

**Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2025 -- Community Center - 6:00 PM**

**DRAFT**

**Attendance:** Jon Babbitt, Lori McShane, Tim Jenkins, Sara Secrest and Paul Williams.

**Public Comment:** Kathleen Gould, superintendent of Burt Township Schools, asked for volunteers for the basketball games in the concessions or scoreboard, and invited everyone to the Christmas program later this week.

**Agenda:** Motion by McShane, second by Secrest to approve agenda as written. 5 ayes

**Correspondence:** none

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Williams, second by Babbitt, to approve the minutes from the November 12th regular meeting. 5 ayes.

**Department and Committee Reports:** Reports were available from the Assessor, DPW & Water, Library, and Woodland Park.

**Appointments/Resignations:** Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt, to approve the appointment of Will Paul as an intern to the fire department. 5 ayes.

**Supervisor Report:** We have created a complaint form for the community to use, they are available at the office and online, it makes it much more efficient to have these things in writing for distribution to the board. Recycling is tomorrow – 12/10.

**Treasurer's report and Approval of Bills:** Treasurer's report – (\$866,171.56). Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to accept treasurer's report and approve the bills for payment (\$31,622.42). 5 ayes Motion by McShane, second by Williams, to approve cashing in \$50,000 from the water department CD and depositing in the general water receiving fund, with a penalty of \$240.00. 5 ayes.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Planning Commission:** Next meeting of the planning commission is January 6, 2025. There will be a public hearing on the recreation plan, as well as further discussion on the zoning ordinance. Board is anxious to get it back from Pat Coleman and move on to the next step.

**Woodland Park Septic status update:** Still working with the EGLE and Alger County Health department to determine the best design and location for the drain fields. Still intend to have plans finalized and go out for bid in February 2026 for spring installation.

**Mobi Mat bids – Scott Hull:** We received three bids; Central UP construction at \$33,400, Meridian Contracting at \$46,443, and Kalamazoo Deck Builders at \$25,490. Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to accept the bid from Kalamazoo Deck Builders, Scott Hull, at \$25,490. 5 ayes.

**Transient Merchant Ordinance:** Trustee Jenkins and Supervisor Babbitt have presented another new draft of a transient merchant ordinance. This ordinance prohibits any transient merchant from setting up on any township or public property or right of way. They are only allowed on private property in a commercially zoned location. Minor change to clarify the application process for commercially zoned property owners, and groups looking for permission to have events on the greenspace or other township property. Motion by McShane, second by Secrest, to approve the ordinance going forward but to allow the Fired-Up food truck to continue to operate in a location along the bay for the next 4 yrs, or until the end of our terms. 3 ayes, 2 nays (Williams, Jenkins). Actual location of the Fired-Up food truck will be determined in the spring.

**Harbor Plan/UPEA – Harbor Committee:** First draft of the harbor plan from UPEA was distributed to the board on December 8, 2025. This harbor plan does not have to go through the same protocol as the recreation plan, but we do have copies available at the office and on our website for public comment, and will also be discussed at the planning commission meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. With the estimated cost of some of the improvements to the marina, it was suggested by members of the board that we put together a "harbor committee" to review and offer input to the board on future plans, and specifically to garner public input and opinion. We will post a notice around town and in the paper, to try and recruit community members for this committee. If you are interested, please send a letter or email, or stop in the office to discuss with supervisor Babbitt.

**New Business:**

**Short Term rentals:** Correspondence received from Brandi and Jeremy Taylor, Molly Tavenner, Brett Panter, Scott Davis, and Kristine Hartman, asking about the increase in short term rental registration fees, and asking for clarification on the procedure going forward with the 100 rental cap, wait list and inspections. Board reviewed the current procedure and there was much discussion about the right of the township to regulate these short-term rentals. Representatives from short term rentals were present at the meeting also asking about the registration fee increase, and the impression they feel the board is promoting that they are the enemy of the community. They stated how much revenue and money the short-term rentals put into the local economy. Board agreed that if you are in a commercial zone, and are being taxed at the commercial rate, you do not have to pay the registration fee, and you will not be on the list of 100. Motion by McShane, second by Williams, to state the fact that the short-term rental registration does not transfer with ownership. 4 ayes, 1 nay (Jenkins). Trustee Jenkins and community members complained that the web site was not up to date and ordinances on the website were not the most current and were not signed.

**Deficit Elimination plan – Fuel system:** Once again we have ended the fiscal year with a deficit in the fuel fund and the state is asking for a corrective action. After much investigation and conversation with our auditors and representatives from the Treasury department, we have determined that this stems from a journal entry made in 2021, when the fuel system major improvement project was completed. At that time, we borrowed money from the park to pay for these renovations, and have not paid the park fund back. As part of this corrective action, the board is being asked to forgive the loan and make the journal entries needed to correct this going forward. Paperwork was distributed to the board for review and will be revisited at next meeting.

**Data Mining:** Brief discussion of the current zoning ordinance and the possibility of data mining in our township. Our current ordinance would only allow in the industrial zone with a conditional use. Planning commission will be discussing this issue as well at the next meeting.

**Other:**

**Public Comment:** Chet Tavenner commented that he was appreciative of the open dialogue regarding the short-term rentals and other issues facing the board. Bill Egerer spoke about the short-term rental issue and encouraging more families to move to our community. Tisha Panter asked the board if they realize the financial impact of the decisions made at this meeting regarding short term rentals.

**Board Comment:** Trustee Jenkins spoke about two bills in the state legislature regarding no property taxes for over 70-year-olds, and water billing policies with regard to low-income households. He also thanked the volunteers that held all of the festivities over the holiday weekend. Clerk McShane asked for community members to email the office manager with questions or comments regarding the web site and to help us keep it as up to date as possible for the benefit of everyone.

**Adjournment:** 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted December 19, 2025

Lori McShane, Clerk