

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 19, 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, Christine Bischoff and Walter Ruhl. Bernice Heidelberg was absent. Attorney Alex Drescher was present. There were 7 guests and the meeting was available to view via Zoom.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 4 yes; 1 absent.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve the August 15, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 4 yes; 1 absent.

Check Registers: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve the general fund check register as presented with disbursement of \$117,994.32. Motion passed 4 yes; 1 absent. Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the utility fund check register as presented with disbursements of \$29,817.13. Motion passed 4 yes; 1 absent.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed 4 yes; 1 absent.

2023 Tax Rate Request: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve the 2023 Tax Rate Request as follows: operating 0.9178 mills; roads 0.9696 mills; fire 0.9696 to be applied December 1, 2023. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Monroe Conservation District: Monroe Conservation District has asked for \$1000 from each municipality to match county level support. Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to deny this request. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Cybersecurity Upgrade: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the cybersecurity insurance upgrade in the amount of \$2,691.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Tree Removal Ottawa Lake Park: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve removal of two trees by 4 Point Tree Service at the Ottawa Lake Park for a total of \$2,300.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Tree Removal School Road: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve removal of a tree by 4 Point Tree Service on School Road for a cost of \$1,500.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Ordinance Officer Laptop: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve purchasing a laptop and software for ordinance officer use. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Road Report: Paving of Sterns Road is almost complete.

Cemetery: Brought from the table – discussion regarding trash containers at Whiteford Union Cemetery. The sexton suggested he could move trash containers close to the building for the time being and reconsider the situation in the spring.

Fire: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to pay Standard Water \$13,087.67 for installation of a water system at the Whiteford Center Fire Station. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent. Supervisor Ruhl reported there was a broken pipe at the Whiteford Center Fire Station and significant water damage. An insurance claim has been submitted.

Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve replacement of toilets, sinks and vanity in bathrooms at Ottawa Lake Fire Station by Hill Plumbing. Motion passed with roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to pay VFIS for firefighter sickness and accident insurance for \$5,293.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to accept the offer from Toledo Caisson of \$10,000 for the 2004 Freightliner/American LaFrance fire engine. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Workshop: A workshop with the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission has been scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Whiteford Township Office to discuss future plans for the fire department and new fire department building.

Water: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to purchase a Milwaukee grass trimmer with battery for \$471.83 to be used by the Township and the Water Plant. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes; Heidelberg – absent.

Park: Whiteford Stoneco Park will be closed on October 7, 2023 for the Whiteford Fall Festival. Please consider volunteering. Stone for the new parking lot at the park should be delivered soon and will need to be spread and leveled.

Sheriff: Sheriff Troy Goodnough has requested a round table discussion about policing in Whiteford Township. It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Whiteford Township Office. The public is encouraged to participate.

Public Comment: Linda Windom had a question about the VFIS coverage for firefighters. John Klump had a question about constables and possible truck stop on Sterns Road.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm with completion of the agenda.

Christine Bischoff
Whiteford Township Clerk