



WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Supervisor Jeff Thomas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm in the Whiteford Township Office, 8000 Yankee Road, Suite 100, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267. Board members present were Steve Morgan, Bob Lloyd, Jeff Thomas, Christine Bischoff and Lee Strahan. There were approximately 10 guests.

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

FIRE/PARK/ROADS REPORT: Fire Chief Shane Hillard was present and updated the board on the fire department – 219 incidents to date; repairs to equipment; Andrew Caster is new to the department; Dennis Ruetz has applied for grants one which will cover new turnout gear; the process of pricing a new brush truck; updating firefighter stipend due to the increase of minimum wage.

Supervisor Jeff Thomas updated the board on the street lights being installed and completion of lighted stop signs installed on Whiteford Road at the Consear Road intersection.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chery Niederkoher, 14982 Yankee Road, Riga Township, Lenawee County inquired about a mutual aid agreement between Riga Township fire and Whiteford Township fire. Chief Shane Hillard said they would be open to discussing it. Riga Township would need to start conversation.

PARK CLEANUP: Steve Morgan gave an update on the May 17 clean up day at Whiteford Stoneco Park. There were four dumpsters of scrap metal. Proceeds from the scrap metal will go to the Whiteford Agricultural School track and cross country teams. There were 35 compacted yards of trash. Individuals were appreciative of the service offered.

APRIL 15, 2025 MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to approve the April 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

GENERAL CHECK REGISTER: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the general check register in the amount of \$86,046.62 as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

UTILITY CHECK REGISTER: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Steve Morgan to approve the utility check register in the amount of \$68,845.73 as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

RESOLUTION 2025-05-01 TO APPROVE A POLICY FOR WHITEFORD RESOLUTION AND EARNED SICK TIME ACT (PA 2 OF 2025): Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve Resolution 2025-05-01 as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Morgan – yes; Lloyd – yes; Bischoff – yes; Strahan – yes; Thomas – yes.

RESOLUTION 2025-05-02 TO ESTABLISH WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE OFFICER SALARY: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve Resolution 2025-05-02 as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes; Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

RESOLUTION 2025-05-03 TO GRANT TEMPORARY POLICY FOR HIRING AND FIRING OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS UNTIL PERMANENT POLICIES ARE IN PLACE: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob

Lloyd to approve Resolution 2025-05-03 as presented. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Morgan – yes; Lloyd – yes; Bischoff – yes; Strahan – Thomas.

DISMISSAL OF FIREFIGHTER KNOWN TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Motion to approve dismissal of volunteer firefighter known to the Board of Trustees. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes; Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

2025 FORM I-4029: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the L-4029 2025 Tax Rate Request as presented with the following millage rates: Operating at 0.9116; Roads at 0.9630; Fire at 0.9630. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Morgan – yes; Lloyd – yes; Bischoff – yes; Strahan – yes; Thomas – yes.

MTA CEMETERY CONFERENCE: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve sending Christine Bischoff, Angela Breitner and Mark Cowdrey to the one day cemetery conference on June 10, 2025 in Jackson, Michigan. Motion passed 5 – 0.

SEMCOG ROAD SAFETY AUDIT OF STERNS ROAD: Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported he attended a meeting with SEMCOG officials who have obtained a road safety grant. Based on travel history Sterns Road from Memorial Highway to Douglas Road indicated safety concerns. SEMCOG would do an engineering study and road safety audit of Sterns Road. Whiteford Township's responsibility for the engineering and audit would be \$2,500. This would be matched by \$2,500 from Bedford Township. Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Lee Strahan to approve \$2,500 toward the engineering and safety audit of Sterns Road. Motion pass 5 – 0.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Supervisor Jeff Thomas opened the budget public hearing at 7:45 pm. Board comments included future increased costs for BSA Software when converting to the cloud version; membership dues for Michigan Township Association, TMACOG and SEMCOG; minimum wage for ordinance officer; increase for firefighter stipend; positive pay bank costs.

Input from the audience included: donations budget; Building & Grounds internet and rent; General Administrative internet and office equipment rental; current amount of Township debt.

The public hearing was closed at 8:10 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: JP Failing voiced disappointment that more well testing is not scheduled after the diesel oil leak from Pilot at exit 5 last year. Fire Chief Shane Hillard stated that on Thursday the EPA/EGLE were inspecting the crude oil station behind Big Dadday's.

IMPORTANT DATES: Supervisor Jeff Thomas mentioned the Town Hall is scheduled for June 5 at 7 pm to be held at Crossroads Community Church; June 7 is clean up duty at Whiteford Stoneco Park. Volunteers are needed. There is a survey online indicating what you can help with; June 17 Township Board meeting.

ADJOURN: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to adjourn at 8:22 pm with the completion of the agenda.