

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD
Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690
231-267-5141 Phone

SPECIAL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
Thursday, March 31, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Slopsema called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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:

Ms. Hoeksema requested removing Item #2 from New Business, "Consideration of Payments Made to the Township Clerk"

Discussion: Mr. Arends stated he would not support the change as that subject is the purpose for this meeting.

Board Action: Ms. Hoeksema made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. There was no second. Motion failed.

Board Action: Ms. Slopsema made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Arends seconded the motion.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. M. Jacobson: Expressed concerns regarding meeting accessibility for the public who are at work such as morning meetings and Zoom elimination. He disagreed with raises given to Board Members and hiring a new employee at recent budget meetings. He states the public is unhappy with the lack of transparency

Mr. Arends called a Point of Order, stating no Board Member received a raise in the budget process, and Mr. Jacobson's information is inaccurate.

Ms. K. Mangus: Expressed concern about short notice of meeting which should only be used for emergency issues. Emphasized importance of transparency especially when rumors can be worse than reality.

Mr. R. Steelman: Expressed disappointment that Zoom comments are no longer allowed as residents who are out of the 2026area liked it. He was glad items were tabled that need to be discussed at evening meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR (Receive and File): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Closed Session to Discussion Attorney Opinion:

Board Action: Ms. Slopsema made a motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to Section 8H of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268H to consider the written letter from our attorney Mr. Steven Schwartz dated March 31, 2026. It is exempt from disclosure under Section 131G of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.2431G since this letter is subject to the Attorney-Client privilege. Ms. Koester seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Arends-Y, Koester-Y, Mielnik-Y, Hoeksema-Y, Slopsema-Y. Motion carried.

Note: The meeting moved into Closed Session at 6:09 p.m.

Note: The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:23 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF PAYMENTS MADE TO THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

Supervisor Slopsema informed the public that the Board has returned to Open Session after meeting with an attorney in Closed Session, working toward a resolution of the Agenda issue.

Discussion: None.

Board Action: Mr. Arends made a motion to waive the Attorney-Client privilege as to attorney Steve Schwartz's, March 18, 2026, Attorney Opinion Letter only and to make that Opinion Letter a public document. Ms. Koester seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Clerk Hoeksema commented it is not wise to disclose an Attorney-Client privilege letter while discussions with legal counsel are ongoing.

No discussion from other Board Members.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Slopsema-Y, Hoeksema-N, Mielnik-Y, Koester-Y, Arends-Y. Motion carried.

Board Action: Mr. Arends made a motion that the Board authorize a Special Meeting on Monday, 4/13/26, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall regarding this issue. Ms. Slopsema seconded the motion.

Discussion:

It was noted that additional time would allow for further legal review and discussion. Scheduling the next meeting also allows for adequate meeting notice to the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mielnik-Y, Hoeksema-Y, Koester-Y, Slopsema-Y, Arends-Y. Motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Township Board Meeting:

NOTE: Thursday, April 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, Township Hall, is CANCELLED.

Special Meeting, Monday, April 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Township Hall:

Planning Commission Board Representative Trustee Mielnik asked to add item to next meeting's Agenda. There was Board consensus to add to the 4/13/26 meeting a rezoning consideration of the split-zoned parcel for which a Public Hearing was previously held.

Regular Meeting Thursday, April 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Township Hall

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. M. Jacobson: Thanked the Board for tabling the Civil Infraction Ordinance and inquired whether future date set to discuss. Noted confusion regarding posted dates outside building.

Board members clarified it was still last year's calendar and confirmed 04/09/2026 cancellation.

Mr. R. Steelman: Commended the Board for doing difficult, tough things. Suggested restructuring twice monthly meetings to be focused on certain subjects to have preparation time.

Ms. K. Mangus: Thanked the Board for efforts to improve transparency and accessibility. Noted rumors can be more harmful than the truth. Suggested canceling morning meetings rather than even meetings which could help with public involvement.

BOARD COMMENTS / DISCUSSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Slopsema made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Koester seconded the motion.
VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Submitted by Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary