

# WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 19, 2023

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm in the Whiteford Township Office, 8000 Yankee Road, Suite 100, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267. Board members present were Donald Sahloff, Timothy Hill, Bernice Heidelberg, Christine Bischoff and Walter Ruhl. There were 3 guests present. The meeting was available for viewing via Zoom.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approve Minutes:** Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Check Registers:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve the General Fund check register as presented with disbursements totaling \$69,151.56. Motion passed with a voice vote. Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the Utility check register as presented with disbursements totaling \$21,153.64. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Treasurer Report:** Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Early Voting Notices:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve the quote for Early Voting Notices of \$1,909.50. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Poverty Exemption Resolution:** Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve the 2024 Poverty Exemption Resolution No. 2023-12-01 as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals Continuing Education:** Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve paying for online continuing education offered by Michigan State University Extension for the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Trustees at a cost of \$125 per person. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Planning Commission Appointment:** Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to appoint Doug Donnelly to the Planning Commission for the remainder of Darrell Rush's term ending December 31, 2024. Darrell Rush cannot serve on the Planning Commission and as Deputy Supervisor. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to reappoint Maxwell Miles to the Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2026. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment:** Motion by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg to appoint Hunter Sanner for the remainder of Ernie Sass's term ending December 31, 2025. Ernie Sass is stepping down due to health concerns. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to appoint Jim Kendziora as Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term ending December 31, 2025. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Don Sahloff to reappoint William (Brad) Beck and Lawson Stone to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term ending December 31, 2026. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Park Report:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl reported he will be preparing a budget for spring baseball. He will also ask the Planning Commission to begin work on a State recognized Park Master Plan. The State has guidelines for writing this master plan. This is required to be considered for grants for the park.

**Fire Report:** Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the purchase of extraction equipment at a cost of \$41,985.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Road Report:** Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve the contract for work at Sterns and Whiteford Center Roads in the amount of \$83,000.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Motion by Tim Hill, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the contract for work at Sterns and Whiteford Road in the amount of \$80,000.00. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve the contract for the Hicker Road bridge project in the amount of \$247,200. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Supervisor Computer:** Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve purchasing a desktop computer for the supervisor office. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Don Sahloff to purchase Microsoft Office for Walter’s person laptop that has been used as a Township laptop. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**Consear Road and Whiteford Road Intersection:** Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Walter Ruhl to contact Consumer’s Energy about installing a street light at the Consear and Whiteford Roads intersection and to investigate lighting needs at other primary road intersections. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

**Public Comment:** John Klump asked if it would be possible to put white strips on the roads with stop signs. He voiced concern that the light at Whiteford Center and Sterns Roads were too short.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm with the conclusion of the agenda.

Christine Bischoff  
Whiteford Township Clerk