

Watson Township Board Meeting
1895 118th Ave. Allegan, MI 49010
June 4, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Michelle Harris, Joe Yearous, Tera Davis, Kevin Travis and Mary Ann Baker

AGENDA:

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Trustee Yearous seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES:

Trustee Harris made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Trustee Yearous seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

BILLS:

Treasurer Davis made a motion to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$42,239.06, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Trustee Harris made a motion to accept the report as presented, Clerk Baker seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Opened at 7:04 p.m. Dr. Alan Swank spoke to the board about his run for the 43rd District State Representative. He is running on kitchen table issues. He said to check out his social media for more information. Christopher Burnett returned to speak about his bid for 57th District Court Judge. He is currently in the role and invites anyone to come check out his court proceedings as to how he treats people.

REPORTS:

a) PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Commission heard a presentation from McKenna about the land division act. There were a couple of questions. McKenna will return with clarifications.

b) CODE ENFORCEMENT:

One case was closed and currently have eight open, a clean up judgement was executed at 1260 12th St.

c) SEXTON:

Mr. Holshoe said the trash can at Miner is still a problem. There is also an issue with glass bottles being broken and left. He is concerned about safety of visitors and mowing crew.

d) LIBRARIES-HOPKINS/MARTIN:

Hopkins and Martin have started their summer programs. Information can be found on their website and social media.

e) COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

No Report

f) FIRE UPDATE:

Continuing work on standardizing policies and procedures, almost complete. The fire department is helping with the July 4th celebration. Two new hires. Spring cleanup brought in almost \$500 for the fireman's fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) PARK TRAILS:

Cole Concrete did give an estimate to bring in material to cover the trail. Supervisor Travis spoke with the cross-country team, and they would prefer no material on the trail. A neighbor of the park Bradley Holden offered to mow the trails once a month from April to October for \$1300, he would also cut trees and brush to keep the trail clean, possibly raking leaves if that becomes an issue. Supervisor Travis made a motion to approve Bradley Holden's offer to mow the park trail from April to October for \$1300. Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion passed.

b) TREE TRIMMING CEMETARY:

Sealed bid from Good Fellas tree service for trimming of the trees in both cemeteries in the amount of \$7400. Supervisor Travis made a motion to approve Good Fellas Tree Service in the amount of \$7400 for trimming and tree removal of the cemeteries, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) BURHAM AND FLOWER INSURANCE BOND:

The current year policy is \$66 more than last year. Board had already approved during the budget.

b) ADD SUPERVISOR AS A SIGNATORY ON THE GENERAL FUND:

In the event of the Clerk or the Treasurer being unable to sign a check due to an emergency that would not allow the payment to be sent out on time. Trustee Harris made a motion to approve Supervisor Travis to be added to a General Fund as a signatory in the event the Clerk or Treasurer is unavailable. Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

c) COMPENSATION:

i. NON-OFFICERS:

The last increase was in 2023 Cost of living has increased over the past three years to around 7.5% per SSA. Trustee Harris made a motion to give the non-officers a well-deserved and overdue COLA raise of 7.5% , Treasurer Davis seconded. all in favor, motion passed. Wages effective as of July 1,2026.

ii. OFFICERS:

The last increase in Officers salary was in 2021. COLA has increased 22.3% over the last five years. Proposing a lower COLA amount of 7.5% as per SSA for the last three years. Watson Township is currently third from the bottom for compensation of Officers in the entire county. Wages would take effect July 1, 2026.

1) SUPERVISOR:

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the Supervisor's salary from \$13,282 to \$15,000 to reflect the partial COLA increase from the last five years. Treasurer Davis seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

2) CLERK:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to approve the Clerk's current pay of \$17,150 to \$18,500 making a 7.5% COLA increase. Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion passed.

3) TREASURER:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to give the Treasurer a 7.5% COLA increase from \$15,650 to \$17,000, Trustee Yearous supported, all in favor, motion passed.

d) BUDGET REPORT:

The Board made the necessary corrections to the budget by transferring \$20,348 from the general fund to cover the entire COLA increases. The accounts each received the appropriate dollar amount to balance.

Supervisor Travis made a motion to approve the amendments to the budget, Treasurer Davis seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

BOARD ROUND TABLE:

Clerk Baker wondered if the office needed a repair call as it is very warm. Supervisor Travis said he will investigate it.

Treasurer Davis brought up the pay being incorrect as it was discovered that the officers are not all paid the same amount, she discovered that this went back several fiscal years. Trustee Yearous made a motion to rectify the back pay difference of \$6,123.61 for the Clerk and \$7,694.31 for the Treasurer due to a human error that was brought to light after amending the budget with the COLA increases. Supported by Trustee Harris, all in favor motion carried.

Supervisor Travis made a motion to amend the budget in the amount of \$14,017.82 from the General Fund to the appropriate line items, Trustee Harris seconded, motion passed,

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Treasurer Davis seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Adjournment 8:12 p.m.

Mary Ann Baker

Watson Township Clerk