

Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 -- Community Center – 6:00 PM

DRAFT

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

Agenda: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt to approve agenda adding ballot wording resolution to unfinished business item G. 5 ayes

Correspondence: none

Approve Minutes: Motion by Jenkins, second by Williams, to approve the minutes from the April 21 regular meeting (with corrections) and May 4th special meeting. 5 ayes.

Department and Committee Reports: Reports were available from the Assessor, DPW & Water, Library, Fire and Woodland Park. Brief discussion of sand building up at marina launch and the possible effectiveness of an aerator pump. Report from Zoning Administrator regarding Husky Haven zoning violations requesting board input on how to proceed.

Appointments/Resignations: none

Supervisor Report: Supervisor Babbitt has been busy this last month – working on the Woodland park septic permit, meeting with donors discussing plans for a new fitness center, talking with women’s club about the community center kitchen, planning the memorial day service with Brett Panter, the fish cleaning station is having issues already this year and we are working to get it back up and running, and thanks to Heather for her help we are planning a service to dedicate the plaque for Jack Hubbard out at the point hopefully for around the 4th of July. Please feel free to call or come to the township office if you have any questions or comments.

Treasurer’s report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer’s report – (\$1,596,795.81). Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to accept treasurer’s report and approve the bills for payment \$39,712.18). 5 ayes Discussion of the water receiving account balance and the cost of engineering the Wilson Street project, and the subsequent reimbursement of these expenditures from RDA once the paperwork is processed.

Unfinished Business:

Planning Commission/Recreation Plan: Planning commission will meet April 28th. Chairman Lowe and Supervisor Babbitt met with UPEA to make some changes to the Marina master plan. Letter from the planning commission to the board requesting a moratorium on any data centers in our township. Clerk McShane will prepare a resolution for board approval at next meeting. Draft zoning ordinance has been handed over to the board from the planning commission. Each board member will review the entire ordinance in the next two months, and at the July meeting will present their comments and concerns.

Woodland Park Septic status update: Still working with Robert Halso from LMAS and the EGLE to finalize permits. If permit is not granted by end of week, construction may be delayed until fall.

Employee Policies: Review of the Employee policies section 10 & 11. Changes will be made regarding the timing of the performance reviews and the removal of the board presentation in section C. Under progressive discipline it needs to clarify the immediate supervisor will handle verbal warnings and a time frame of 30 days will be added to the step two section. Clean up the annual review section and clarify long term record keeping. Administrative policies section 1.3 - need to add clarification of external counseling and remove the date from section 1.4. Next meeting we will discuss employee policies 11/12 and admin sections 2.1-2.5.

Community Survey: Revised version of the survey was passed out to the board for approval. One question was removed regarding a vault toilet on the greenspace. We plan to get these surveys out in the mail by the end of the month.

Wilson street water system bids: Resolution 2026-05-02: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt, to adopt resolution 2026-05-02, awarding the Water System improvements Contract 1 bid to Payne & Dolan at a cost of \$1,357,070. 5 ayes. They were the low bidder and we have received a recommendation letter from UP Engineers and Architects.

Marina Paving Bids: Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to accept the bid from Payne & Dolan for paving of the marina at a cost of \$250,387.50. 5 ayes. Board discussion of financial options to cover the expenditure. Possible short-term loan supplemented with park funds.

Resolution 2026-05-01 – Ballot wording General Headlee millage: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt, to adopt resolution 2026-05-01, and approve the ballot language for the additional general operating millage renewal (Headlee), to be placed on the August 4, 2026 ballot. Roll call vote – 5 ayes.

New Business

Airport Cones: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt, to accept the estimate from LPI for 25 yellow, and 12 white, cones for marking the airport runway, at a cost of \$2,258.02. 5 ayes.

Trimedia – cemetery survey work: Motion by McShane, second by Williams, to approve Trimedia conducting a drone survey over the cemetery as the first step in the cemetery mapping project for \$1,650.00. 5 ayes.

Other: none

Public Comment: Paul Reubens and his wife from Nugent Lake thanked the board for the attention to the Husky Haven matter and hoped this issue would be resolved soon. Steve Combs also from the Nugent Lake area asked the board to please help bring back the peace in that area. Jeannie Kain from the Grand Marais Outfitters expressed discontent with the board removing the question about the bathroom on the greenspace from the community survey. Speaking from a business owner point of view, she asked the board to revisit the idea of a bathroom in the downtown area to relieve the business community of that burden. Rod Lowe asked the board about the request from the Sportsman’s club for a donation from the township to the fishing tournament. It was explained that the township cannot “donate” money to organizations without a service agreement in place. Board will work with the club and have an agreement for approval at the June meeting. Andy Kidd expressed his support for the downtown bathroom facilities. Toni Whaley reminded the board about the suggestion for “trailer” bathrooms.

Board Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:37 PM

Respectfully submitted April 25, 2026

Lori McShane, Clerk