Westphalia Township

Regular Meeting October 12, 2020

DRAFT MINUTES

13950 Pratt Road, Westphalia MI, 48894

Supervisor Trierweiler called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 6:00 pm. Board members present were Supervisor Trierweiler, Trustee Fox, Trustee Pung, and Treasurer Buckley. Absent was Clerk Platte.

Guests: Jeff Platte

Pete Preston

Dane Porter

Troy Thelen

A motion was made by Pung supported by Buckley to accept the minutes from September 14, 2020 with the deletion of the pharse “mowing will be done no more than once per week” as Trustee Pung did not recall that being mentioned. Motion carried.

Treasurer Buckley presented the financial statements via email to all board members. A motion was made by Treasurer Buckley to approve the financial statements as well as bills presented for the General and FD funds, seconded by Pung. Motion carried.

Jeff Platte was here to discuss the lawn mowing that was discussed at the September meeting as he read the minutes online. He stated that he spoke with Supervisor Trierweiler about this and it was made mentioned that there have been comments made to Supervisor Trierweiler by township residents about why is the lawn being watered so much. Platte stated that this comment on the minutes from September reflects him as the bad guy and it looks like he is taking advantage of the tax-payers. He also mentioned that he does behind the scene things that no one every sees, he just does them. Trustee Pung asked Platte if he would be willing to not water the lawn or fertilize it as Trustee Pung took the contract as watering would be done only to establish the yard and the yard is established. Platte said that the contract that Supervisor Trierweiler and himself signed back in March would be kept the way it was signed. Supervisor Trierweiler also mentioned to Platte that the he did sign the contract and the contract will stay the same. Clerk Platte said to Supervisor Trierweiler that if people ask about the watering he should have told them that the Township has a contract with Mr. Platte to do so.

Dane Porter, from Maner Costerisan, was here to go over the Township audit from 2019-2020 fiscal year. He handed out documents and discussed page for page the audit.

Supervisor Trierweiler asked Clerk Platte if the Township is all set for the election. Clerk Platte said that the Township went from 350ish absentee voters to almost 700 for the November election. Clerk Platte also told the board that this election is a lot of work. The State of Michigan sent out absentee voter ballot application to all voters in the Township that were not on the permanent absentee voters list. This raised the numbers immensely. Residents have the options of registering for an absentee ballot online, with the Secretary of State, or mailing in an absentee voter ballot applications and this makes it tricky for the clerk to be find all documents that are needed to be mailed.

Supervisor Trierweiler asked Clerk Platte about her deputy being her daughter and that maybe that wasn’t a good idea as both the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk were unable to attend the September meeting. Clerk Platte told the board that as long as she is the Clerk and that her daughter is willing to be her deputy she would like if she stayed onboard. Trustee Pung stated that the Michigan Township Association has nothing in their guidelines that says a relative cannot be a deputy.

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Supervisor Trierweiler also mentioned to Clerk Platte about communication between himself and her as there was a miscommunication with communication between the County Clerk and the Township Clerk that wasn’t given to the Supervisor. Clerk Platte told Supervisor Trierweiler that the communication was given from the County Clerk that day.

There will be a special election for millage in May. Supervisor Trierweiler to get with the attorneys and

get verbiage for this election. He will also be in contact with the County Clerk’s Office. The exact date of

this election was not known by either the Clerk or the Supervisor. Updates will appear as we find out

more information. Clerk Platte stated that she had been in touch with the County Clerk’s Office and it

will cost the township approximately $1000.00 plus expenses.

Clerk Platte made a motion to hire Karen Pung as the Township cleaning person and to have a one year contract with her. Treasurer Buckley will get the contract together and the board will review this contract at the November meeting.

Clerk Platte asked if she could have her credit limit increased for the purchase of more stamps for this election as she is running out of stamps for absentee ballots and registration cards. Supervisor Trierweiler said go ahead and also made a suggestion of the Township looking into a stamp machine. Treasurer Buckley had looked into this prior and will again see what she can come up with and report back to the board.

Next scheduled meeting will be November 9, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Pung, supported by Buckley at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Platte, Clerk Francis Trierweiler, Supervisor