

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 21, 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, Christine Bischoff and Walter Ruhl. Attorney Alex Drescher was present. There were approximately 17 guests present. Zoom was available to view the meeting.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve the April 16, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Check Registers: Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the General Check Register as presented in the amount of \$69,851.68. Motion passed 5 – 0. Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve the Utility Check Register as presented in the amount of \$30,600.32. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Budget Adjustments: There were no budget adjustments.

2024 Tax Rate Request: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve the 2024 Tax Rate Request as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Resolution No. 2024-05-02 Establish Clerk Salary: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve Resolution No. 2024-05-02 To Establish Whiteford Township Clerk Salary at \$41,200 annually beginning July 1, 2024. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – abstain; Ruhl – yes.

Election Laptops and ICX Prime ICP Cases: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the purchase of two new election laptops and two ICX cases at a total cost of \$4,075.82. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

School Police Liaison Officer Agreement: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve the School Police Liaison Officer Agreement Between Whiteford Agricultural School District and Whiteford Township in the amount of \$45,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Public Hearing on the General Governmental Budget: Supervisor Walter Ruhl opened the Public Hearing on the Governmental Budget at 7:40 pm. Discussion followed. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:50 pm.

2024 – 2025 General Fund Budget: Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve the line-item budget for 2024 – 2025 budget year with the following changes. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

101-171-704.001	Hourly Wages – Deputy	\$28,800.00
101-171-711.000	Medicare	\$ 1,175.00
101-171-715.000	Social Security	\$ 5,020.00
101-215-704.001	Hourly Wages – Deputy	\$28,800.00
101-215-706.000	Salaries & Wages – Part-Time Hourly	\$24,480.00
101-215-711.00	Medicare	\$ 1,385.00
101-215-715.000	Social Security	\$ 5,910.00
101-253-704.001	Hourly Wages – Deputy Treasurer	\$28,800.00
101-253-711.000	Medicare	\$ 985.00

101-253-715.000	Social Security	\$ 4,205.00
101-253-853.000	Software	\$ 4,000.00
101-567-760.000	Cemetery Supplies	\$ 1,500.00

2024 – 2025 General Appropriations Act Resolution No. 2024-05-01: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve Resolution No. 2024-05-01 Whiteford Township General Appropriations Act for the 2024-2025 Budget Year. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Road Report: Supervisor Walter Ruhl reported that Creque Road is complete and open.

Cemetery: Supervisor Walter Ruhl explained the Monroe County Road Commission did not install a tile when the work was done at Sterns and Adler Road. When the tile was installed, it was not done according to the drawings, therefore a change order in the amount of \$4,560.00 was necessary. The additional cost is still below the next highest bid bringing the total to \$32,360.00. Motion by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the change order. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – no; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

There was discussion on signage at Whiteford Union Cemetery. It would be nice to have a sign with the map of the cemetery indicating the Sections. Also discussed were markers at the corners of each section and trash cans needed. More information is needed for the signage. Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to purchase up eight 44-gallon totes and to obtain a lockable 4-yard dumpster. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Park: Supervisor Walter Ruhl indicated the pickleball court is coming along and should be completely finished in about a month. Several signs were discussed: Opening/Closing of the park; dog leash laws; attribution for the pickleball court and first come/first serve for playing. Supervisor Walter Ruhl will obtain prices for signs. Top Notch Seamless Gutters donated and installed gutters on the concession stand.

Water Report: Deputy Supervisor Darrell Rush reported the Monroe County Business Alliance will be presenting the following to the Monroe County Commissioners as possible projects using ARPA funds:

Description	Total Project Cost	Whiteford Township Share	ARPA – Business Alliance
W1 Water Line Memorial Hwy to US 23	\$1,275,000	\$446,250	\$828,750
W2 Sewer Line Schnipke Drive to US 23	\$ 875,000	\$306,250	\$568,750
W3 Sewer Line Canterbury Sub. To Whiteford Center	\$1,000,000	\$350,000	\$650,000

Supervisor Walter Ruhl indicated there is interest from some businesses to help pay for these projects. Discussion followed.

Fire Report: Discussion about whether the man hour stipend should continue after July 1, 2024 when the Paid Per Call begins. Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to pay the man hour stipend through July 1, 2024 and reconsider in December. Motion pass with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Street Lights: Supervisor Walter Ruhl reported that we are still waiting for estimates.

Public Comment: Ned Birkey spoke on the Pilot diesel fuel leak and the relation to the township karst geology. He highly recommended staying diligent in the testing of well water.

Meeting adjourned at the completion of the agenda at 8:48 pm.

Christine Bischoff
Whiteford Township Clerk