

## WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 18, 2023

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm. Board Members present were Donald Sahloff, Timothy Hill, Bernice Heidelberg and Walter Ruhl as well as Attorney Alex Drescher. Angela Christensen was absent. There were approximately 14 guests and the meeting was available to view via Zoom.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Donald Sahloff, second by Timothy Hill to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

**Clerk Resignation:** Approval of the clerk resignation was tabled at the June 20, 2023 meeting and will be brought to the table at the July 25, 2023 Special Meeting.

**Check Registers:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the General Fund check register as presented. Motion passed. Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to approve the Utility Fund check register as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** Motion by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the Treasurer's Financial Report as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

### **Guest Speakers:**

Ned Birkey, representing the Karst Conservancy addressed the board regarding local karst area. Mr. Birkey and Mark Whitney of the Karst Conservancy have requested the donation of the "Little Sink" from the Monroe County Road Commission. This is located at the northwest corner of Samaria Road and Whiteford Road in Whiteford Township. They would like to make it a location where the public can learn about karsts, which are prevalent in Monroe County.

Troy Goodnough, Monroe County Sheriff was present and gave a summary of calls for Whiteford Township. In the last six months there were 490 calls for service. The busiest times of day are from 11 am to 7 pm and Wednesday is the busiest day of the week. The department is working on improving the response time. He indicated Lansing keeps track of the crash data.

William Bruck, Representative for the 30<sup>th</sup> district of Michigan was present and gave a summary of his work including being a part of the transportation, finance and higher education committees. He is working on a bill to reimburse townships for veteran tax exemptions. Citizens present expressed concerns of expanding quarries.

**School Police Liaison Officer Agreement:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the School Police Liaison Officer Agreement between Whiteford Agricultural School District and Whiteford Township as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Mowing Contract:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the Contract and Memorandum of Understanding between Whiteford Township and Cowdrey Home Service Inc. to include Whiteford Stoneco Park, Whiteford Township Cemeteries, Ottawa Lake Fire Department and Whiteford Center Fire Department. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Zoning Change:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the zoning change at 6308 Yankee Road from AG – Agricultural to R-2 Low Density Residential in order to split the house from the farmland. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Perry Pro Tech Printer Purchase and Service Contract:** Motion by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the purchase of three printers at \$2488 and service contract with Perry Pro Tech at \$65.50 per month. The

printers are for the deputy clerk, office receptionist and supervisor. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Update Credit Card Policy:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg to update the credit card policy to include: ALL RECEIPTS FOR CREDIT CARD PURCHASES SHALL BE TURNED IN TO THE CLERK BEFORE PAYMENT OF THE CREDIT CARD IS MADE. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Consumers Energy Gas Franchise:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the resolution for Ordinance #77 Consumers Energy Company Gas Franchise for a period of 30 years. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – yes.

**Solar Ordinance #72 A-1:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve amendments to Solar Ordinance #72 A-1. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Whiteford Robotics Inc. Gaming License:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to approve the Resolution for a Charitable Gaming License for Whiteford Robotics Inc so they may sell 50/50 tickets at Whiteford School football games. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Fire Report:** Tim Hill presented the Ottawa Lake Fire report indicating 18 calls for June 2023.

**Road Report:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl reported the Sterns Road/Whiteford Center Road project is coming along nicely. Paving equipment has been moved in.

**Organizational Meeting:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the Whiteford Township Board of Trustees meeting to be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at 8000, Yankee Road, Suite 100, Ottawa Lake, MI on the following dates:

August 15, 2023	September 19, 2023	October 17, 2023	November 21, 2023
December 19, 2023	January 16, 2024	February 20, 2024	March 19, 2024
April 16, 2024	May 21, 2024	June 18, 2024	July 16, 2024

Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the Whiteford Township Planning Commission Quarterly meeting dates as follows:

September 12, 2023	December 12, 2023	March 12, 2024	June 11, 2024
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Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

**Holiday Dates:** Motion by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the following dates as a Township Holiday and the office will be closed:

Labor Day - September 4, 2023	Thanksgiving November - 23-24, 2023
Christmas - December 25, 2023 – January 2, 2024	Memorial Day - May 27, 2024
Independence Day - July 4-5, 2024	

Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

**Compensation:**

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to approve the resolution to increase the Clerk annual salary to \$39,200. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the resolution to increase the Supervisor annual salary to \$39,200. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the resolution to increase the Treasurer annual salary to \$37,968. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the resolution to increase the Trustee annual salary to \$10,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – no; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to approve the resolution to increase the Deputy Supervisor, Deputy Clerk, and Deputy Treasurer to \$20 per hour with a 120-hour limit per month. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the resolution to increase the Office Receptionist to \$17 per hour with a 120-hour limit per month. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to approve the resolution to increase the Fire Chief annual salary to \$12,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to approve the resolution to increase the Election Worker pay to \$15 per hour, Chairman Election Worker to \$17 per hour. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Auditor:** Motion by Timothy Hill, second by Donald Sahloff to retain Calkins, Hehl, Rafko, CPA, PLLC as the auditor for the 2023 – 2024 to include General Fund, Water and Sewer Funds audit. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Professional Services:** Motion by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to retain the following for professional services:

W. Drescher and Associates, Attorney at Law	David Arthur Consultants, Engineers
Renius and Renius, Assessing	Beck's Accounting & Tax Service, Accountant
Todd Roach, Building Inspector	Dale Kolar, Electrical Inspector
Don Olszewski, Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector	

Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Christensen – absent.

**Banking Service:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Timothy Hill to retain the following as Township banks:

Key Bank      Fifth Third Bank      First Merchants Bank      Blissfield State Bank      Metamora State Bank

**Public Comment:** Josephine Bischoff spoke regarding possible Stoneco expansion. Linda Windom questioned the status of her Zoning Board of Appeals application and the Agricultural Building Affidavit #2 and #3.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Angela Christensen  
Whiteford Township Clerk