

# WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES



January 21, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas 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 Jeff Thomas, Christine Bischoff, Lee Strahan, Bob Lloyd and Steve Morgan. There were approximately 12 guests. Attorney Alex Drescher was present.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Steve Morgan to approve the agenda with added items of Fire, Park and Road Reports. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**FIRE REPORT:** Fire Chief Shane Hillard gave updates for 2024 activity. He is working on fire department policies and commented on estimates for fire equipment.

**PARK REPORT:** Clerk Christine Bischoff clarified the donation by James Dunmyer on the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Dunmyer has been very generous in donating monies toward pavilions and the pickle ball courts at Whiteford Stoneco Park.

**ROAD REPORT:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas talked about the semi-trailer traffic activity and has been in communication with Michigan State Police. Trustee Bob Lloyd has driven roads to see where truck route signs may be needed. Monroe County Road Commission has received the flashing stop signs for the Whiteford Road/Consear Road intersection. We are waiting for installation. Jeff is waiting for estimates from Consumers Energy for lighting at key intersections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

## OLD BUSINESS:

**CEMETERY ELECTRICAL:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas updated the board on the possibility of having electric hookup at Whiteford Union Cemetery. This is would be an advantage for maintenance needs, lighting and establishing an address. Supervisor Thomas is working with Consumers Energy to obtain an estimate for connection.

**FILLING BOARD POSITIONS:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas will work on listing current commission/committee members on the website with their term limit. He would ask for a letter of interest for individuals interested in being involved with the Township.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**APPROVE MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the December 17, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**CHECK REGISTERS:** Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the General Check Register in the amount of \$68,387.73. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Utility Check Register in the amount of \$67,321.18. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**STONECO PARK PLAYGROUND FENCING:** Discussion followed regarding the need for fencing around the playground. Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to accept the proposal frin Marleau Hercules in

the amount of \$16,000 for material and labor to install fencing around the current playground at Whiteford Stoneco Park. Motion passed 3 yes (Bischoff/Thomas/Lloyd) , 2 no (Morgan/Strahan).

**MOWING CONTRACT:** Jay Herrington, Precision Irrigation was present to explain the road mowing process. The Township contract is with the Monroe County Road Commission but Precision Irrigation does the contract work. Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to accept the 2025 Township Road Improvement Contract with the Monroe County Road Commission for mowing. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas explained consent agenda and how it can be used to approve common items on the agenda with one motion. Discussion followed. Consensus to revisit the topic in a year.

**BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to approve Randy Hill, Erich Drescher and William (Brad) Beck as members of the Board of Review. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**ESTA (EARNED SICK TIME ACT):** Supervisor Jeff Thomas gave an overview of the new ESTA law that will begin February 21, 2025 if there are no amendments prior to that date. He will present a policy for approval at the February meeting.

**DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN:** Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to adopt Resolution No. 2025-1-01 for Sewer I Deficit Elimination. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**TRANSFER MONIES GENERAL FUND TO SEWER I FUND:** Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to transfer \$7,500 from the General Fund to the Sewer I Fund as part of the Deficit Elimination Plan Resolution No. 2025-1-01. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**MTA SPRING CONFERENCE:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve expenses for board members and deputies to attend the Michigan Township Association Annual Conference in Grand Rapids. Expenses include hotel with a limit no more than the host hotel and the cost of the conference. Motion passed 5 – 0. Daily food expenses will be addressed at the February meeting.

**FIRE EQUIPMENT:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve purchase of fire equipment as quoted by MI Rescue Resources. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**FIREMAN HOURS:** Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Christine Bischoff to pay the yearly stipend for firemen manhours for the period January – June 2024. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Linda Windom wondered about the community picture selection and the letter written to Steve Morgan about the written claim against the ZBA.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Clerk Christine Bischoff announced there will be a May election for Whiteford Schools.

Trustee Steve Morgan reported he is gathering dumpster prices and would like to organize a township clean up day.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Lee Strahan to adjourn at 9:28 pm. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Christine Bischoff  
Whiteford Township Clerk