TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

APPROVED WITH 4 CHANGES MINUTES OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING 5-0

May 20, 2025

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Cook, Schultz, M. Merchant, J. Merchant, Graves

Absent: 0

Audience: +/- 35

**A. REPEATING AGENDA:**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Pledge of allegiance was recited.
2. Minutes of April 15, 2025 board meeting approved with one change 5-0.
3. Correspondence and announcements: Summaries given of 2 letters received in support of the Nakwema Trailway.
4. Agenda Content: Supervisor makes motion to add library to agenda under board discussion E4. J. Merchant seconds. Passes 5-0.
5. Citizen Comment: Sheriff Hoch gives report.

**B. CONSENT AGENDA:** All reports were accepted by consent.

**C. SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA:**

1. Planning Commission: Graves gives report, PC has started with the redevelopment of the master plan. They are working on a survey that will go out in early July with an open house in September. They plan to have the master plan reviewed and completed by the end of the year.

2. FOIA Update: None.

3. Financial Overview: Cook shared that budgets are mostly favorable although slightly unfavorable compared to this time last year, expenses are down and revenue favorable. Auditors have given us a “clean bill of health”.

**D. AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION:**

NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Recognition of National EMS Week: Sharon reads announcement of thank you for our EMS service workers on behalf of the board and citizens.

2. Motion to approve new ambulance billing rates for the township as presented, effective June 1, 2025: Schultz makes motion. Graves seconds. Passes 5-0.

3. Motion to approve new members to serve 3-year terms on the Traverse ~~By~~ Bay Nature Preserve Board and accept the resignation of four people. Motion by Cook, second by Schultz. Passes 5-0

4. Motion to approve Michigan State Agency “cakes” to treat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Disease in Hemlocks in the Nature Preserve. Motion made by Cook, second by J. Merchant. Passes 5-0.

**E. AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION:**

1. Update TORCHPORT AIRPARK: Almost all lots are now sold. One property owner of the township will be using it for helicopters. Baise will stress importance to users of adhering to the legal requirements of flying in our area.
2. Update on Road Work: Paving at Public Dock Rd to be complete 5/22/25. Other road work to be completed as scheduled.
3. Cresswell Boat Ramp Repair: Discussion of possible repair or replacement.
4. Library: Supervisor shares advice given by township attorney on matter of library contract

**F. AGENDA ITEM FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY:**

1. Enforcement of access to the Traverse Bay through Traverse Bay Nature Preserve effective tentatively October 15, 2025.

**G. CITIZEN COMMENT:** Antrim county commissioner, Jarris ~~Rubign~~ Rubingh gives an update. Lengthy commentary from the community with regards to the library contract. See live stream YouTube video of meeting for details. Jamima ~~Rubign~~ Rubingh reads a poem in honor of Memorial Day.

**H. BOARD COMMENT:** Lengthy board comment. See live stream YouTube video of meeting for details.

**I. ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 p.m.**

These Minutes are respectfully submitted and are subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

~~Sincerely,~~

Submitted by,

Mary Merchant

Township Clerk