

**WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Deena

MARCH 9, 2026 7:00 P.M.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute per person maximum)**
- 6. ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. DNR TRUST FUND GRANT**
ROLL CALL:

 - B. PASSPORT GRANT**
ROLL CALL:
- 7. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 9th, 2026 7PM

Members present Supervisor Kris Shaw, Clerk Deena Barnhart, Treasurer Catherine Shaw, and Trustee Laurie Beauchamp. Trustee Matt Barnhart was excused.

Also present: Bill Sanders and 12 members of the community.

ROLL CALL: Trustee Matthew Barnhart was excused.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion to approve the special meeting agenda was made by Catherine Shaw and supported by Laurie Beauchamp. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: Public comment opened at 7:02 pm. With no one having comment, Public Comment was closed at 7:02 pm.

A. MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT: Bill Sanders explained the funding and what the township is applying for. Site plans were distributed to all board members and members of the public.

B. GRANT PUBLIC COMMENT:
12 members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

Resident #1: Asked if the Rec Plan has to follow existing township zoning ordinances. Supervisor Kris Shaw stated that yes, all zoning ordinances apply.

Resident #2: Stated that he is very excited about the rec project.

Resident #3: Also very excited, believes this project is great for the future of the township.

Resident #4: Stated that the township has taken in feedback through public meetings over the years, and the new plan reflects the community input. The new recreation areas will make a positive impact on the community.

Resident #5: Stated she is in favor of the township pursuing grants.

Resident #6: Is in support of the project.

Resident #7: Asked if the grant involves the township hall building. Supervisor Kris Shaw said no, the grant is for outdoor recreation only.

Neighboring Community Resident #1: Resident of Marquette Township, stated that he works with Bill Sanders and wants to commend the township for their long-term view for the park area.

Public Comment closed at 7:09 pm.

Clerk Deena Barnhart read the proposed resolution and conducted a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Laurie Beauchamp: Aye

Catherine Shaw: Aye

Deena Barnhart: Aye

Catherine Shaw: Aye

No Nays. Trustee Matthew Barnhart was absent.

Resolution adopted.

C. MICHIGAN RECREATION PASSPORT GRANT: Bill Sanders explained what the monies from the passport grant would be used for: a disc golf course.

D. GRANT PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident #8: Asked if people needed a recreation passport tag to park and use the disc golf area. Bill Sanders stated that no, a passport tag is not needed to use passport grant funded areas.

Neighboring Community Resident #1: Stated that he shows support for the disc golf project.

Resident #3: Supports the projects, he thinks it is a great use of the underutilized township land.

Resident #9: Asked if it was possible to include cross country skiing trails for use of the disc golf course in the winter.

Public Comment closed at 7:18 pm.

Clerk Deena Barnhart read the proposed resolution and conducted a roll call vote:

Roll Call:

Kris Shaw: Aye

Laurie Beauchamp: Aye

Catherine Shaw: Aye

Deena Barnhart: Aye

No Nays. Trustee Matthew Barnhart was absent.

E. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm by Supervisor Kris Shaw.



Submitted by Deena Barnhart, Clerk

**MICHIGAN RECREATION PASSPORT GRANT PROGRAM
RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION**

WHEREAS, West Branch Township supports the submission of an application titled, "West Branch Township Disk Golf" to the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Program for the development of a disk golf course, including toilets, parking and amenities on land adjacent to the Township Hall; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the Township's Current 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, West Branch Township is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$50,000.00 matching funds, in cash and/or force account; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that West Branch Township hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Program application for \$150,000.00, and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of \$50,000.00 (25%) of a total \$200,000.00 project cost, during the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.

AYES: Kris Shaw, Laurie Beauchamp, Catherine Shaw, Deena Barnhart

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Matthew Barnhart

MOTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the West Branch Township Board at their special meeting held on the ninth day of March, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Branch Township Hall, with a quorum present.



Clerk

Date: 3/9/2026

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM
RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION**

WHEREAS, West Branch Township supports the submission of an application titled, "West Branch Township Meyland Park" to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program for the development of a public park on grounds surrounding the township hall, including fishing and swimming access to Silver Lead Creek, multi-sport court, ballfield, toilets, parking and amenities; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the Township's Current 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, West Branch Township is hereby making a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$172,000.00 matching funds, in cash and/or force account; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that West Branch Township hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program application for \$400,000.00, and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of \$172,000.00 (30%) of a total \$572,000.00 project cost, during the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.

AYES: Kris Shaw, Laurie Beauchamp, Catherine Shaw, Deena Barnhart

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Matthew Barnhart

MOTION APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the West Branch Township Board at their special meeting held on the ninth day of March, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Branch Township Hall, with a quorum present.



Clerk

Date: 3/9/2026

**WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
MARCH 9, 2026 7:15 P.M.**

Deera

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute per person maximum)
5. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. 2 % KBIC MONIES
ROLL CALL:
 - B. MARQUETTE ROTARY GRANT RESOLUTION
ROLL CALL:
 - C. MARCH MEETING DATE 2027
 - D. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR – BUDGET/SALARY/REQUIREMENTS
 - E. WAGES – DIFFERENT JOB/DIFFERENT PAY
 - F. WEBSERVER
6. EXTENDED AGENDA ITEMS
7. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT
8. ADJOURNMENT

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 9th, 7:21PM

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by Supervisor Kris Shaw. Members present included Supervisor Kris Shaw, Clerk Deena Barnhart, Treasurer Catherine Shaw, and Trustee Laurie Beauchamp. Trustee Matthew Barnhart was excused. Also present were several township residents.

AGENDA: A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Deena Barnhart and supported by Catherine Shaw. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment opened at 7:22 and ended at 7:22pm.

RESOLUTION FOR 2% KBIC MONIES:

Clerk Deena Barnhart read proposed resolution to apply for 2% monies from the KBIC.

ROLL CALL:

Deena Barnhart: Aye

Laurie Beachamp: Aye

Kris Shaw: Aye

Catherine Shaw: Aye

No Nays. Trustee Matthe Barnhart was absent.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION FOR ROTARY GRANT:

Clerk Deena Barnhart read proposed resolution to apply for grant funds from the Rotary Club.

ROLL CALL:

Catherine Shaw: Aye

Kris Shaw: Aye

Laurie Beauchamp: Aye

Deena Barnhart: Aye

No Nays. Matthew Barnhart absent.

Resolution Adopted.

MARCH MEETING DATES: Discussion was held on the meeting date for next March. It was decided to keep the date as it falls, not having it at the end of the month.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: It was decided to have the Zoning Admin pay be the same as the Trustees. Requirement to either attend board meetings or send a report with a \$40.00 fee for any additional meetings attended and trainings will be paid.


WAGES: Clarification on wages: the same person can perform many jobs within the township but they will receive the pay that the job pays, not what their pay at their regular job.

WEBSERVER: Kris Shaw and the Office Manager have both attempted to contact the web server without success. Laurie Beauchamp was authorized to stop into their office and speak with them. If nothing is accomplished then a registered letter will be sent.

EXTENDED AGENDA ITEMS: None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment opened at 7:40pm and closed at 7:47pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm


Respectfully Submitted by Deena Barnhart, Clerk