

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 16, 2023

Call to Order: Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. Present were Donald Sahloff, Tim Hill, Bernice Heidelberg, Angela Christensen, Walter Ruhl, and Township Attorney, Alex Drescher. There were also 11 guests in attendance and 4 guests via zoom.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda of May 16, 2023 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Motion passed 5-0.

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 18, 2023 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Motion passed 5-0.

Budget Adjustments: Motion to approve increasing the following budget line item from the respective fund balance: 591-541-931.000 Water Operation & Maintenance \$23,000.00 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0. Motion to approve transfer of \$30,000.00 from account 101-966-995.401 Transfer Out – Capital Outlay to account 401-931-699.101 Transfer In – General Fund made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Check Registers: Trustee Bernice Heidelberg asked to see the invoice for check #29056 for Ernest Sasse, Park Labor. Motion to approve the May 16, 2023 General Government check register with disbursements totaling \$108,544.68 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0. Motion to approve the May 16, 2023 Utilities Operations check register with disbursements totaling \$30,116.09 made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Motion to approve the May 16, 2023 Treasurer's Financial Report as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Motion passed 5-0.

2023 Whiteford Township Millage Rate Request: Motion to adopt the Whiteford Township millage rates at Operating 0.9178, Roads 0.9696 and Fire 0.9696 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Open Public Hearing on General Government Budget: Walter Ruhl opened the Public Hearing on the General Government Budget at 7:38 p.m. The 2023 – 2024 budget was reviewed and discussion was held.

Close Public Hearing on General Government Budget: Walter Ruhl closed the Public Hearing on the General Government Budget at 7:41 p.m.

2023 – 2024 General Fund Budget: Motion to approve the line-item budget for 2023 – 2024 as presented without changes made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

2023 - 2024 General Appropriations Act: Motion to approve Whiteford Township's General Appropriations Act for 2023 - 2024 budget year made by Tim Hill, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Rezoning Request by Dorothy Ruetz Trust: Discussion was held on request by Dorothy Ruetz Trust, 7295 Sterns Road, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 regarding parcel #5815-029-018-01 located at 7825 Memorial Hwy., Ottawa Lake, MI 49267. Parcel contains approximately 108.39 acres and is zoned AG - Agricultural. Appellant is requesting a zoning change for two parcels from parent parcel, parcel #1, 3.807 acres, parcel #2, 4.255 acres to be rezoned R-1 Rural Residential.

Motion to approve rezoning request as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

W. W. Williams, LLC Generator Contract: Motion to approve contract for generator maintenance from W. W. Williams, LLC, at the cost of \$6,000 per year to service and check all four township generators made by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Hach Contract for Water Plant: Motion to approve renewal of contract with Hach for instrument calibration and repair at a cost of \$4,319 for the water plant made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Fire Report: Motion to approve repair of siren at 10191 Lake Road and siren at 5907 Sterns Road made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0. Whiteford Station #29 has responded to 142 incidents so far this year. Ottawa Lake Station #42 has responded to 62 incidents so far this year.

Road Report: Walter Ruhl reported Sterns Road construction will begin May 22 to install left-turn lanes and widening from Whiteford Road to Whiteford Center Road. Construction will take 45 to 60 days to complete.

Park Report: Motion to approve moving forward with a new parking lot at the north entrance of the park using black top grindings at a cost of \$3,000 made by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Water Report: Discussion was held on request by Clerk for increase in pay for maintaining water account. Motion to table until the Board reviews salaries in July and at that time the description of the hours/tasks involved would be submitted and/or a job description and a wages proposal for a new position to handle the task could be prepared made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Additional Items To Come Before The Board: Trustee Donald Sahloff mentioned a building permit for a barn that he felt met the requirements for an AG barn. Discussion followed.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. after completion of the agenda.

Angela Christensen
Whiteford Township Clerk