Westphalia Township

Regular Meeting April 3, 2023

FINAL MINUTES

13950 Pratt Road, Westphalia MI, 48894

Supervisor Thelen called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 6:00 p.m. Board members present were Supervisor Thelen, Trustee Thelen, Treasurer Buckley, and Clerk Platte.

LATE: Trustee Barker Jeff and Kyle from McKenna

GUESTS: Dave Pohl Tim Fandel and Alex Hanses, Village of Westphalia

 Patricia Foreman

A motion was made by T. Thelen supported by Buckley to accept the minutes from March 6, 2023 and budget meeting March 27, 2023. Motion carried.

T. Thelen made a motion to approve the April meeting agenda, supported Barker. 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 Barker. Motion carried.

Dave Pohl – see county notes attached

Village of Westphalia – Discussion of the water project was had. Before COVID they had an estimate of $1.8 million to do 12,000 feet of piping and now the current estimate is $2.1 million to only do 8,000 feet. They have a grant for $560,000.00. These pipes were installed in 1952 and it is way over time they get replaced. All fire hydrants in the village will be replaced at this time as well. There will be an estimated increase in the water bills with an estimated begin date of May 2023. This increase will be over a five year span with the below increments:

 Year one – 15% increase

 Year two – 15% increase

 Year three – 3% increase

 Year four – 3% increase

 Year five – 3% increase

The second issue the village discussed was the Thome Wieber Drain. This runs South of Price Road, down Hinman, through the village of Westphalia, and back across and through Centerline. There are some members of the Village of Westphalia who would like to see this ditch covered in. The Village had an engineering study done which cost them $15,000.00. The County Drain Commission paid $4667.00 of this cost with the remaining $10,333.00 being paid by the Village of Westphalia. There are three different proposals being tossed around on how to accommodate the better water flow for the ditch laying in the Village of Westphalia.

1. Put a 60 inch culvert in on Feneis Street to replace the current 36 inch culvert.
2. Behind Craig and Katie Pohl’s house, perhaps digging two more retention ponds, but this doesn’t seem feasible at this time.
3. Bernie Simon will be constructing the second phase of the new subdivision soon off of Feneis Street and he will be putting tile in to the farm land behind this subdivision. Mr. Simon said that when he places the tile in the farm land, the Village of Westphalia could put in 24 inch culvert which would help redirect some of this water back to the North. The cost of this project would be $148,000.00. Mr. Simon also told the Village that if they do not decide to go the route with the culvert when he places the tile into the farm land, that the Village will not be allowed to go on the property afterwards.

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The County will be contributing $20,000.00 to $25,000.00 which will leave and unfunded balance of $123,000.00.

Tim and Alex also talked about the demolition of Droste Park, but this is only an option at this time. The reconstruction would consist of adding three baseball fields, new bathrooms, pickle ball courts, and expansion of the parking area. There was also mention that perhaps there may be room at the township to add the pickle ball courts.

For further information on any of the Village discussion, please contact the Village of Westphalia at 989-587-4434. They can further help with this matter.

Jeff and Kyle from McKenna discussed the possible start up of the Township of Westphalia having their own planning and zoning boards. The planning commission would need to meet four times a year with the zoning board meeting on an as needed basis. A question and answer session was had with both Jeff and Kyle, along with the Township of Westphalia Board having questions. There would be a set up fee of $23,000.00 with $10,000.00 for the master plan, $10,000.00 for the zoning ordinance, and a set up zoning system fee of $3,000.00. This matter will be tabled and discussed further at the May 1, 2023 regular township meeting.

Treasurer Buckley made a motion to have monthly payroll, all payroll and state taxes, Westphalia Telephone, Consumers Energy, Preston’s Community Services, 8X8 phone system (set up on auto pay), and all hall, cleaning, election and tax supplies be paid on a monthly basis without having to bring the invoices to the board meeting. Barker supported. Motion carried.

Treasurer Buckley also confirmed that she rolled the two Fire Department CDs with the bank at a rate of 4.18%.

Clerk Platte made a motion for the Township of Westphalia to approve and sign the engagement paperwork for 2022-2023 audit to be completed by SiegfriedCrandall, P.C. Buckley supported. Motion carried.

The Road Commission chloride bill for $50,621.00 was signed and Clerk Platte will send to the county.

Next scheduled meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. which will be the township regular

meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Platte, Clerk Troy Thelen, Supervisor