**Torch Lake Township**

Meeting Notice Policy

(Approved by motion by the township board on December 15, 2020)

**Meeting Policy Index**

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Torch Lake Township

Meeting Notice Policy

**Purpose**

This policy is meant to ensure that proper procedures and public notifications are followed for all meetings of the township board, planning commission, zoning board of appeals, board of review, including any sub committees, *ad hoc* committees, standing committees or advisory committees and boards given proprietary authority by the township board to function and advise for the township. It is further meant to guard against procedural violations of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976 Sections 15.262 to 15.275. Except as allowed by law, all meetings held by elected officials and appointed members of township committees and boards are open to the public. The seven tables in this policy are the kinds of meetings that fall under this policy, and include the legally required meeting noticing steps as well as those steps requires by this policy. The tables include township officials responsible for the meeting noticing processes and additional information that is meant to help and organize the process.

Note: As of the date this policy was approved by the board, legal requirements for meeting noticing are printed in underlined italics and that part which is township policy is printed in the regular font.

**Definitions**

**Annual Meeting of Electors**- is a legally required meeting in Torch Lake Township of the electors, who can use the meeting to present issues to the board for consideration during the next fiscal year which begins on April 1st. It is held on the last Saturday in March unless another day is approved by the board. It includes an opportunity for the electors to approve wages for the next fiscal year for the elected officials.

**Annual Budget Hearing**- a public presentation of the proposed township budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year which includes the General Fund, the Fire District Fund, the EMS Fund, the Road Fund, the Liquor Enforcement Fund, and the Torch Bay Nature Preserve Fund. (See Appendix)

**Board of Review**- a yearly series of up to six meetings resulting in a finalization of the tax role. It is at the second and third meetings in March when property owners can present their findings as to their property assessments.

**Cancelled Meetings**- a meeting or hearing that is cancelled and is not rescheduled at the time of cancellation.

**Public Hearings and Public Information Meetings**- A hearing is legally required meeting at which the public is specifically invited to attend, to voice their thoughts and concerns about a proposed change in the zoning ordinance that is being considered by the planning commission or the township board. Such hearings are also legally required for all appeals to the zoning board of appeals. Public Information Meetings, unlike hearings, are not required by law, but relate to a specific area of township governance where a wide range of public input is needed for decision making and, by this policy, are required to have the same noticing requirements.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings**- those meeting dates, times and meeting place that, by motion, are established at the first meeting in January for the next twelve month period or, if there is no meeting in January, they will be approved at the last meeting of the year prior to the next calendar year. This approved schedule is required by law and includes the township board, planning commission, zoning board of appeals, board of review and standing committees. All other committees and boards will establish their meeting schedule at their first meeting.

**Definitions** (continued)

**Rescheduled Meetings**- the rescheduling of a regularly scheduled meeting.

**Special Meetings-** an additional meeting that is not listed in the yearly approved schedule of regular meetings.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Monthly Meeting Day | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility | Additional Considerations |
| Township Board  (Board) | The third Tuesday of the month and/or as listed - from February to the next January and includes the Annual Meeting of the Electors. *Approved by motion at the first meeting in January.* | *Posted on web-site and on two*   *township*  *message boards.*  (See Appendix). | Prepared by the township Supervisor for the January meeting agenda. Approved by motion by the board. | Reviewed at November or December meetings for the January meeting agenda. |
| Planning Commission (PC) | The second Tuesday of the month and/or as listed- from February to the next January. *Approved by motion- at the first meeting in January.* It is a study item at the organizational meeting in November or December. | *Posted on web-site and on two*  *township message boards*  (See Appendix). | Prepared by Planning Commission Chair for the January meeting. Approved by motion by the planning commission. Posted by the Zoning Administrator. | Will be reviewed at November or December meeting for the January meeting agenda.  *Required, by law, to meet four times per year.* |

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings (continued)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Monthly Meeting Day | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility | Additional Considerations |
| Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) | The second Wednesday of the month. *Schedule four meetings per year*, including an organizational meeting in November. | *Posted on web-site and on two*  *township message boards*.  (See Appendix). | Prepared by ZBA Chair. Approved by motion by the ZBA. Posted by the Zoning Administrator | Approved at the November organizational meeting for the next calendar year. |
| Other Committees and Boards | The number and frequency of meetings of a **standing committee** will be determined by the board. ***Ad* *hoc* committees** will determine a meeting schedule at the first meeting. | *Posted on web-site and on two*   *township message boards.*  (See Appendix). | Prepared by the committee chair with the help of the supervisor or his or her designee. Posted by the Supervisor or his or her designee. |  |

**Rescheduling of Regular Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Initiation of Change | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility |
| Board | Approved, by motion, at a regularly scheduled  Meeting of the board, commission or committee. | *Within 3 days of the meeting at which the change was made, stating the new times, dates and places The notice must be posted on the web-site and on the township message boards.*  (See Appendix). | For the board, the township supervisor. |
| Planning  Commission  Zoning Board of  Appeals |
| For the PC and the ZBA, the committee chair in conjunction with the Zoning Administrator |
| All Other  Committees | For other committees, the committee chair with the help of the Supervisor or his or her designee. |

**Special Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Initiation of Change | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility |
| Board | Called for by the supervisor | *Eighteen hours before the special meeting, it is posted on the web-site and on the township message boards.*  (See Appendix). | *The township Clerk* or as designated to the Supervisor. |
| ZBA and  all other Committees | Called for by the Chair. | ZBA Chair in conjunction with the Zoning Administrator.  -----------------------  Called for by the committee Chair with help of the Supervisor |
| Planning  Commission | *Can be called for by the chair or by written request from two members of the commission to the secretary.* | *Special meetings must be noticed in writing to the other members of the commission 48 hours before the meeting. Posted 18 hours on web site and township message boards.* (See Appendix). | The PC chair in conjunction with the Zoning Administrator |

**Public Hearings and Public Information Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Initiation | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility |
| Board | *Required by law for*  *1) Before approval by the PC, all Zoning Ordinance Changes, Special Use Permits, PUDs and PRDs*  *2) and may be legally requested at the board level and ,*  *(3) Required for all appeals to the Zoning Board of Appeals.*  Committee Chair with the help of the Supervisor or his or her designee | *Noticed in a newspaper of general circulation 15 days prior to the hearing date. Notice must be mailed to all properties within 300 feet if the hearing is related to a specific property, including the owner of the*  *subject property. The notice must be posted on the web-site and on the township message board(s) 15 days prior to the hearing or meeting.*  (See Appendix). | Supervisor for the board. |
| Planning  Commission  Zoning Board of  Appeals |
| The Zoning Administrator. |
| All Other  Committees | Committee Chair with the help of the Supervisor or his or her designee. |

**Annual Budget Hearing**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Initiation | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility |
| Township Board | Township Board | *Noticed in newspaper six days prior to the meeting. Includes date, time and place. Posted six days prior to meeting on township website and township message boards. There are additional newspaper noticing requirements.* (See Appendix). | Supervisor  *A public hearing is required before the budget can be adopted.* |

**Annual Meeting of the Electors**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Initiation | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility | Additional Considerations |
| Board | *Historically required by law in Torch Lake Township and is included in the schedule of regular meetings approved in January. By the board.* | *Noticed along with yearly posting of regular board meetings. Also,*  *posted on web-site and on township message boards.*  (See Appendix). | Prepared by the township Supervisor for the January meeting agenda. Approved by motion by the board | Reviewed at November or December meetings for the January meeting agenda.  Is held on the last Saturday in March unless, by board motion, is held on another date in March |

**Board of Review Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Required Meetings under Michigan Law | When | Posting Responsibility | Additional Considerations |
| *Organizational Meeting.* | *First Tuesday following the first Monday in March* | Supervisor.  *Noticed in three consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation, the website, and the township message board(s) no less than one week in advance of the organizational meeting.* |  |
| *March BOR*  *(first meeting)*  *AM Meeting with Property Owners* | *Second Monday in March from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.* | *By motion, the board can change the first meeting to the Tuesday or the Wednesday of the same week.* |
| *(second meeting)*  *PM Meeting with Property Owners* | *Any day in the same week from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM.* |  |
| *July BOR*  *Tuesday following the third Monday in July* | *Tuesday following the third Monday* | Supervisor.  *Posted on the website and the township message board(s) one week in advance of the meetings.* | *By motion, the board can change the meeting to another day but in the same week.* |
| *December BOR*  *Tuesday following the second Monday in December* | *Tuesday following the second Monday* |

**Cancelled Meetings**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Township Group | Initiation of Change | Noticing Requirements | Noticing Responsibility | Additional Considerations |
| Board  Planning Commission  Zoning Board of Appeals  Other Committees and Boards | Supervisor or designee.  Chairpersons | **If practical:**  Web site, and on the Community Services Building (township hall) door.  **If not practical:**  Note on township hall door | Supervisor or designee.  Chairpersons | May be initiated any time before the beginning of a meeting up to the time the meeting was to begin. It may be cancelled due to inclement weather and other emergencies, lack of a quorum, lack of enough business to conduct and, other matters determined by the Chair. |

**Appendix**

**Township Message Boards**

All meetings and hearings must be noticed on a township message board. There are five locations in the township where there are message boards. The law does not require more than one message board posting. **At a minimum, all meeting/hearing notices must be posted on the message board located at the Community Services Building**. Except for the yearly list of regular scheduled meetings, it is up to the Supervisor or his or her designee for the Board and, the Chair or his or her designee for each committee or board to determine how many of the message boards will be used for meeting noticing. Under this policy, all regularly scheduled meetings for the year will be posted on two of the message boards.

The location of the township message boards are as follows:

1. Community Services Building, 2355 N. US 31, Kewadin, Michigan 49648. Located on both sides of the main entrance.
2. US Post Office, 12037 Baker Street, Eastport, Michigan 49627 (across from the old township hall). Located inside the entry on the right hand side.

**Annual Budget Hearing**

It requires a notice in a newspaper of general circulation a minimum of six days prior to the meeting that includes the date, time and place of the meeting and the following statement in 11- point type: **“The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of the** **hearing.”** The notice must also state a place where the budget is available for public inspection.