

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
January 12th, 2021 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Selinski, and Mike Durfee

Public Present: Jim Delahanty Heather with – West Branch Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Rosebrugh, Mark Surbrook, and Ron Zarem

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 8TH 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Information was provided to the board that the county has continued working on issues surrounding both the expansion of the Rifle River drain district and also the status of the Kirtland Community College mileage.

Clerk – Hickmott provided the board with information regarding special use permits and site plan reviews that were approved by planning Commission on January 4th which includes 3 marijuana facilities and one mixed use building. He did also mention that overall things have been pretty quiet for the month.

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$23,777.62. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris gave the board information regarding the increase in calls regarding gypsy moth spraying for the 2022 year. He mentioned that the upcoming MTA Annual conference in Lansing is scheduled for April 2022 and that board members maybe interested in attending.

Treasurer – Reported that things have been quiet but things tend to be quiet for January during tax season.

Trustee Selinski – mentioned that he reviewed the accounts and everything looked well and there was nothing out of the ordinary, and outside of the accounts not much else has been going on.

Trustee Durfee – did not have much to report for the month.

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ron Zarem brought up some information regarding the transfer Station including new locks at the site and also he requested that the board pay the transfer station attendant for the Saturday Holiday closers and the board agreed to pay for both closure days.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Transfer Station report – Transfer Station Ron Zarem gave the board the annual report regarding the status of the transfer station. Philbrick mention that good customer service that is provided at the station and mentioned that it leads to more people using the station. Also a bit of discussion was had regarding potentially increasing the number of containers at the site because of increased usage.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS SUBJECT.

I.R.E.A.S.A Billing Issues – The board was presented with information regarding on going issues with IREASA regarding disputes with water billing. Philbrick provided the board with details information regarding the issues including lack of contact, copies of the bills, and a breakdown of the costs. It was also mentioned by the board that IREASA was not in attendance to even defend themselves on the subject that have been disputing.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE SUBJECT.

Resolution #01-12-22A Alternate board of Review Days – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-12-22A which is the alternate dates for the board of review and is an annual resolution that is passed.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 01-12-22A ALTERNATE BOARD OF REVIEW. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE, SELINKSI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #01-12-22B Asset Test – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-12-22A which is the asset test regulations and is an annual resolution that is passed.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 01-12-22B ASSEST TEST. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE . MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #1-12-22C Allowing Residents to protest in Writing – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-12-22C which allows protests in writing to the board of review and is an annual resolution that is passed.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 1-12-22 C PROTEST IN WRITING RESOLUTION. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHIBLRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

Resolution #1-12-22D Poverty Exemption Resolution – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding resolution 01-12-22D which sets the Poverty Exemption guidelines for 2022.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 1-12-22 D POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES . ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHIBLRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
January 12th, 2021 DRAFT MINUTES**

Farmland Open Space Preservation – Information was presented by Rosebrugh Farms for the Farmland and open space preservation program for their parcel located at 014-002-031-10. The board had a few questions regarding location and how long the preservation program would last for that property.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION REQUEST FOR PARCEL NUMBER 014-002-031-10. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Heather with the West Branch Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation to the board regarding several projects that the chamber has upcoming this year including the chamber building, the new sign, and fence work. Mike Hoadley also gave information about himself to the board and as a candidate for State Representative including explaining to the board about the state's new districting maps. Last Mark Surbrook gave a bit of information regarding the amount of money that was brought in by the Salvation army this year and the high amount of volunteers they had for 2021.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
February 9th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Selinski, and Mike Durfee

Public Present: Jim Delahanty, Mark Surbrook, and Ron Zarem

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 8TH 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commission Surbrook provided the board with information regarding ongoing things at the county level. So of the topics he addressed included the re-bonding of the 5 million regarding the county jail facility, ongoing issues regarding the medical examiner that the county uses and also the property dispute in Churchill township regarding a new proposed Dollar General. He also provided the board with information regarding S.T.I.N.G and the METH issues they continue to address county and area wide.

Clerk – It was stated that overall things have been fairly quiet on the clerk level as well as with the township DDA as well. He did mention that the township and the county will be having an election in May regarding the schools. Also that the process with the marijuana facilities has been moving along as well and a decision will probably be in March.

MOTION BY SELINSKI, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$109,169.90. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris provided the board with information regarding some recent improvements and technology upgrades at the Township Water Tower. These improvements totaled about 28 thousand dollars but were much over due to be completed. Morris also provided an update to the septic issues that were being addressed at the township Hall.

Treasurer – Reported that 82% of taxes had been collected and that was about average for this point in the collection season. Information was also provided regarding the Tax reduction that was given to the McLearn Medical facility on the Business loop.

Trustee Selinski – mentioned that he reviewed the accounts and everything looked well they just seemed a bit high but it was explained that was due to the A.R.P.A funds being deposited into the township accounts.

Trustee Durfee – provided the board with information regarding a meet and greet he set up at the township hall to have candidate for Attorney General Tom Lenard on Friday February the 18th 2022.

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ron Zarem brought up some information regarding the transfer Station including new locks at the site and also he requested that the board pay the transfer station attendant for the Saturday Holiday closers and the board agreed to pay for both closure days.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Workshop Date – The board has general discussion regarding a date for the budget workshop to work on details for the next fiscal year. It was decided by general consensus that the workshop would be March 1st at 1:30 PM at the township Hall.

Lawn Care Bids – The board was presented with information regarding the 2022 grass bids and the fact that we need to get them out sooner this year than last year. Hickmott provided the board with maps that will be provided to the contractors of the township properties that need to be done and also will be posted online with the request for bids as well. Hickmott stated he will get on the subject of getting information on the township website and also to the Ogemaw County Herald.

Transfer of \$10,000 to Road Fund – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding making a transfer of \$10,000 to the newly established road fund. This is in an effort for the township to start setting money aside year to year for future larger road projects.

MOTION BY DURFEE AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO TRANSFER \$10,000 TO THE TOWNSHIP ROAD FUN FOR FUTURE PROJECTS. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE, SELINKSI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE MOTION CARRIED.

Transfer \$17,100 to Recreational Marijuana Facilities Fund – Hickmott presented the board with information regarding on the transfer of \$17,100 to the newly established recreational marijuana facilities fund. This fund is for revenues that were brought in from recreational marijuana facilities in the township. Also it was stated that this revenue would be used at the discretion of the township board memebers.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO TRANSFER \$17,100 TO THE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES FUND. ROLL CALL: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE . MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MTA Annual Conference – The board had general discussion about the 2022 MTA Annual conference. It was decided in general the Clerk Hickmott and Trustee Durfee should attend the conference as they are the newest board members and never had the opportunity since their start on the board. Hickmott stated he would get everything setup for the April conference online.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
February 9th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Special Meeting
February 25th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 2:30 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Selinski, and Mike Durfee

Public Present: NONE

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS: NONE

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution RD 1942-8 – The board was presented with Resolution RD 1942-8 which allows West Branch Township to proceed with a USDA grant for a large scale community park project at the West Branch Steel property at the Corner of the Business Loop I-75 and M-76.

Hickmott provided the board members with information on what would be placed on the property including plans for an art market, farmers market, large pavilion, fire pit, new parking area, and an effort to save the current building on the site. Hickmott stated that the grant would need to be in the amount of 2.6 million dollars to shoot to complete everything in one large swoop.

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE REOLUTION RD 1942-8. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. REOLUTION APPROVED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Some Board members were discussing the long standing History of the West Branch Steel property, its uses, and how we have got to this point of the township not having the property.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
March 9th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, and Mike Selinski

Public Present: 11 Individuals Present

Absent: Mike Durfee

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 9TH 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND FEBRUARY 25TH SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. ABSENT - DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE BID FROM NORTHERN PUMUP AND WELL FOR \$19,131.00 FOR REPAIRS AT THE WATER TOWER SITE. ROLL CALL VOTE : YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE, ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Budget Hearing Date – It was decided generally that the date would be March 30th 2022 at 2:00 PM.

Transfer Station Attendant Wages – MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE \$1.00 WAGE INCREASE TO \$15.00 PER HOUR EFFECTIVE APRIL 1ST. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Transfer Station Coordinator Wage Review – MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE \$20.00 WAGE INCREASE TO \$100.00 PER MONTH EFFECTIVE APRIL 1ST. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Transfer Station Price Increases – The board was presented with an informational sheet with proposed price increase for the transfer station. The subject was tabled by the board until the June Board Meeting.

Deputy Clerk / Treasurer Wage Increases – MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE NEW WAGE OF \$75.00 PER MONTH FOR DEPUTIES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1ST. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – PHILBRICK. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Zoning Administration Review – MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE NEW ZONING ADMINISTRATOR AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE APRIL 1ST WITH PER DEIM REMOVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – HICKMOTT . NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #03-09-22 A – Clerk Salary – The resolution was presented to the board for the Clerk’s 2022-23 fiscal year salary. The resolution reflected an increase of 7% over last year.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #03-09-22 A. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – HICKMOTT NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Resolution #03-09-22 B – Treasurers Salary – The resolution was presented to the board for the Treasurer’s Salary for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The resolution reflects an increase of 8% over last year.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #03-09-22 B. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – PHILBRICK NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Resolution #03-09-22 C – Supervisor Salary – The resolution was presented to the board for the Supervisor’s Salary for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The resolution reflects an increase of 6% over last year.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #03-09-22 C. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – MORRIS NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Resolution #03-09-22 D – Trustee Salary – The resolution was presented to the board for the Trustee’s Salary for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The resolution reflects No increase over last year.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #03-09-22 D. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, MORRIS. ABSTAIN – SELINSKI NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Per Diem Review – MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE INCREASE PER DEIM FOR ALL TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS FROM \$40.00 TO \$50.00 PER MEETING. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, MORRIS. ABSTAIN – SELINSKI NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Road Commission Brine Program – MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO HAVE A SOLID BRINE SPRAY ON ALL ROADS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI MORRIS. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. RESOLUTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Q4 Budget Adjustments – MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE 4TH QUARTER BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TOTALING \$37,150.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Marijuana License Scoring Review and License Allocation – The board and the audience was presented information regarding the scoring and State laws before reviewing the scores. Hickmott read aloud the scoring policy of the township from the scoring rubric and also the State Law MCL 333.27959(4) on license allocation and how they are allocated to the community. After that information was read allowed the final numbers were revealed showing how three applicants the township received were scored. The applicants were organized on a form from highest scoring to lowest scoring.

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
March 9th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ALLOCATED ONE RECREATION MARIJUANA FACILITIES LICENSE TO ATTITUDE WELLNESS LLC (LUME CANNABIS CO.). ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – HICKMOTT . NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE ALLOCATED ONE RECREATION MARIJUANA FACILITIES LICENSE TO MARIES BRIDGE INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC. (THE WOODS). ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. ABSTAIN – HICKMOTT . NAY – NONE. ABSENT – DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Concerns with Lume Cannabis company logo and management structure. Request by a single member of the audience if the township would consider opening up to more facilities. The board did respond that it would need to be looked into further before any decision regarding that would proceed. Lume and The Woods had comments regarding their excitement to be welcomed into the townships business community. Comments made that the City of West Branch is exploring Marijuana options within the city limits.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm

West Branch Township
Public Hearing / Special Meeting
March 30th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES

Public Hearing - Supervisor Morris opened the public meeting as 2:00 pm. No public was in attendance and the public hearing.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 2:03 PM.
VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, ABSENT - NONE. MOTION CARRIED

Special Meeting - called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 2:04 pm

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Selinski and Mike Durfee.

Public Present: NONE

Absent: NONE.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE.
MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: March 9th 2022 Board Meeting

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE MARCH 9TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #03 -30-2022 A – General Appropriations Act – Clerk Hickmott presented to the board the general appropriation act (budget) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. He and Treasurer Philbrick did point out a few items to the board of interest including the fund balances that the township has and mentioned that overall the township from a budget stand point is in good condition.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #03-30-2022 A – GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT. ROLL CALL: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. RESOLUTION PASSED.

Road Commission ARPA Letter – The board was presented with a letter from the Ogemaw County Road Commission on 50/50 split for gravel and ditching work this year if the township had any planned projects. The ARPA letter also lead into a board wide discussion on possible uses for the ARPA funding including cemetery, water tower, broadband, the West Branch Steel property, cameras and security upgrades and the Township Master Plan.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY SELINSKI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE
VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY - NONE MOTION
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
April 13th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski

Public Present: Al Evans, Jim Delahanty, Mark Surbrook, Al Evans and Ron Zarem

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE MARCH 30TH BUDGET HEARING / SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with an update regarding the progress on changes and amendments to the county zoning ordinance including tiny homes. He mentioned that the sheriff's office is getting a 5 thousand dollar grant for weapon upgrades and also gave the board information regarding the new vehicles for some county departments and also a brief overview of the county Audit.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the continued work with MDOT regarding the progress with the DDA Pathway project and the fact that MDOT was communicating again. Also he mentioned about a lot of the community projects that are going on zoning wise in the township including the continued work with the New Marijuana Facilities.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$40,162.86 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris provided the board with information regarding the upcoming Gypsy Moth planned sparing in the township and also provided the board with upcoming information regarding the request for some road improvements including gravel and ditching on Finerty.

Treasurer – Reported she has settled right on with Ogemaw County this year and also that township has received its portion of the taxes collected from the county as well. She also mentioned that overall things have been going well.

Trustee Selinski – mentioned that he reviewed the accounts and everything looked well. He also had a few account questions for the treasurer that were addressed as well.

Trustee Durfee – Reported that things have been in motion regarding getting ready for little league and also mentioned about upcoming plans in motion for the area Fireworks.

Correspondence: PAR-PLAN News Letter.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mary Beebee gave the board an introduction of herself as a candidate for the Judge in the area. She told the board about herself and her experience in the Legal system over her past. Ron Zareem also informed the board that letters will be going out to Trash companies accepting bids as the current contract expires in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lawn Care Bids – The Township Board received for Bids for Lawn Care services for the township. The bids were from A/L landscaping, Quality Lawn care, Year Round Outdoor Services, and Fresh Cut. The board reviewed the prices and had discussion on prices, costs, and quality of service that has been provided and would be provided. The prices did change a good bid in bidders with Quality Lawn Care coming in at the lowest but also most complete bid.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM QUALITY LAWN CARE FOR THE 2022 SEASON. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

Water Meters – The board was presented information regarding the needed upgrades for the Water Meters in the township to digital Meters. Hickmott provided cost estimates to the board totaling \$40,000.00 to do all the needed meters. It was also mentioned that the costs of the meters could be covered with the ARAP Funding.

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO ORDER THE METERS FROM THE CITY AND HAVE THEM INSTALLED. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE SELINSKI AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Master Plan Updates – Hickmott provided the board with two proposals for Master Plan Upgrades which is overdue in the township by 8 to almost 10 years. The first was from NEMCOG at a total of over \$14,000 and the Second was from Lapham and associates for over \$17,000 but the Lapham plan also included not only the master plan improvements but also the creation of a township Capital Improvement Plan. Hickmott stated that the Planning Commission recommends the Lapham plan and also having the Capital Improvement Plan will help with the township process of participating in the Redevelopment Ready State Program.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO GO WITH THE LAPHAM AND ASSOCIATES MASTER PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO BE FUNDED THROUGH ARPA FUNDING. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
April 13th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Date Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
May 11th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski

Public Present: Mark Surbrook, Georgette Walker – With Republic, Daniella Beeler – Ogemaw Herald, and Brian Gilbert – Sherriff, and Rep. from S.T.I.N.G.

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DURFEE, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE APRIL 13TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with updates regarding the changes to the Ogemaw County ORV Ordinance, a deal that has been worked out with Ogemaw Township regarding some money that was owed by them to the county, and also a donation that was made to the Ogemaw County Meals on Wheels program from the New Meijer Store for \$15,000.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the continued work with MDOT regarding the progress with the DDA Pathway project and that Hodgins has been moving at a steady pace getting things corrected. Also Hickmott mentioned that the election was smooth sailing and that things went very very well. Also Hickmott pointed out a few monthly expenditures that were higher than normal including payments to the City of West Branch and Waste Water Treatment. From a zoning perspective things have been busy as well with new developments and zoning permits.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE \$162,465.34 TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$40,162.86 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, and DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris provided the board with information regarding the upcoming Gypsy Moth planned spraying in the township and also informed the board that the mapping has been completed, updated, and sent to Hatfield for planned spraying dates.

Treasurer – Reported she has been getting things prepared for the township audit which is going to be started next week. She also mentioned that she is working with a company to start being able to take credit cards in the future for Tax payments and potentially other things as well.

Trustee Selinski – mentioned that he had found information regarding the status of the Birchcrest house and that the new owners are planning to repair and also fix the home.

Trustee Durfee – Reported that he has been working on making sure that we have flags for the veteran graves at the township cemetery and also working and looking into getting updated flag holders for those grave sites.

Correspondence: Prosecuting Attorney Letter.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual S.T.I.N.G Contribution – The Township Board a good deal of information from S.T.I.N.G including the annual funding request in the amount of \$3,630.20 which was not an increase year over year. D. Philbrick mentioned that it was good to see that S.T.I.N.G also provided the board with some of the budget items without the township even having to ask this year. M. Durfee also mentioned it was good to read about what S.T.I.N.G. has done this past year.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE PAYMENT TO S.T.I.N.G in the amount of \$3,630.20. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

Garbage Company Contract – The board was presented information regarding three bids that were received for the upcoming expiration of the townships garbage contract. The three bids that were received were from GFL, Waste Management, and Republic. It was shown in paper work provided that recycling costs were about the same year over year but Republic was the lowest bidder in regards to the per container price at \$27.04 which was not an increase year over year.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH REPUBLIC. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE SELINSKI AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Garbage Rate Increase Proposal – The board was provided information from Transfer Station coordinator Ron Zarem regarding increase at the transfer station. Most of the increases were only a \$1.00 per item except for trailer loads which would be increased by \$10.00 per trailer size. Supervisor Morris also informed the board that while trash rates for the township have increased over the years the bag and trailer rates have not been increased in over eight years.

MOTION BY DURFEE AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO INCREASE THE TRASH RATES AT THE PROPOSED INCREASE RATE. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

M-33 Access Broadband Project – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with some information regarding a proposed agreement between M-33 access and the township to provide Broadband access to township residents. Hickmott also provided the board with a copy of the agreement and also a map of the area that was to be serviced by the plan. Hickmott mentioned that no action needed to be taken currently but we will look again in the future.

Fireworks Location – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with details of his work on re-establishing the West Branch Area Fireworks. He informed the board that the location will be in the Griffin Field next to the West Branch Wal-Mart and the date is set for July 9th 2022 at dusk with the rain delay day being July 10th 2022. Sherriff Gilbert also mentioned that he and the Sheriff's department like the location even a bit better then past years and are ready and willing to help with the event.

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
May 11th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Updates to the Ogemaw County ORV Ordinance – The board was presented with information regarding the proposed changes to the Ogemaw County ORV Ordinance. This information was given to the board in an effort by the county to seek input and suggestions before the county public hearing that is scheduled for June 20th at the County Building.

Four Star Transportation / DTE Gas – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with a request from Four Star Transportation to help defer some of the costs of running DTE Gas line down the dirt portion of Flowage Lake Road. The board did not think it was a fiscally responsible decision to take on this type of project in that area.

Ogemaw County EDC Funding Request – The board was presented a request from the County EDC to contribute to the EDC. The board had mentioned that this is typically something that is handled by the Township DDA each year. It was also mentioned that both the DDA and the Township each received this request. The board did not act on this subject.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
June 8th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski

Public Present: Mark Surbrook, Daniella Beeler – Ogemaw Herald, Mike Benfield – M-33 Access, and Al Evans

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE MAY 11TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with updates regarding the purchase of the new vehicle for Animal Control and also for the equalization department. Outside of that there has not been too much activity on a county level.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the continued work with MDOT regarding the progress with the DDA Pathway project and that Hodgins has been moving at a steady pace getting things corrected. Also Hickmott mentioned that absentee ballot applications will be going out for the upcoming elections pretty soon.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$32,910.22
ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris provided the board with information regarding the fact that Gypsy Moth spraying in the township has been completed and also that the township is out of money for spraying the next couple of years. He also mentioned about the New Dunham's location that will be opened up in the future.

Treasurer – Reported that the tax bills are going to be printed soon and also there was some questions regarding utility services for a property up on willow.

Trustee Selinski – mentioned that he had a conversation with the owner of the bowling alley in regards to what "ready to serve" fees actually are and why that is added on the utility bills when they come out.

Trustee Durfee – Reported that he has not had much going on and that there was not too much to report.

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Water and Sewer Operator – The Township Board reviewed a proposal for a new water and Sewer operator for the township. The township needed to get a new person as Dennis was retiring effective June first. The proposal was for Mike Killackey who has been doing work for the City of West Branch to take over. In the proposed agreement things like reporting duties, grass cutting, and water flushing were mentioned specifically as things that need to be properly done in a timely manner. The pay rate would be \$2,000 per month to include all listed tasks in the agreement. Also there would be a \$35.00 per hour rate for M.I.S Dig calls and emergency water situations.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE WATER AND SEWER OPERATOR AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. MOTION CARRIED.

Audit Presentation – The board was presented information regarding the township audit for this past fiscal year 2021-22. Cindy Scott with Stephenson and Company provided the board with a complete review of the townships audit and answered questions that some of the board members. It was also mentioned that the township should consider in the future adopting a fixed asset policy and also making sure that the annual qualifying statement gets completed online.

Road Projects for 2022-23 – The board was provided information from Supervisor Morris and Clerk Hickmott regarding at least two potential road projects. Morris provided the board with estimates from the Ogemaw County Road Commission for gravel and ditching work on Finerty Road. Hickmott provided the board with updates regarding the need to repair some more holes on Austin Way behind the outlet mall and also re-painting lines included a cross walk line between the mall and the Quality Inn as it was never done in the past.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE GRAVEL AND DITCHING WORK ON FINERTY ROAD NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE ROAD REPAIRS AND LINE PAINTING ON AUSTIN WAY NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

M-33 Access Broadband Project – Mike Benfield with M-33 Access provided the board with some information regarding a proposed agreement between M-33 access and the township to provide Broadband access to a designated area of the township which would benefit over 500 residents. Hickmott also provided the board with a copy of the agreement and also a map of the area that was to be serviced by the plan. The board did have several questions on things like costs, locations route, and when the project would get started. It was mentioned that by approving the agreement now it allow for M-33 to get started on the permits and securing materials but the project would get started in June of 2023.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH M-33 ACCESS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO THE AREA LISTED IN THE AGREEMENT . ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
June 8th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Fireworks Location – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with details on the continued work on re-establishing the West Branch Area Fireworks. He informed the board that the location will be in the Field next to the West Branch Township Wal-Mart and the date is set for July 9th 2022 at dusk with the rain delay day being July 10th 2022. Hickmott also provided the board with a copy of the permit that needs to have township approval of the location and the date of the Fireworks.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE PERMIT FOR THE LOCATION AND DATE (JULY 9TH) OF THE WEST BRANCH AREA FIREWORKS . ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. ABSTAIN – HICKMOTT. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
July 13th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott, Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski

Public Present: Mark Surbrook, Daniella Beeler – Ogemaw Herald, Chase Wiltse, and Citizen from Finerty Rd.

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORISS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF REC FACILITY DISCUSSION. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE JUNE 8TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with updates regarding funding allocation that needed to be made for the sheriff's office marine patrol. He also discussed some of the topics that were brought up at the last count meeting including the counties continued work on updating ORV Ordinance, fee schedule updates, and county contracts. Surbrook also mentioned some new access points in the City of West Branch for ORV / ATV traffic.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the continued work with MDOT regarding the progress with the DDA Pathway project and that Hodgins has been moving at a steady pace getting things corrected and also the MDOT has finally issued the pathway permit for the project. Hickmott also mentioned that everything went very well with the fireworks new location this year. Lastly he mentioned the upcoming election and that has been going fairly smooth as well.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$368,928.12 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris provided the board with information regarding the fact that Gypsy Moth spraying in the township has been completed and that only one complaint has come through. He also mentioned that everyone has been happy for the most part this year with the spraying, and reiterated the fact that the township will not be spraying for the next couple years.

Treasurer – Reported that the township is now able to take credit cards for tax collections. It was mentioned that a fee is built into the charge. Also it was mentioned that tax collections has alright gotten started as well.

Trustee Selinski – Reviewed the accounts for the month and everything was in order, he also mentioned that the bill seemed high for the month but that it was explained and there was no additional questions regarding that.

Trustee Durfee – Reported about some of the events and programs that the West Branch District library has been up to the past month or so.

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: The board did have public comment from both Judge Troy Daniels and also Chase Wiltse. Daniels is running for district court judge and went into details about his experiences in the court system and what he plans to do if elected. Chase Wiltse is running for Commissioner in District 2 of the township. He also went into detail regarding his political experiences in the area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rec Board Discussion – Mike Selinski wanted to know if there was an update regarding potential changes at the rec board including funding or other options that were touch on at the last township Planning commission. Hickmott brought up that it has not been looked into much as of yet being it was kind of just passing thoughts and discussions at the planning commission and trying to get the rec facility as part of the Capital Improvement plan for the township.

DDA Appointment – The board was presented with two choices by Supervisor Morris for the DDA Board as there was one vacancy on that board. Hickmott provided some of the details of each candidate as there both were at the last DDA Board meeting. The choices were Lori Allen and Frank Goodrow, each have been involved in the West Branch Area and are also from the township as well. The board then decided to appoint Lori Allen as she is currently managing the West Branch Outlets which is one of the original and largest commercial properties in the DDA District.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPOINT LORI ALLEN TO THE WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP DDA BOARD. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE, AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

Road Projects for 2022-23 Update – The board was provided information from Supervisor Morris and Clerk Hickmott with an updated estimate from the Ogemaw County Road Commission for gravel and ditching work on Finerty Road. There was a bit of confusion on which road was to be done so the original estimate was incorrect and was for the incorrect road.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO RESIND THE ORGINAL MOTION FOR THE GRAVEL AND DITCHING WORK ON FINERTY ROAD NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATE FOR GRAVEL AND DITCHING REPAIRS ON FINERTY NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
July 13th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
August 10th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott and Mike Selinski.

Public Present: Mark Surbrook, Daniella Beeler – Ogemaw Herald, Chase Wiltse, and Citizen –
Regarding Sunrise Towing Zoning.

Absent: Mike Durfee

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE,
ABSENT – DURFEE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE JULT 13TH 2022 MEETING
MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, AND
SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, ABSENT – DURFEE, MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with updates regarding technology upgrades at the County Jail. He also provided updates regarding changes with the County ORV Ordinance and also wanted to inform the board that the 911 Millage will be on the November ballot and that it is a renewal of a previously approved millage. He also mentioned that the county did receive a Homeland Security grant for software updates at the county.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the DDA Pathway project that Hodgins has finally paved the pathway along M-55 and that there is still some touch up work but the pathway is usable. Hickmott also mentioned that the election was a little bit messy but nothing to serious and that the election works did very well on administering the process.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING
\$122,772.62 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI. NAY –
NONE, DURFEE – ABSENT, MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris provided the board with information regarding that he has been operating the township transfer station while the regular transfer station attendant has been out with some minor medical issues. Jim also brought up that he has been in contact with the landscaping company regarding a couple small issues with that and also the soon to be cut grass along the M-55 pathway.

Treasurer – Reported that the township is now able to take credit cards for tax collections. It was mentioned that a fee is built into the charge. Also it was mentioned that taxes have been coming into the township at a decent rate.

Trustee Selinski – Reviewed the accounts for the month and everything was in order. It was also brought up that he had conversations with individuals regarding the issues with Peach Lake and its causes. Information was also provided regarding the work that a group of citizens is doing regarding a potential special assessment district.

Trustee Durfee – ABSENT

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: A citizen brought to the board’s attention issues he had regarding the potential zoning issues with the Sunrise towing facility on the Business Loop. J. Hickmott mentioned that he would send him information the Thursday after the meeting regarding his zoning complaint.

NEW BUSINESS:

DDA Appointment – Hickmott brought to the boards attention that Lori Allen with the outlet Mall could no longer be on the DDA Board because of conflicts time wise with her job at the mall. So he wanted to inform the board and the public as well that there is vacancy if we want to fill the position but the DDA board does have enough people to continue without and appointment.

626 State Road Fireworks Permit – The board was provided a copy of the annual Fireworks permit for the Labor Day holiday on September 4th 2022 at 626 State Road. This is typically an annual permit that is submitted to the township signs every year.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE FIREWORKS PERMIT FOR 626 STATE ROAD ON SEPTEMBER 4TH 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

Interest in M-76 Property – The board was presented a template purchase agreement for the 21 acres that West Branch Township owns on M-76. Hickmott provided the board with some details that there has been some interested parties in the property and the template purchase agreement was to get a feeling for what the board would be interested in having in a potential sale agreement including price, conditions, and zoning requirements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
September 14th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski.

Public Present: Mark Surbrook, Daniella Beeler – Ogemaw Herald, Ron Zarem, Resident of Highland Drive – regarding house.

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE August 10TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with updates regarding the happenings at Ogemaw County. This information included updates regarding the move of veteran’s affairs to the old MSP building, the purchase of two new Tahoe’s for the Sherriff’s office and the new two year contract for body cams for the sheriff’s office as well. He also provided the board with information regarding the Rifle River drain district and the potential cost structure for that.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the DDA Pathway project that Hodgins has paved the pathway along M-55 and that there is still some touch up work but the pathway is usable and is getting a good bit of use already. Hickmott also mentioned about the progress regarding the zoning projects in the township in the business area as well.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$36,261.71 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris didn’t have too much to bring to the boards attention but discussion did happen about trash bag costs and the recommendation that some prices get adjusted back including \$1.00 for kitchen bags and dropping the trailer price back to \$25.00. The board generally agreed to this.

Treasurer – Reported that taxes have been coming in at a good pace the past few days and that after September 15th a fee will be added for late payments on tax bills.

Trustee Selinski – Reviewed the accounts for the month and everything were in order. He also mentioned that he has been receiving a lot of questions regarding the Rifle River drain district and Kirtland taxes and peoples unhappiness about both.

Trustee Durfee – Mentioned that he was happy to be back at the board meeting after his brief absence and also that he has been hearing a lot of complaints regarding the rifle river drain district and Kirtland as well.

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: A citizen brought to the board's attention issues she has been having and requested some information regarding a burnt down home in the flowage lake area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Peach Lake Special Assessment – Hickmott brought to the board's attention the work that has been progressing with a group of citizens around Peach Lake that have been working to create a special assessment district around the Lake. Hickmott mentioned that they have submitted required petition information and the next task for the board is to schedule a public hearing. The board discussed that either December 2022 or January 2023 would be good because it will be after the holidays and election season.

THE BOARD BY GENERAL CONSENSUS PLANNED FOR JANUARY 13TH 2023 WITH A TIME TO BE DETERMINED IN THE FUTURE.

Capitalization Policy – The board was presented a copy of the proposed capitalization policy known as Resolution 9-14-2022 CP. The resolution has been requested for some time by the Auditors and also the resolution is based off the townships prior policy from 1994 but with changes to reflect the needed updates.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 9-14-2022 CP ALSO KNOWN AS THE CAPITALIZATION POLICY. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

Q1 Budget Adjustments – The board was presented with the list of budget adjustments for the first Quarter of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Hickmott went into detail of the items on the list and the main reasons why certain adjustments were needed.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY SELINSKI TO APPROVE THE 1ST QUARTER BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS TOTALING \$13,675 IN ADJUSTMENTS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Cemetery Mapping – The board was presented a proposal from Lapham and Associates at the request of the Township Clerk for re-mapping of the Campbell Hill Cemetery. The board reviewed the agreement and echoed the need to have this corrected for the future. The proposed cost of the re-mapping of the Cemetery was \$8,000 and would be funded and paid for through remaining Township ARPA Funds.

MOTION BY DURFEE AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH LAPHAM AND ASSOCIATE FOR \$8,000 TO BE FUNDED THROUGH REMAINING ARPA FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Cemetery Veteran Markers - The board was presented with information from both Durfee and Hickmott regarding the need to get veteran, police, and firefighter markers for the cemetery. Currently the township does not have markers for these groups and it was brought to the townships attention the need for these items.

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
September 14th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO PURCHASE THE VETERAN, POLICE, AND FIREFIGHTER MARKERS WITH A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 PAID THROUGH BUDGETED FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Cemetery Fence Installation – Morris and Hickmott presented the board with information regarding the need to have the fence replaced at the Campbell hill cemetery. It was mentioned currently that it is possible that a vehicle could have an incident at the top of the hill including falling off. Morris was currently working with the township landscaping company to get estimates on the installation.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$18,500 FOR THE FENCE INSTALLATION TO BE PAID THROUGH ARPA FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Cemetery Retaining Wall Repairs – Morris provided the board with information regarding the collapsing wall at the cemetery. It was mentioned that not the entire wall is collapsing and only a section would need to be replaced. Morris is also working on this subject with the township landscaping company on estimates for the repair of the wall.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$3,500 FOR THE REATINGING WALL REPAIRS TO BE PAID THROUGH BUDGETED FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Poverty Exemption Information – The board was presented information from the township auditor regarding the need to pass a resolution regarding the poverty exemption income guidelines and asset test. This resolution is standard and is something that the township is required to do at the request of the auditor.

MOTION BY MORRIS AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE POVERTY EXEMPTION AND INCOME GUIDLINES. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, DURFEE AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review L-4029 – The township board was presented the 2022 L-4029 form from Ogemaw County which shows the townships tax rates. Hickmott also pointed out that from the 2021 form to the 2022 form that the township had a taxable value increase of almost 10 million in one year for a total of 132,236, 229.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE L-4029 FORM FOR 2022. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Zoning Amendments / Ordinance 56 – Hickmott presented the board with ordinance 56 which are zoning amendments to the West Branch Township Zoning ordinance. Some of the changes include use changes on the business loop, less restrictive parking requirements, and some green measures. It was also mentioned that over the past couple months the planning commission has been going over this to also become more compliant with the Redevelopment ready program the township is engaged in.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 56 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Development of a Recreation Plan – Hickmott presented the board with a proposal from Lapham and Associates for the creation and reestablishment of a Recreation Plan for the township at the request of the Township Clerk for \$5,500. Hickmott also mentioned that the township had a recreation plan from 2008 to 2015 and then it had been no longer pursued after that point. He also mentioned it was important to have these plans for Potential Park funding in the future.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR A RECREATION PLAN WITH LAPAHM AND ASSOCIATES FOR \$5,500 FUNDED THROUGH REMAINING ARPA FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Development Related Board Joint Meeting – Hickmott gave information to the board about the need to have a joint meeting of the Planning Commission, DDA, and the township board. This is an annual requirement of the redevelopment ready program and is a good thing to have just to make sure planning for the townships future that everyone is on the same page. It was also mentioned the Planning Commission was planning for October 20th after the DDA's regular meeting.

THE BOARD THROUGH GENERAL CONSENSUS AGREED TO THE DATE OF OCTOBER 20TH 2022 AT 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
October 12th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski.

Public Present: Mark Surbrook, Jim Lucas, Brenda Simmons, Daniella Beeler – Ogemaw Herald

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY SELINSKI, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Surbrook provided the board with updates regarding the happenings at Ogemaw County. This information included updates regarding new county computer software, the purchase new X-ray machine for the Ogemaw county building, continued updates to the county healthcare and some compensation changes and also millage rate changes as well.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information that it is pretty much election madness and that most other tasks while not pushed off have been sidetracked until the majority of the election stuff in covered. He had mentioned that by the time of the board meeting that over 400 absentee ballots have been sent of the residents across the township.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$30,435.01 ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris didn't have too much to bring to the boards attention but did mention that he has been pretty busy finishing up farm season this year at the farms he works on.

Treasurer – Reported that most taxes have come in and just wanted to remind folks that there is a 1% fee per month until much when things get transferred over to the county for being delinquent.

Trustee Selinski – Reviewed the accounts for the month and everything were in order. He also mentioned that he has talked with M-33 Access regarding the township broadband project and that the materials are in and that we are scheduled for work in the spring of 2023.

Trustee Durfee – not too much to mention for the month.

Correspondence: PAR-PLAN newsletter was available for board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Ogemaw Hills Recreation Facility – The township board was presented information from both Selinski, Hickmott, and Commissioner Surbrook about potential interest of the township acquiring the facility from the county. There was a good bit of discussion on reasons why, cost, why the county is looking at and showing interest of parting ways with its ownership of the property. There was also discussion of how it would be funded and also the future of the Ogemaw Hills recreation board and what that would shift into as well. Overall the board did express interest further in working with the county to see what option maybe available and what it will take to have West Branch Township acquire the recreation facility from Ogemaw County.

THE BOARD BY GENERAL CONSENSUS DECIDED TO PUSH FORWARD WORKING WITH THE OGEMAW COUNTY TO POTENTIALLY ACQUIRE THE OGEMAW HILLS RECREATION FACILITY.

Snow Plowing Review – the board was presented with the continued contract with Hodgins for the 2022-23 snow plowing season. The costs were up slightly over last season but on by generally \$3 to \$5 which was basically just a reflection on the increase of salt costs and some material costs this year.

MOTION BY SELINSKI AND SECOND BY DURFEE TO CONTINUE WITH HODGINS FOR THE 2022-23 SNOW PLOWING AT THE TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Michigan PAR-PLAN Ins. - The board reviewed the continued agreement with the Michigan Par-Plan for the township insurance for 2022-23. The costs of the plan were up about 5% \$7,056.00 for the year. There was some discussion at maybe in the future looking at different options but it was also mentioned that Par-Plan has been very good in responses when the township has had claims especially regarding the damaged light poles.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT APPROVE THE RENEWAL WITH MICHIGAN PAR-PLAN FOR \$7,056.00. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Election Inspectors – Hickmott provided the board with a list of election inspectors for the November 8th 2022 election. A lot of the works have worked out township elections before they just needed to be formally voted and approved by the board.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$18,500 FOR THE FENCE INSTALLATION TO BE PAID THROUGH ARPA FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Fee Schedule Update – The board reviewed the township fee schedule that should be reviewed annually. The only suggestion that was made by Hickmott that the board needed to add a fee for the newly added parking lot waiver request that can be made under the townships most recent zoning ordinance changes. Hickmott had suggested that the price land between \$200 and \$400 for the application to apply for the request.

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
October 12th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT APPROVE THE FEE SCHEDULE WITH ADDITION OF A \$300 PARKING LOT SIZE REQUIREMENT WAIVER REQUEST. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: .

Development Related Board Joint Meeting – Hickmott reminded the board about the upcoming joint meeting of the Planning Commission, DDA, and the township board. This is an annual requirement of the redevelopment ready program and is a good thing to have just to make sure planning for the townships future that everyone is on the same page. It was also mentioned the Planning Commission was planning for October 20th after the DDA’s regular meeting at 5:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE ADDITIONAL

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
November 9th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski.

Public Present: NONE

Absent: NONE

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY DURFEE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 12TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – Not in Attendance

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the status of the November 8th 2022 election. He had mentioned that the township including absentee ballots had a voter turnout over 50%. Board members had brought up to Hickmott about a few blight and zoning issues as well. Hickmott also provided detail regarding what's been going on at the mall and that he has been working closely with them. Information was also provided regarding the status of the banners and the continued lighting outages.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$103,636.85. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris didn't have too much to bring to the boards attention but did mention that he will be out of the area then next coming week for an annual trip he attends.

Treasurer – Reported that things have been generally quiet. She did mention that there has been a couple utility billing issues with a couple customers but that she has been working with them to get those issues corrects.

Trustee Selinski – Reviewed the accounts for the month and everything were in order and that his questions were answered after explanation from the clerk and treasurer regarding the accounts. He also mentioned that he will be out of the area and not in attendance for the December Meeting.

Trustee Durfee – Durfee gave a review of things that have been going on with the district library including the ongoing issues between the West Branch District Library and the West Branch Township DDA.

Correspondence: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Township Tax Abatement Update - The board was provided an updated copy of the township's tax abatement policy. Hickmott went into details regarding how the new policy has changed versus how the old policy was. Things like the scoring / point system have been removed in the new policy and the addition of a commercial section has now been added to the tax abatement policy. Treasurer Philbrick also provided information on how the tax abatement policy has benefited businesses in the township in the past and most of those that benefited are still in existence today in the township.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE NEW AND UPDATED WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP TAX ABETMENT POLICY. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Library Board Re-Appointment / Terri Barnhart – The board discussed the re-appointment of Terri Barnhart to the West Branch District library board as the township representative. The board had a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of having her back on the board including her previous work on the board but also the most recent legal troubles that have been supported by the current library board regarding the West Branch Township DDA.

MOTION BY DURFEE AND SECOND BY MORRIS TO RE-APPOINT TERRI BARNHART TO THE WEST BRANCH AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – DURFEE, PHILBRICK, SELINSKI, AND MORRIS. NAY – HICKMOTT. MOTIONED CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
December 14th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**

Regular meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

Board Members Present: Jim Morris, Diane Philbrick, Jeremy Hickmott Mike Durfee and Mike Selinski.

Public Present: Mark Surbrook & Jocelyn Garza

Absent: Mike Selinski & Mike Durfee

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, PHILBRICK, HICKMOTT. NAY – NONE, ABSENT – SELINSKI & DURFEE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY MORRIS, SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9TH 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK ABSENT - DURFEE AND SELINSKI. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES OF OTHER MEETINGS: NONE

REPORTS:

County Commissioner – The county commissioner gave the board information and updates regarding appointments to the Ogemaw County Land Bank. It was also mentioned about the issues with the car washing of the police vehicles and also that there will be GPS in NON-POLICE county vehicles.

Clerk – Clerk Hickmott provided the board with information regarding the status of things that are going on zoning and DDA wise but did mention that things have been pretty quiet as we head into the close of the year.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK, SECOND BY MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BILLS TOTALING \$22,716.30. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA - MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK. ABSENT - SELINSKI AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE, MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor – Morris reported to the board that he has been working with the Ogemaw county road commission on getting bids for projects in the township and seeing what kind of funding options there are for this upcoming year.

Treasurer – Reported that tax have been coming in and that she has been working on the changes after receiving information from the Board of Review.

Correspondence: Letter from the Ogemaw County Clerk regarding the 2022 Election cycle and also a letter request from the West Branch District Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 12-12-22 A - Meeting Schedule - The board was provided with a copy of the 2023 Meeting schedule which included listing the dates for the township Board of Review as well. The meeting

schedule also covers the Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Board of Review.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE ADDITION OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW DATES. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK. ABSENT - SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Transfer Station Coordinator – The board discussed fill the position of transfer station coordinator after the resignation of Ron Zarem. Supervisor Morris said he can fill in the position through April which will give the township time to look for a person to fill the position. The board also discussed potentially raising the wages for the position as well.

NO MOTION WAS NEEDED OF MADE AT THIS TIME ON THE SUBJECT.

Board Appointments - The township board reviewed the need to fill a few vacant positions on several township Board including the Board of Review, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Township Planning commission. Supervisor Morris recommended Susie Hammontree, Jay Spaulding, Janet Wackerlee, and Al Evans as alternate to the Board of Review. The township will continue to look for individuals to fill the spots for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT AND SECOND BY PHILBRICK TO APPROVE THE SUPERVISORS APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK. ABSENT - SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

Q3 Budget Adjustments – The Township Board was presented with the third quarter Budget Adjustments. The board reviewed what need to be adjusted most of which was very minor.

MOTION BY PHILBRICK AND SECOND BY HICKMOTT TO APPROVE THE THIRD QUARTER BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS. ROLL CALL VOTE: YEA – MORRIS, HICKMOTT, PHILBRICK. ABSENT - SELINSKI, AND DURFEE. NAY – NONE. MOTIONED CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Peach Lake Improvement Public Hearing – Clerk Hickmott gave the board information regarding the upcoming public hearing for peach lake improvements. The information included a copy of the public notice with the date and time of the meeting. It also included information regarding the scope and scale of the proposed improvements and cleanup of the lake.

NO MOTION WAS NEEDED ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jocelyn Garza with the Ogemaw County Herald did have questions regarding a status update with the Starbucks Plaza on the Business loop.

MOTION BY HICKMOTT, SECOND BY MORRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VOICE VOTE ALL YES. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm

Date

Jeremy R. Hickmott, West Branch Township Clerk

**West Branch Township
Regular Meeting
December 14th, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES**