



WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 18, 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 Steve Morgan, Christine Bischoff, Bob Lloyd and Steve Morgan. Lee Strahan was excused. There were 13 guests including attorney Alex Drescher.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

FIRE REPORT: Supervisor Jeff Thomas updated the board with a fire report from Chief, Shane Hillard. Engine 1 requires warranty work and the heat shield will be replaced at Station 1 Ottawa Lake.

PARK REPORT: Brandon Best, manager of the ball fields was present. Mr. Best submitted estimated expenses for the fields of \$2,521.50. The field schedule will be set in early March and he hopes to have three or four tournaments. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the expenses as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

Supervisor Jeff Thomas updated the gazebo by the pickle ball courts is complete. Weather permitting a park clean up will be March 8 and March 9. JAWS is scheduled to help clean up the disc golf course.

ROAD REPORT: Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported the Monroe County Road Commission has been staying on top of snow removal and salting the roads. Jeff is working on ordering truck route signs from the Road Commission and contacting Lenawee County about signs for County Line Highway. Resident Karlene Goetz expressed concerns regarding the condition of Goetz Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT: John Klump wondered who pays for the truck route signs. Carl Christensen asked if the township is losing any federal funds for potential projects. Karlene Goetz would like to see Zoom meeting information be more accessible.

OLD BUSINESS:

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Employment Contract with Tim Hill as Operator in Charge for the Water Plant. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

CEMETERY ELECTRICAL HOOKUP: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Lloyd to approve up to \$6,000 to establish electrical hookup at the Whiteford Union Cemetery. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

NEW STREET LIGHTS: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Christine Bischoff to approve installation of 7 new LED street lights at the following intersections: Consear and Whiteford Roads; Sylvania Petersburg and Consear Roads; Head O Lake and Consear Roads; Whiteford Road at the Stoneco Park entrance; Whiteford Center and Consear Roads; Memorial Highway and Clark Road; Memorial Highway and Beck Road.

ESTA (EARNED SICK TIME ACT) RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-01: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Christine to approval the Resolution for Earned Sick Time Act MCL 408.963 Amended. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

SEWER I BUDGET FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Lloyd to approve the Sewer I Deficit Reduction Plan. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

MTA CONFERENCE EXPENSE ALLOWANCE: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to reimburse expenses as follows: Food - \$80 per day on conference days; \$50 a day for travel days. Parking – complete reimbursement with receipt. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

CHANGE MEETING TIMES: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to change all meeting times to 7 pm starting April 1, 2025. This includes Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Trustees. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY: Trustee Steve Morgan reported the Spring Clean Up day has been set for May 17, 2025 at Whiteford Stoneco Park 9 am to 5 pm. Stevens Disposal will have a compactor dumpster available for \$1,000 per dumpster. A dumpster for scrap metal will also be available with proceeds going to Whiteford School Track and Cross-Country teams. Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve up to \$2,000 for the dumpster on Spring Clean Up Day.

SEWER I WIRELESS SERVICE: Anthony Dowson received a quote from Kennedy Industries for a wireless real-time alarm system for \$2,284 plus setup field cost of \$2,500. Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to accept the quote. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

NEW BUSINESS

JANUARY 21, 2025 MINUTES: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

GENERAL FUND CHECK REGISTER: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the General Fund check register in the amount of \$121,766.54. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

UTILITY FUND CHECK REGISTER: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to approve the Utility Fund check register in the amount of \$36,260.07. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

REZONING REQUEST: Supervisor read the rezoning request by Lawrence and Susan Greeley, 5470 Emerson Drive, Ottawa Lake, MI regarding parcel #5815-035-018-00. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the rezoning of 2.453 acres from AG-Agricultural to R-1 Rural Residential. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

STIPEND FOR LIASION TO SEMCOG AND TMACOG: Steve Morgan presented paying a stipend of \$40/meeting to the liaison representing Whiteford Township Board of Trustees at SEMCOG and TMACOG meetings. Clerk Christine Bischoff expressed that the trustees have limited statutory duties and the current salary was adequate to cover attending additional meetings. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to pay \$40/ meeting for the liaison to SEMCOG and TMACOG. Roll call vote: Bischoff – no; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – no; Strahan – absent. Motion failed.

BACKGROUND CHECKS: Discussion followed regarding background checks for new firefighters.

LEORA LANE BRANCHES: Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported there are branches hanging down along Leora Lane. They are held up only by vines and could fall in the roadway. He presented a quote from 4 Point Tree Service of \$750. Steve Morgan would like to have additional quotes. Jeff Thomas will reach out for more quotes. Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Christine Bischoff to approve up to \$750 for clean up of branches along Leora Lane. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 absent.

SHERIFF GOODNOUGH: Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported that Sheriff Goodnough will be present at the March meeting. Jeff Thomas has been in contact with Sheriff Goodnough regarding fast traveling traffic through Ottawa Lake. Speed awareness signs were investigated and cost approximately \$10,300. The signs would track the time and speed of traffic and give valuable information to the sheriff department.

ROAD CONTRACT: Supervisor Jeff Thomas presented the 2025 Road Improvement Estimates from the Monroe County Road Commission. Proposed are 9.02 miles of single chip seal for a total of \$250,994. The township portion is \$219,993 . Discussion followed. Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to accept the estimates from the Monroe County Road Commission. Motion passed 3 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Klump – commented on Ohio Roads.

Karlene Goetz – felt the current trustee pay is high when compared to neighboring jurisdictions; that new firefighters should have background checks; cautioned the Township to make sure those doing jobs should have insurance and workers’ compensation coverage.

BOARD COMMENT:

Steve Morgan felt we should look for bids for snowplowing and felt there should be approval of expenses prior to paying bills such as attorney and Cowdrey Home Services.

Jeff Thomas indicated he is looking into continue water testing for those affected by the Pilot diesel oil leak.

Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to adjourn at 9:19 pm. Motion passed.

Christine Bischoff
Whiteford Township Clerk