parks & Recreation Fund:** Discussed expected camping revenues, the underground electrical improvement and other improvement projects. The boat wash station is expected to be completed in June.

**Graded Wage Scale Discussion:** Wage scale grading was discussed with detailed explanations. The Clerk explained the agreement with surrounding jurisdictions regarding Election Worker rates.

**Salary Schedule:** A 2026 Comparative Wage Analysis from Grand Traverse County and surrounding municipalities was distributed and reviewed. The survey shows Whitewater Township elected official wages significantly below other Townships. Differing views were expressed on salary increases vs. fiscal constraints; no actions were taken.

**Additional discussion:**

Detailed discussion ensued which included items concerning BS&A conversion and journal entries, coding corrections and coordination needed between Clerk, Treasurer, Auditor and CPA.

**Board Action:** Ms. Slopsema made a motion to take a 10-minute break. Mr. Mielnik seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 11:10 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11:20 a.m.

Update given on previously approved grant purchase and installation of an electronic ADA compliant Township Hall entry door was discussed.

The Clerk notified the Board that the State of Michigan will be mandating the purchase of new election equipment by 2027 at an anticipated cost of \$15k per precinct, which may be reimbursed.

Discussion of Planning Commission budget which the PC recently approved which included anticipated professional services for the fiscal year 2026-27.

**Board Action:** Mr. Arends made a motion to extend the meeting beyond the three-hour mark. Ms. Slopsema seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

It was noted that recent residents' concerns about speed on Skegemog Point and Church Roads and anticipated purchase of electronic speed signs. The Fire Department has offered to move the signs periodically.

**Public Improvement Fund:**

There was Board consensus to transfer the balance of Public Improvement Fund monies to the General Fund. It has not been utilized in recent years. A five-year Capital Improvement Plan is required by the Township's P&P Manual as well as the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The Planning Commission will be undertaking this process in the coming year.

**TABLED ITEMS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Township Board Special Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Township Hall**

**Board Member Announcements:** Notes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. K. Mangus: Commented on the elimination of Zoom comments noted neighboring townships still had public comments via Zoom.

Ms. V. Emerson: Thanked board for work and supported budget ideas. Favors Park improvements noting recent changes.

**BOARD COMMENTS / DISCUSSION:**

Payroll processing responsibilities clarified.

Investment policy needs further legal review.

Boat wash bidding update provided.

Recycling dumpster relocation was discussed with public concerns and safety noted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Board Action:** Ms. Slopsema made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mielnik seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Submitted by Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary