

# WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 17, 2026



**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 40 guests.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the agenda as amended, adding Water Plant Update, under Old Business. Motion passed 5-0.

**FIRE/PARK/ROAD REPORT:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported the furnace has been installed at the Whiteford Center Fire Station. There have been maintenance issues with fire engines that will be addressed.

The public has commented that the park walking paths have been cleared very nicely after the recent snow.

Supervisor Jeff Thomas indicated again that any road concerns, pot holes can be reported directly to the Monroe County Road Commission via their website.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Treasurer Lee Strahan indicated tax collection has gone well. Paying taxes online is available via our website. The online payment option has been used by many people. Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to accept the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**SALE OF TOWNSHIP BRUSH TRUCK:** The three individuals with the highest bids were contacted. They had the opportunity to rebid. Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve selling the 1980 Ford Pickup Brush Truck to Sean Tomkins for \$9,150. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR AS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SELL WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES:** Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Lee Strahan to approve Jeff Thomas as the Whiteford Township legal representative to sell Whiteford Township properties. Motion passed 5-0.

**DISCUSSION OF FIRE STIPEND:** Historically, Whiteford Township has paid each station a lump sum annually based on manhours. This stopped when the firefighters were paid per call. Discussion followed about budget line items and accountability of expenses. There was a consensus for Whiteford Township to purchase items needed for each station opposed to paying a manhour stipend. Additional discussion is needed for compensating firefighter training.

**WATER PLANT UPDATE:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported Whiteford Township has been awarded a two million dollar grant for updating the water plant. The grant will be administered by the EPA. Jeff Thomas will be contacting representative Will Bruck to seek additional grant monies. Steve Morgan expressed concerns about the operations of the water plant.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to approve the January 20, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

**CHECK REGISTERS:** Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the general check register as presented in the amount of \$115,696.12. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Lee Strahan to approve the utility check register as presented in the amount of \$31,983.78. Motion passed 5-0.

**STONECO PRESENTATION:** Dan Sniegowski represented Stoneco. Also present from Stoneco was Chip and Sue. Stoneco contracts with an engineering firm for well/land analysis and Chip was their representative. Dan gave a brief history of Stoneco. They have been at the current location (Sterns Road between Whiteford and Jeffs Roads) since 2005. In 2018 property along Jeffs Doty Road was purchased. They have been working with EGLE regarding ditches and wetlands that need to be moved. Stoneco supports the Township with gravel donations. They also support Little Blessings, host school tours and having tours during the Fall Festival. The stone at the current location has very good quality and aggregate has been approved by the State of Michigan for concrete roads.

Rick Bischoff, Carol Bischoff, Martin Stroud, Jeff Kiefer, Lindsay Daschner and Zachary Phalen had questions regarding Stoneco's effect on residential wells, what the Township is doing to protect residents, the amount of gallons permitted to pump and how deep the quarry goes. There were many other questions/comments but there were time constraints.

**TRUCK ROUTE, ENGINE BRAKE AND MORATORIUM ORDINANCES:** Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Lee Strahan to approve Ordinance No. 81 Truck Route Ordinance. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes; Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve Ordinance No. 82 Engine Brake Ordinance. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Morgan – yes; Lloyd – yes; Bischoff – yes; Strahan – yes; Thomas – yes.

Supervisor Jeff Thomas reported that Ordinance No. 80 Moratorium on Unregulated Development Proposals is a stand alone ordinance. It has been recommended by Attorney Fred Lucas to incorporate this into our Zoning Ordinance #68. Amending Zoning Ordinance #68 needs to go through the Planning Commission. That process will begin soon.

**HIGHLAND TREATMENT:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve paying \$6970.30 of Invoice #154277 from Sewer II RRI Funds. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Steve Morgan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Sewer I and II Agreement for Operation and Maintenance beginning March 1 2026 for one year with automatic renewal unless terminated by either party. The monthly cost of the agreement is \$944. Motion passed 5-0.

**GENERATOR SERVICE CONTRACT:** Supervisor Jeff Thomas obtained quotes from Adrian Electric & Generator Co. and W.W. Williams. After discussion, motion by Bob Lloyd, second by Steve Morgan to contract with Adrian Electric & Generator Co. Motion passed 5-0. Jeff Thomas will ask about annual vs biannual maintenance.

**4 POINT TREE SERVICE:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Steve Morgan to pay bulk salt surcharge and take a credit from previously paid invoices that we were overcharged. Motion passed 5-0.

**AGRICULTURAL AFFIDAVIT FEES:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve Resolution No. 2026-02-03 increasing Agricultural Affidavit Fees from \$35 to \$50. Motion passed with a roll call vote: Strahan – yes; Bischoff – yes; Lloyd – yes; Morgan – yes; Thomas – yes.

**PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE:** Motion by Lee Strahan, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Michigan Townships Association proposed Principles of Governance. Motion passed 5-0.

**2026 MONROE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION CONTRACTS:** Motion by Christine Bischoff, second by Bob Lloyd to approve the Road Maintenance Contracts with Monroe County Road Commission in the amount of \$263,796.00. Motion passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Walter Ruhl suggested that if a meeting/town hall is scheduled regarding Stoneco, State representatives should be invited to attend.
- Zach Niederkohr stated Sterns Road between Memorial Highway and Clark is in bad shape.
- Zach Phalen would like to see more patrols on Sylvania Petersburg Road regarding the truck route.

Christine Bischoff  
Whiteford Township Clerk