

Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 -- Community Center - 6:00 PM

DRAFT#2

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

Public Comments: Briana Rupel is still collecting your glass at recycling – thank you so far, we have recycled over 590 pounds! Tom Antsy complained of a strong odor in the medical center on his previous visits, as well as inquiring on campers in a spot off H58 east of town, is it legal? Kay Powers mentioned the Altran bus to Marquette was cancelled again this month, can we talk with them to let them know how important this is.

Agenda: Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams to approve agenda moving the Egerer presentation up to before unfinished business. 5 ayes.

Correspondence: Letter from Nikki Darrow thanking the board for the deep cleaning of the community center kitchen, and offered funds from the Women’s Club to replace the current floor in the kitchen.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Jenkins, second by Babbitt, to approve the minutes from the April 8th regular meeting and the April 7th special meeting. 5 ayes.

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

Appointments/Resignations: none

Supervisor Report: Campground is open on the 15th. Still waiting on the engineer drawings on the boardwalk project. The harbor master is back and the marina is open. The DPW guys are working hard cleaning up after the long winter. Road restrictions will be lifted on the 15th and the cemetery opens on the 15th as well. There is a burning ban in place. Recycling moved to M77 location – scheduled for Wednesday May 14th and May 28th.

Treasurer’s report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer’s report – (\$1,466,572.05) Motion by Babbitt second by Williams to accept treasurer’s report and approve the bills for payment (\$37,707.47). 5 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Awareness Campaign for the Harbor Sand Problem (Egerer/Thompson): Bill Egerer led a discussion regarding the conditions in the bay and the continuing influx of sand. He encouraged the community to be aware and get involved, and they have created a web page to educate – savewestbay.com He explained that the board would be the fiscal agent for projects but it is important for the community to learn about these problems and offer support. Please visit the website or the township office for additional information.

Planning Commission: Next meeting of the planning commission is May 15th. They will be discussing the latest revisions to the zoning ordinance. Also, a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals on May 22, 2025, hearing a variance request for property out on Sucker River Rd. Keep watching our facebook and web page for scheduling of future meetings.

Transient Merchant Ordinance review: Correspondence was read (10 letters) in support of the Fired-Up food truck on the bay. One letter expressing their desire to see the truck moved off the bay. Supervisor Babbitt explained that he has discussed this issue with the ACRC as well as having organized a committee of Jessica Flynn, Toni Whaley, Jeannie Kain, Robin Sculley, and Tisha Panter to review and offer recommendations to the board. This committee met and submitted a complete rewrite of the current ordinance for board review. He also reviewed surrounding communities’ current practices for food trucks. He also quoted the 2023 master plan that had an 80% participation rate and the consensus of the plan is to not have food trucks on the bay. Paul Williams commented that the letters should have been sent to the ACRC, not to the township; that the township had no choice but to move the food trucks based on the letter from the ACRC, and that the township has no jurisdiction over the “right of way”. This issue was debated, as to who has jurisdiction of the area where the food truck has been parked for the last 10+ years and what prompted the letter from the ACRC. We have contacted Alger Delta to inquire about other locations to install electric access for a food court. Tim Jenkins emphasized the master plan and the 80% participation and the parking on the bay, and how the board should follow this plan. Sara Secrest talked about making arrangements for this impending summer until we can get the new ordinance finalized and this new food court location completed. There was much public discussion and the issue was tabled until a special meeting can be scheduled.

WILSON/WOODRUFF WATER PROJECT – USDA APPLICATION: Resolution 2025-05-01, Authorizing Publication of notice of intent to issue revenue bonds to finance the water supply system phase II. – Motion to approve by McShane, second by Williams. 5 ayes.

New Business:

Women’s Club Beautification Committee: Motion by McShane, second by Babbitt, to approve \$750 expenditure to aid the beautification committee in purchasing flowers to be planted around town. 5 ayes.

Woodland Park Leaf Machine/Sine Tech invoice: Leaf machine issue was tabled for next meeting. Motion by McShane, second by Williams, to approve the Sine Tech invoice for \$1,180.00 to reassemble the WiFi transmitters in the park. 5 ayes.

Gravel Butkovich: Motion by Williams, second by Secrest, to approve the \$2,200 expense for a load of gravel to be used in the Marina parking, Community Center parking, and out at the point. 5 ayes.

Airport Hangar Lease: Motion by McShane, second by Williams, to approve and authorize Supervisor Babbitt to sign the lease for the airport hangar with Greg Macomber for \$600 per year. 5 ayes.

Lince – Water Account - Water customer has a broken pipeline, noticed at the time of meter reads at the beginning of the month. This resulted in a water bill over \$2,900 for the previous month. Customer is asking for some form of relief, or waiver of water usage fees. Board decision to not waive any fees at this time.

Fitness Center Savings: Motion by Babbitt, second by Williams, to authorize the treasurer to open a separate savings account at Peoples State Bank, to facilitate a regular quarterly transfer of \$2,500, to save funds for a new fitness center. 5 ayes.

Chamber Fireworks fund raising update: Tom Cleary presented the chambers fund raising letter and program to be distributed to the businesses this week – as well as being promoted on web site and around town. Donation in the month of May will be matched. The fireworks will be on the 4th of July this year as well as the parade.

Other: Tim Jenkins asked if anyone was planning on attending the upcoming MTA training on the Michigan Sick Leave Act and Cemetery management. He is willing to go if no one else is available. He would also like the board to come up with a plan for follow up on topics brought up at meetings. He still wants board to review the current policies.

Public Comment: Cathy Egerer reminded the community about the Historical society sale on the weekend of June 13th. Wendy Williams inquired about the fund that was set up when Jack Hubbard completed the break wall. Clerk McShane replied that it is the “Harbor” fund, which is a .25 millage levied yearly, and that fund currently has over \$109,000. Tisha Panter was concerned that board members are saying that we have no jurisdiction over certain areas – she thought we should discuss with our lawyer – or else have anybody and everybody setting up along the bay in the right of way etc. Kay Powers thanked the board for their continued support of the beautification committee. Lou Lundquist suggested we create a food court area by closing the road behind the Bayshore market. Jeannie Kain spoke on behalf of the committee and said that they were not against Cathy or Perry but wanted to make a space for the food trucks off of the bay. Larry Vanderlann asked about the Army Corps of Engineers participation in keeping our Harbor of Refuge designation. Dick Williamson, harbormaster, commented on the lack of companies willing to do the dredging. Mark Johnstone spoke in favor of a food court area and moving them off the bay. Rod Lowe likes the location of the food truck on the bay.

Board Comment: Possible special meeting on Monday, May 19th, to continue transient Merchant ordinance discussion.

Next month’s meeting will be delayed one day – Wednesday, June 11th due to board members scheduling issues.

Adjournment: 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted May 22, 2025

Lori McShane, Clerk