

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
March 28, 2023

Call to Order: Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. at the Whiteford Township Offices. Present were Township Board Members Donald Sahloff; Bernice Heidelberg; Angela Christensen; Walter Ruhl; Attorney, Alex Drescher; and Township Engineer, Dave Kubiske. Tim Hill was absent. There were approximately 33 guests.

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

Public Hearing: Walter Ruhl opened the public hearing pertaining to the Water II District Assessment Roll at 7:32 p.m. and explained the guidelines of the public hearing.

- Those wishing to speak must complete the information form, come to the podium, state their name and address.
- Each speaker will be given four minutes to state whether they agree or object to the Water II Assessment.
- Residents in the proposed district should come up first, then business owners.
- The purpose of the public hearing is to see the cost of the proposed assessment and to make sure all information is correct.
- By voicing an objection, it is recorded so the property owner will have a right to be heard at a Tax Tribunal hearing.

The following individuals addressed the board:

- Lee Strahan, 7300 Schnipke Drive: Manager of Uncle Louies. Concerned with businesses taking on majority of assessment. Is there a rush for this project? Will a water board be created? How is the 51% determined to create a district? Too significant of a cost for their business. Objects to the assessment.
- Steve Fuzinski, 7300 Schnipke Drive: Owner of Uncle Louies. Why is there a rush for this project? Will a water board be initiated? Cost of water line is extremely high. If most want this project, he will go along but not okay with it. Township needs to look at another way.
- Leonard Bullard, 7080 Schnipke Drive: Owner of Bullard Company. Objects to method of assessment and considers it unreasonable. He will see the township in court. Objects to the cost. Considers the majority of the businesses do not want this project. Objects to the assessment.
- Kevin Rothschild, 7265 Whiteford Center Road: Manager of Bedford Meadows. Objects to the assessment.
- John Klump, 7390 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Residential property owner. Asked why the township is not considering South County Water? How did the Mosque get water? Why didn't the water line run down Consear and Temperance Roads? Businesses can pass expenses on to their customers, but residents cannot. Homeowners cannot afford the assessment. Objects to the assessment.
- Diana Vesey VanWinkle, 5890 Sterns Road: Residential property owner. Concerned about supply of water from water plant if there's expansion, and service to water customers. Asked if it's smart to put in an \$8 million water line at this time. Has the township considered tying into Bedford? Objects to the assessment.
- Scott Mills, 8061 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Residential property owner. Objects to the water project. Questioned cost increase. Questioned how assessment works. Questioned why StoneCo is "running the show". Wants township to re-evaluate the project and wants the businesses to "suck up" the rest of the cost. This project is not good for business. Cost is beyond manageable.

- Chris Schmidt, 7265 Whiteford Center Road: With Bedford Meadows. Questioned assessment amounts. Questioned why water project was not brought to an election of the people. Stated township's records are incorrect and Bedford Meadow's water is "fine". Stated Bedford Meadows could connect to South County Water for less money. Objects to the assessment.
- Corey Mills, 8061 Sylvania-Petersburg Road: Residential property owner. Opposes the water project. Is a teacher at Whiteford Schools and stated high levels of Chlorine and Fluoride in the school's water concern her. Questioned health concerns for herself, her children and her students.
- Jaclyn Strahan, 7300 Schnipke Drive: Manager of Uncle Louies. Questioned Fluoride and Chlorine in the water. Stated people move to Whiteford for freedom. Stated StoneCo needs to pay for the entire project. Objects to the assessment.
- Jason Malczewski, Schnipke Drive: Owner of 50 acres of vacant land, Green Bear Holdings. Two years ago, it was unanimous that all businesses wanted this water project, but now circumstances have changed. He has built in another location. Objects to the assessment.
- Denny, 7265 Whiteford Center Road: Administrator of Bedford Meadows. Stated quarterly report from EGLE said their water was "fine", and received a quote from South County Water for \$250,000 for water. The project is senseless and needs to be put on pause. Objects to the assessment.

The public hearing was closed at 8:13 p.m.

Special Assessment Resolution No. 4 (Water District #2): Motion to table the Special Assessment Resolution No. 4 (Water District #2) made by Walter Ruhl, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. after completion of the agenda.

Angela Christensen
Whiteford Township Clerk