

# West Traverse Township - 2018 Newsletter

8001 M-119, PO Box 528, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

(231) 526-7361 Fax: (231) 526-0028 E-Mail: [secretary@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:secretary@westtraversetownship.com)

[www.westtraversetownship.com](http://www.westtraversetownship.com)

## West Traverse Township

(Established 1897)

### Township Board

Bob Sandford - Supervisor  
Cindy Baiardi - Clerk  
Kristi Hollingsworth - Treasurer  
John Baker - Trustee  
Eva Lauer - Trustee

### Planning Commission

Paul Mooradian - Chair  
Cindy Baiardi  
Dan Gorman  
Scott Kennard  
Paul Opfermann  
Paul Repasky  
Pete Wallin

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Sam DeCamp - Chair  
Chris Baiardi  
Dick Collie - Alternate  
Jeff Ford  
Eva Lauer  
Paul Mooradian  
Pete Wallin - Alternate

### Board of Review

Jim Frang - Chair  
Bill Borglin  
Curt Regentin

### Recreation/Thorne Swift

#### Committee

John Baker - Chair  
Darrell Amlin  
Joey Arbaugh  
Cynthia Fisher  
Sam DeCamp  
Laurie Ford  
John Riggs  
Carolyn Sandford

### Zoning Administrator

Joe Lavender

Mondays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Other times by appointment

### Planner

Denise Cline  
By Appointment

### Assessor

Joe Lavender  
Mondays 9:00 am - 1:00  
Other times by appointment

### Administrative Assistant

Sue Matsko

### Township Hall Office Hours

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Daily

### Township Board Meetings

2nd Tuesdays - 6:00 pm

### Planning Commission Meetings

2nd Wednesdays - 7:00 pm

## Property Taxes:

Your 2018 summer property tax bill is enclosed. It is due on **September 14, 2018**.

Your winter tax bill will be mailed at the end of November and is due on **February 14, 2019**. If you don't receive it by early December, please contact the Township Office. It is your responsibility to make sure the Township has your correct mailing address.

Interest will be added to late payments at the rate of 1% per month. On **March 1, 2019**, any unpaid bills, including underpayments, will be turned over to the Emmet Count Treasurer, at which time additional interest and penalties will be applied.

Remember to make out your check to West Traverse Township and send it to **PO Box 528**. The Township is not responsible for payments not received for any reason. Post marks will be accepted for the due date only. Payments may be made in person at the Township Hall. The exact amount is needed if paying by cash.

If you have any questions, you may contact the Treasurer by calling the Township Office or by e-mail to [treasurer@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:treasurer@westtraversetownship.com).

## Important 2018 Election Dates:

We have two more elections that will be held this year.

July 9, 2018 – Last day to register for the August Primary Election.

**August 7, 2018** – Election Day

October 9, 2018 – Last day to register for the November General Election

**November 6, 2018** – Election Day

Please contact the Township Clerk ([clerk@westtraversetownship.com](mailto:clerk@westtraversetownship.com)) if you would like to be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter List. If you are on this list you will automatically receive an application for the absentee ballot about 45 days before the election, once the ballots are available. You may also stop in to pick up an application for the absentee ballot from the Clerk.

If you have recently moved to the Township, make sure that you have changed your address and are registered to vote. This can be done at the Secretary of State, Township Hall or by mail.

Please note: "A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled or voters who are 60 years of age or older."

## Some happenings over the past year include:

- The Planning Commission project to upgrade the Township's Zoning Ordinance was completed and the new Ordinance was approved by the Township Board. It is available on the Township webpage under the Township Zoning tab.
- Nancy Sarowski retired from the Planning Commission after 9 years, the last 7 as chairperson. The Township appreciates her dedicated service. Paul Mooradian was appointed to the vacancy and was also elected as the new chairperson.
- Finished the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018 under budget and with revenues about \$20,000 in excess of expenses for the Township's governmental funds: General, Road, and Thorne Swift. The Sewer Fund finished in the black, but the Water Fund was about \$25,000 in the red, which was covered by the fund balance, due to replacing inoperable fire hydrants in Tamarac and stating work on a Hughston Road Booster station.
- Randy Frykberg resigned as Planner and Zoning Administrator. Joe Lavender was hired as the new Zoning Administrator in addition to his previous role as Assessor. For planning, the Township has contracted with Denise Cline through the Northeast Council of Governments.

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- Issued 28 zoning permits in 2017: 7 new residences; 2 new commercial; 16 remodel/additions; and 3 residential accessory buildings.
- Benefitted from 140 medical first responder service runs throughout the Township outside Birchwood by Birchwood Farms Security and Emergency Medical Services.
- There were 47 Harbor Springs Area Fire Department runs in the Township in 2017, of which 17 were false alarms or cancelled en route.
- Achieved a local road rating of 7.38 (on a scale of 0-10), the highest of any Township in Emmet County for the Township's 29.07 miles of paved roads. Completed the following road improvement projects in 2017:
  - Ultra-thin asphalt overlay of 3.18 miles
  - Paved Amy's Way
- From the Recreation Committee:
  - The trails in the Township '80' park had been blocked by many trees from windstorms. Most of them are now re-opened, with the remainder to be so soon. Several Township residents have helped with this effort.
  - Basic rules designed to allow as many people as possible to enjoy all Township owned properties have been approved, and signage will be installed on the properties in June. There are some basic prohibited activities, allowing more people to feel safe and comfortable on the trails.
  - The Committee is drafting a plan which describes possible future uses of the 'Cook Property' on Lake Road across from the Township Hall.

## **Plans for coming year:**

- Please refer to the enclosed Thorne Swift Nature Preserve newsletter for 2018 activities. It is also available on the Township website.
- Complete the following road improvement projects:
  - Ultra-thin asphalt overlay on Lightfoot Road from Hughston Road to Middle Road (1.5 miles).
  - Replace the Middle Road bridge (over Greenbriar Drive) - as a joint project involving the LTBBOI, Emmet County Road Commission, and the Township.
  - Rebuild Marion Drive (0.28 miles).
- Township Assessor Joe Lavender will again be visiting about 20% of the properties with a building (i.e. house) on them to verify and update the record card information in the assessing database.
- Continue to participate with other Emmet County townships in intervening in the lawsuit filed by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians asking a federal court to declare that the entire township is part of the LTBBOI reservation based on an 1855 treaty.
- Levy the same total township millage rate of 1.60 mills, but with a slightly different distribution: 0.80 for township operations (up from 0.70); 0.60 for road improvement projects (down from 0.68); and 0.20 for Thorne Swift Nature Preserve operations (down from 0.22). The main reason for the increase in township operations is to balance an anticipated increase in the cost for the Harbor Springs Area Fire Department, somewhat for operations and more so for the equipment fund contribution in anticipation of purchasing a new aerial truck in 2020.

## **General information:**

- The Township website ([www.westtraversetownship.com](http://www.westtraversetownship.com)) remains a good resource for information about the Township. Please let us know if there is something you would like added to the site.
- Free library services are available for Township residents at the Alanson Area Public Library ([www.alansonlibrary.org](http://www.alansonlibrary.org)) and the Harbor Springs Library ([www.harborspringslibrary.org](http://www.harborspringslibrary.org)). Cards may also be purchased for the Petoskey District Library ([www.petoskeylibrary.org](http://www.petoskeylibrary.org)).