

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 20, 2024

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 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 and Walter Ruhl. Christine Bischoff was absent due to illness. Attorney Alex Drescher was present. There were 15 guests present.

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

Public Comment: David Oberly commented on the proposed town hall with Representative William Bruck regarding solar/wind energy. He is in favor of keeping decisions with the local jurisdictions.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes 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 totaling \$286,503.53. Motion passed with a voice vote. Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the Utility Fund Check Register as presented totaling \$44,549.50. 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.

Budget Adjustments: None required at this time.

Final Site Plan Review: Discussion regarding the final site plan review for a Tire Mart Store behind the Pilot Truck Stop at Us 23 Exit 5. There are concerns regarding the current lagoon (retention pond) odors affecting surrounding neighbors. Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve the final site plan contingent upon required work to lagoon must be completed prior to issuing a Certificate of Occupancy for the Tire Mart and David Arthur Consultants will perform inspections of the work site. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Planning Commission Alternate: Supervisor Walter Ruhl requested Josephine Bischoff be appointed as alternate to the Planning Commission. Current State of Michigan law does not allow for an alternate to the Planning Commission. J. Bischoff would be a non-voting member until such time a new member is needed on the Planning Commission. Agenda item was tabled until next month.

Building Inspector Wage Increase: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve increasing the Building Inspector annual salary from \$15,600 to \$16,000 and increasing the hourly rate from \$40 to \$45. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Gaming License: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve the Resolution for a Gaming License for the Whiteford School Music Boosters to hold 50-50 raffles. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Office Work Station: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve purchasing a new work station from Seagate Office Supplies for the Clerk Assistant not to exceed \$1000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Highland Treatment: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve rate increase for Highland Treatment from \$888 to \$916 per month for monthly operational base wastewater services to monitor Sewer I and Sewer II. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Election Inspector Training Stipend: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve increasing the election inspector training stipend from \$15 to \$45. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Health Insurance Rate Increase: Subject tabled until a rate study is done.

Fall Festival Committee: Cassidy Sloan and Ron Miller explained the Fall Festival Committee plans to move forward with a playground at Whiteford Stoneco Park – Phase I at \$100,000. They were looking for a commitment from the Board to help with site work. The Board will obtain estimates for the site work.

Substance Abuse Policy for Whiteford Township Fire Department: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to accept the Substance Abuse Policy for the Whiteford Township Fire Department as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Firefighter Paid Per Call: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve Paid Per Call for volunteer firefighters to begin with July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 fiscal year. Rate as follows:

For all current and future members
\$20 per incident
\$30 per incident (6 am to 4 pm Monday – Friday)
\$50 per incident (approved by Fire Chief for prolonged incidents).

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

Fire Department Scott Air Packs: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the purchase of Scott Air Packs from West Shore Services at a cost not to exceed \$125,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Fire Planning Committee Survey Mailing: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve paying for a household survey mailing for the Fire Planning Committee at a cost of \$1,408.

Park – Pickleball Court: Motion by Don, second by Tim to approve fencing around a new, donated pickleball court not to exceed \$10,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Park – Field #8 Outfield Fence: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve an outfield fence for Field #8 at a cost of \$8,912.14. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Ruhl – yes; Bischoff – absent.

Town Hall Meeting: Representative William Bruck would like to hold a joint town hall meeting with Riga Township regarding the recent law giving the State of Michigan control over local jurisdictions concerning solar and wind energy.

Public Comment: Steven Morgan had comments about the recently requested rezoning for a parcel at Head O Lake Road and Memorial Highway. This rezoning request has been withdrawn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with the completion of the agenda.

Christine Bischoff, Clerk