

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 19, 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 70+ guests in attendance.

The invocation was said by Pastor Daniel Kane, Whiteford Wesleyan Church.

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

Supervisor Walter Ruhl read the letter received from Dale Zorn, State Representative of the 34th House indicating his retirement and thanking constituents for their support.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve the October 15, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Check Registers: Motion by Tim Hill, second by Don Sahloff to approve the General Check Register as presented in the amount of \$102,132.40. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg to approve the Utility Check Register as presented in the amount of \$27,091.87. Motion passed 5 – 0.

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

Additional Debt Payments: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to pay an additional \$50,000.00 against the Water I Bond and \$15,000 against the Sewer II Bond. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Ordinance 71-A2: Clerk Christine Bischoff read the amendment to the Cemetery Ordinance 71-A2. Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve the amendment to Ordinance 71-A2. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

TMACOG: Motion by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill to approve paying \$1,238.00 for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government annual dues. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Road Report: Supervisor Walter Ruhl reported the contract for the flashing stop signs on Whiteford Road at Consear Road had been lost. The contract is now signed and submitted to the Monroe County Road Commission and the signs have been ordered.

Fire Department: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to approve purchasing turn-out gear in the amount of \$9,734.90. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Sirens: Supervisor Walter Ruhl reported the Monroe County Finance Department and Emergency Management is upgrading four early warning sirens in Whiteford Township at no cost to the township. Funding in the amount of \$90,544.00 is from unused ARPA funds.

Resignation: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Tim Hill to accept the resignation of Brad Beck from the fire department as of January 1, 2021. The resignation had originally been given to the Ottawa Lake Fire Department but not the Board of Trustees. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Zoning Board of Appeals Complaint: Findings on the investigation regarding a complaint of malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance and theft by the Zoning Board of Appeals found no evidence to support the complaint. A ruling of the Zoning Board of Appeals must be contested within 30 days after the Zoning Board of Appeals decision or 21 days after approved minutes, whichever comes first, to file an action in court (MCL 125.3606). Whiteford Township supports the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and will defend our position in court. Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve this support. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Audit Report: Sarah Rafko from Calkins Hehl Rafko, CPA presented the fiscal year 2023 – 2024 audit report. Motion by Tim Hill, second by Christine Bischoff to accept the audit report as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Auditor Invoice: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Tim Hill to approve the invoice from Calkins Hehl Rafko for the audit in the amount of \$21,800. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Final Site Plan Review: Motion by Don Sahloff, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the final site plan review for Imam Ali Mosque, 6965 Whiteford Center Road, Lambertville, Michigan. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Sahloff – yes; Hill – yes; Heidelberg – yes; Bischoff – yes; Ruhl – yes.

Presentation by Representative Will Bruck: Will Bruck presented recognition to the outgoing Board of Trustee Members: Don Sahloff, Tim Hill, Bernice Heidelberg and Walter Ruhl.

State of the Township: Supervisor Walter Ruhl gave his final State of the Township as provided with these minutes.

Public Comment: Steven Meyer, Monroe, Michigan stated concerns of the sentencing of Monroe County Commissioner Mark Brant due to illegal actions in Whiteford Township.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman, Kyle Parsons, gave a statement regarding the complaint against the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Lee Strahan thanked the outgoing Board of Trustee members.

Oath of Office: Attorney Wolfgang Drescher gave the Oath of Office to the following individuals: Lee Strahan, Treasurer; Denise Hill, Deputy Treasurer; Christine Bischoff, Clerk; Karen Whitmore, Deputy Clerk; Robert Lloyd, Trustee; Steve Morgan, Trustee; Jeff Thomas, Supervisor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm with the conclusion of the agenda.

Christine Bischoff
Whiteford Township Clerk