

WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES



October 21, 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 19 guests.

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

FIRE/PARK/ROAD REPORT: Supervisor Jeff Thomas gave an update.

FIRE: There are new recruits for the fire department. The 1980 F350 reserve brush truck will possibly be offered for sale. The department is evaluating the 2008 and 2000 ambulances to determine which would be the best option to keep.

PARK: The Fall Festival was a success and the \$50,000 matching grant from Community Foundation of Monroe County was met. The first Farmers Market season is complete and was successful. Keith Gray is heading up a crew to do needed maintenance at the Ottawa Lake Park.

ROADS: Jeff Thomas met with the Monroe County Road Commission to discuss recommendations for next year's road projects.

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Lee Strahan presented her monthly report and indicated initial reporting from the State of Michigan budget indicates a \$12,000 decrease in revenue sharing income. Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Christine Bischoff to approve the treasurer report as presented. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Farrell has concerns regarding the water plant discharge and damage to his yard.

Corey Ruetz indicated his wife and child became ill from the most recent problem with the water. He would like to see notices sent with the water bill indicating upcoming maintenance. He suggested a professional should be doing maintenance.

Regina Breitner inquired about preparing for the future so the same problem does not occur again and felt there was a lack of communication.

Denny Noneman was present to speak of public water and sewer to the Bedford Meadows Apartments. He indicated a desire to connect to South County Water and Bedford sewer and was seeking approval from Whiteford Township to do so.

Randy Appling spoke about the old Whiteford Center Fire Station. His grandparents gave the property to the Township to build the fire station. He would like to acquire the building to keep the property in the Appling Family and to use for farm storage.

SALE OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES:

Flanders Road: Jeff Thomas spoke with Hunter Stark who submitted the only bid. Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to accept the offer of \$1,000 from Hunter Stark for parcel #5815-040-056-40. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes, Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

Jeffs Road: Jeff Thomas spoke with Hunter Stark who submitted a high bid of \$5,000 to make sure he was aware of the location of the property. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to accept the offer of \$5,000 from Hunter Stark for parcel #5815-034-003-10. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes, Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

Old Whiteford Center Fire Station: Discussion followed regarding the number of bids received for this property. Jeff Thomas spoke with building inspector Todd Roach about permitted uses. Treasurer Lee Strahan commented that it would be in the best interest of the township to accept the highest bid. Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to accept the offer of \$65,000 from Bryce Bankowski for parcel #5815-014-032-00 with the proceeds being designated towards a new fire station. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes; Bischoff – no; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

WHITEFORD CENTER FIRE HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING: Discussion followed regarding three bids received to replace the current furnace and air conditioners at the Whiteford Center Fire Station. Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to accept a contract with Zimmerman Heating up to \$23,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Morgan – yes; Lloyd – yes; Bischoff – yes; Strahan – yes; Thomas – yes.

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT: Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to pay an additional \$1,424.03 to complete the Sterns Road audit west to Memorial Highway. Motion passed 5 – 0.

KCI TAX MAILING: Treasurer Lee Strahan indicated there was a big savings by having KCI mail out the summer tax bills. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the KCI tax mailing in the amount of \$1,795.19. Motion passed 5 – 0.

MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the following meeting minutes: September 16, 2025 Board of Trustees; September 18, 2025 Special Meeting; October 1, 2025 Special Meeting (bid opening); October 13, 2025 Cemetery Workshop. Motion passed 5 – 0.

CHECK REGISTERS: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to accept the general fund check register in the amount of \$119,686.15. Motion passed 5 – 0. Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to accept the utility check register in the amount of \$24,872.70. Motion passed 5 – 0.

SCHNIPKE DRIVE DEVELOPMENT: Chris Markho, Industrial Property Brokers addressed the board regarding development on Schnipke Drive. He would like to see public water service brought to Schnipke Drive to facilitate development of the area. He provided three options to make this happen and talked about the economic impact and development outlook.

FIRE TURNOUT GEAR: Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve four sets of turnout gear at \$3,241.30 per set. Motion passed 5 – 0.

SEWER #1 TRANSMITTER: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve \$10,795 to replace the failing flow meter/transmitter on Schnipke Drive. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PAYROLL SCHEDULE: Clerk Christine Bischoff explained monthly payroll needs to be paid by the 15th of the following month, as learned at a recent Clerk Retreat. She also requested the hourly water payroll be paid every two weeks so it is easier to track overtime hours. Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Christine Bischoff to approve Resolution 2025-10-01 Setting Pay Schedule for Whiteford Township Employees. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes; Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

REZONING 5500 SECTION ROAD: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve rezoning parcel # 5815-035-014 located at 5500 Section Road, Ottawa Lake, Michigan as recommended by the Whiteford Township Planning Commission. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Randy Appling thanks the board for the time spent on offering properties for sale. There were many comments regarding the water plant, maintenance and engineering.

ADJOURN: Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to adjourn at 9:40 pm.