

Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 -- Community Center – 6:00 PM

DRAFT

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

Agenda: Motion by Secrest, second by Babbitt to approve agenda adding Erickson letter under correspondence and the par plan grant resolution under new business item D. 5 ayes

Correspondence: Letter from Tom Erickson regarding the cutting down of the tree on his property by Alger Delta without his knowledge.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Secrest, second by Babbitt, to approve minutes from 08/18/26 regular meeting. 5 ayes.

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

Appointments/Resignations: Motion by McShane, second by Secrest, to accept the resignation of Timothy Jenkins and Paul Williams as trustees. 3 ayes.

Supervisor Report: Thank you to all involved in the rescue of the young man that was stranded out in Lake Superior on his paddleboard. Grand Marais Boat Tours, Captain Feesby, and firefighter Troy Morgan went out in the five-foot waves without hesitation to bring the young man home safely. The Mobi mat has been installed and we would like to thank the Grand Marais Rock and Mineral show for their donation to this project, Mike and the DPW crew for the installation, and Jack and the park crew for the daily maintenance. The beach bathhouse is open and working well. The new stairs to the beach should be completed by the end of the month. The Wilson Street water project is well under way and approximately 20% completed. Thank you to the managers and employees of Burt Township for another successful summer. I will be on vacation for the next couple weeks and will be back for the October meeting and ready to face the challenges of winter. We will be posting the openings for trustee and will follow all protocols for appointing candidates to the positions. Thank you to Paul Williams and Tim Jenkins for your time served on the board.

Treasurer's report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer's report – (\$1,261,441.32). Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to accept treasurer's report and approve the bills for payment (\$48,704.98). 5 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Planning Commission: Planning commission had a conditional use hearing on August 25th and approved the application from the Paul's for their property on Harju Rd. The next meeting is October 13th. Sara Secrest will fill in as planning commission liaison due to the resignation of Paul Williams. We are still working the Husky Haven situation; we have heard back from them and will be consulting our lawyer to guide our response.

Employee Policies: Review of the Employee policies section 17&18, and administrative policies section 2.10&.11. No changes suggested. Will resume policy review once the new trustees are in position.

Survey results: We will continue to gather the survey results. If you have not responded, please take the time to let us know your opinions. So far, we have received approximately 340 responses out of over 1100 sent out.

Zoning Ordinance: It was decided that the draft zoning ordinance would be divided up into sections and the board would schedule special meetings starting in September to review in detail. This has been delayed due to the trustee resignations. Will resume once the new trustees are in position. Copies of the draft ordinance and the maps are available at the township office.

SAVE WEST BAY – Bathymetric Survey: Bill Egerer gave a progress report on the bathymetric survey and joint application progress. The bathymetric survey field work is complete with over 6,000 data points collected. He is working on the map now to document the current status, and to have for long term comparisons, as this will be needed for the Joint application we are working on to submit for permission to dredge. Engineer scheduled to be present at the October meeting for a status report, presentation of results. Looking for community members to volunteer to get involved and serve on a committee to make some decisions on dredging within the next few weeks. Please contact the township office if you are interested.

Wilson Street water project: The project is underway and moving forward. Had a few issues and plan changes here at the beginning, but that was to be expected with large projects like this. Schedule is to have work be completed end of October.

New Business

Trustee openings/West Bay job description: Board discussed the possibility of bringing on a new trustee that could also be the Save west bay board liaison. We will post the open positions and request letter of interest to be submitted; board will convene week of October 19th to discuss and appoint replacement trustees. Discussion of salary/hourly wage for save west bay position, and the source of those funds. Money would have to come from the Harbor fund, which is a millage specifically for the preservation of the harbor.

Audit Report 2025/26 fiscal year: Another successful audit completed by Anderson Tackman. Anderson Tackman will be changing their name going forward, consolidating with another firm, but are committed to conduct our audit through the 2027/28 fiscal year. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses noted this year which should be reassuring to the community that your board is financially sound. Trustee Jenkins questioned the policy and procedure for the completed audit to be submitted to the state and referenced Michigan law. Going forward the audit will not be approved and submitted until motion is made at a board meeting. Township policies will be updated. Motion by Babbitt, second by McShane, to approve the F65 and qualifying statement to be submitted to the state. 3 ayes. Trustee Jenkins commented that he was unable to locate the audit report on our website. He also commented on the notation included in the audit about our FDIC insured funds all located at Peoples State Bank.

Fitness Center – preliminary plans and location: We have preliminary plans for a new fitness center to be built. We are currently saving funds towards this goal, as well as soliciting donations. Supervisor Babbitt has spoken to some potential donors and will be working with UPEA to revise the plans and have materials to present at future meetings. Discussion of location of this new building. Complete list of all township properties was distributed to board members. Supervisor Babbitt concerned that it should not be located too far outside of town. Looking to keep it close, possibly by the community center. Parking needs to be considered.

Par Plan grant resolution: Motion by McShane, second by Secrest, to adopt the resolution of support for a Michigan Township Participating Grant Application for \$2,500 to cover costs of video surveillance equipment for township facilities. 3 ayes.

Other:

Public Comment: Rod Lowe asked if we had tested the fuel for possible water contamination. (Yes, test was negative – no water found in the fuel). Tom Erickson spoke regarding the letter that was read into correspondence earlier, just reiterating his displeasure with the whole tree cutting incident.

Board Comment: Trustee Williams asked the board and planning commission to seriously review and bring into compliance the Husky Haven situation for the betterment of the community, and thanked everyone for assistance in his time served on the board. Trustee Jenkins also appreciated the opportunities and thanked everyone for the privilege of serving on the board.

Adjournment: 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted September 25, 2026

Lori McShane, Clerk

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