DRAFT	**MINUTES Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 9:00 am**
SPECIAL MEETING	**Whitewater Township Board** 5777 Vinton Rd. Williamsburg, MI 49690
CALL TO ORDER	Supervisor Slopsema called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
ROLL CALL **Quorum established**	**Members present**: Supervisor Linda Slopsema, Clerk Wendy Hoeksema, Trustee Tim Arends, Trustee Randy Mielnik. **Members absent**: Treasurer Jill Koester. **Also present**: Recording Secretary Kay Held.
SET/APPROVE AGENDA	No changes. Motion by Mielnik, seconded by Hoeksema, to approve the agenda as presented. . VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.***
PUBLIC COMMENT	**Mr. J. Gaskin**: Expressed support of Deputy Clerk Sara Quigley's candidacy of Township Treasurer. He raised concerns regarding residents paying taxes while the Treasurer position is vacant, speed sign placement and digital messaging, the absence of speed limit signs, and a reported incident involving dogs associated with a neighboring short-term rental property. **Ms. J. Zenas**: Expressed support for Deputy Clerk Sara Quigley's candidacy for Township Treasurer. She noted that candidate Tezak's resume was not included in the meeting packet, raised concern regarding the placement of the speed sign on Skegemog Point Road, and stated she looks forward to the STR survey results.
REPORTS	None.
CONSENT CALENDAR	Approval of Bills. Motion by Ms. Hoeksema, seconded by Ms. Slopsema, to approve the consent calendar as amended. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.***
ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR	Bills Payable. Discussion and clarification given for items on bills for approval list.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Regular Meeting Minutes of 7/23/26 Minutes: No changes. Motion by Ms. Slopsema, seconded by Mr. Mielnik, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 7/23/26 as presented. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.***
UNFINISHED BUSINESS **Any Park & Recreation Items**	None.
NEW BUSINESS **Township Treasurer Interviews:**	Mr. Andy Tezak: Candidate did not provide all requested documents and was not present for an interview. Ms. Sara Quigley: Board members received and reviewed Ms. Quigley's cover letter and resume. Ms. Quigley provided information regarding her background

Township Treasurer Interviews: (cont'd)	and relevant experience. Board members asked questions related to the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer position. Discussion included office hours, educational background, goals and problem solving, continuing education, financial and record keeping responsibilities, the transition process, plans for a Deputy Treasurer, accounting and payroll, schedule availability, coordination with the Clerk's Office, BS&A functions, tenure as Deputy Clerk, and statutory duties. Ms. Quigley also stated her interest in preserving the township's rural character, protecting natural resources and historical archives, and working collaboratively with the Board on township operations.
Assessor Recommendation (Slopsema/Mielnik):	Supervisor Slopsema and Trustee Mielnik evaluated 10 applicants based on seven key assets which were presented by Ms. Slopsema. The Board discussed qualifications and experience of the top four candidates. Ms. Slopsema recommended Mr. Michael Beach who also serves as Benzie County Equalization Director. Motion by Ms. Slopsema, seconded by Mr. Mielnik to authorize the Supervisor to make an offer of employment to Michael John Beach for $29,000 per year as a salaried, non-exempt employee and appoint Michael John Beach as the Whitewater Township Certified Assessor, replacing Dawn Kuhns, as provided for in MCL 41.61(1) contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment checks. ROLL CALL VOTE: Slopsema-Y, Mielnik-Y, Arends-Y, Hoeksema-Y. ***Motion carried.***
Possible Treasurer Resignation Acceptance:	The Board discussed Treasurer Koester's letter of resignation with an effective date of 7/23/26. She has since offered to remain on through 9/30/26 if needed. Clerk Hoeksema stated the MTA guidelines for accepting the resignation of an elected official. Residents have expressed concern believing the current Treasurer has resigned yet continues to receive a salary; it was confirmed she has continued working in the office. There was extensive discussion on the timing of resignation acceptance. The Board asked Ms. Quigley to approach the podium and to ask about her availability to take on the role of Treasurer by Friday, August 14. She is available to do so. The Clerk has no concerns about the transition of Ms. Quigley out of her office.
Possible Appointment of Township Treasurer to Fill Unexpired Term:	Motion by Mr. Arends, seconded by Mr. Mielnik to accept the written resignation of Township Treasurer Jill Koester effective Thursday, 8/13/26, at 5:00 p.m. and to concurrently appoint Ms. Sara Quigley to fill the vacancy in the office of Township Treasurer for the remainder of the unexpired term contingent upon the appointee taking the Constitutional Oath of Office and filing the required surety bond. ROLL CALL VOTE: Slopsema-Y, Mielnik-Y, Arends-Y, Hoeksema-Y. ***Motion carried.***

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8/27/26 Regular Meeting Logistics:	LIAA is unavailable to support the YouTube livestream at the Thursday, 8/27/26, 9:00 a.m. Township Board meeting. The Board discussion options for rescheduling or canceling this meeting, Board Member availability and projected Agenda items. Motion by Ms. Slopsema, seconded by Hoeksema to cancel the 8/27/26 Regular Board Meeting. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.***
TABLED ITEMS:	None.
ANNOUNCEMENTS **Meetings** **Board Member Announcements**	Next Regular Meeting is on Thursday, 8/13/26, at 6:30 p.m., Township Hall. Clerk Hoeksema stated there was a great team of Election Workers at the Primary Election. The Board of Canvassers has certified the election. Supervisor Slopsema stated Mr. Jim Snider has requested to be on the Agenda to discuss zoning in the Village. The Board agreed this matter should be discussed at the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has scheduled a Special Meeting on Monday, 8/17/26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. Mr. Kelly Sullivan of Epic-MRA will deliver a presentation on the STR survey results.
PUBLIC COMMENT (2nd)	**Mr. J. Gaskin:** Inquired whether the Board spoke with employers of Assessor candidates. Supervisor Slopsema confirmed they did. **Ms. H. Vollmuth:** Congratulated Ms. Quigley on her appointment as Treasurer. She expressed support for expanded Treasurer office hours to improve public access for tax payments and noted she contacted the Road Commission regarding 25 mph signs that had been removed and not replaced. **Ms. J. Zenas:** Congratulated Ms. Quigley on her appointment as Treasurer. She agreed with the discussion about ensuring expanded office hours of the Treasurer.
BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION	Mr. Arends asked for an update on the CPA/Auditor transition timeline. Clerk Hoeksema believes this may take place next week; she will follow-up with the auditor. She will also ask for an itemized invoice from Maner Costerisan.
ADJOURNMENT	Motion by Ms. Slopsema, seconded by Ms. Hoeksema, to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. ***Motion carried.*** Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.
Minutes submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary	Wendy Hoeksema, Township Clerk Date

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