Westphalia Township

Regular Meeting May 1, 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.

GUESTS: Dan Skorich

MaLissa Schutt – Executive Director of Clinton Transit (Blue Bus)

Patricia Foreman

A motion was made by A. Thelen supported by Buckley to accept the minutes from April 3, 2023. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thelen made a motion to approve the May meeting agenda with the additions of adding the rezoning request and Clinton Transit, Buckley supported. 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.

Treasurer Buckley made a motion to amend the Fire Department budget to move $3874.55 from the Fire Truck Maintenance Repair to cover the overage in utilities by the sum of $537.13 and operations by the sum of $3337.42. Motion supported by Barker. Motion carried.

Treasurer Buckley also made a motion to amend the General Township budget by moving $957.93 from the attorney fee to cover the overage of $957.93 for the elections. Barker supported. Motion carried.

The Village of Westphalia has not cashed two checks from the Township, March 31, 2022 for $2349.17 and May 3, 2022 in the amount of $372.45 as of the township May 1, 2023 meeting. Treasurer Buckley spoke with the village clerk and he asked if we were able to re-write these checks as they were over a year old. We will reissue both checks to the Village of Westphalia for our portion of the recycling program.

MaLissa spoke about the Blue Bus. Their board members are assigned different townships and will be attending those township assignment meetings on a more regular basis. In the August 2020 election, the millage increase helped with improvements on their technology with dispatching software and a mobile application, expanded services, and increase in wages. The Blue Bus employees went from 30% full-time employees with benefits to 70%. Renovation of the administration building for facility and vehicles. They are working on virtual payment options (mobile wallet) through a Grant. Expectations for 2023 is to launch a transit development plan. If any person is in need of assistance by the Clinton Transit (aka Blue Bus) please contact MaLissa at 989-224-8127 or MyBlueBus.com.

Supervisor Thelen spoke about a rezoning of Luke Martin’s three-acre parcel. This would move from ag to residential and there will be no splits. Parcel ID# 160-005-300-001-52. Clerk Platte to write a letter to the County in regards to our board approving the transition.

Supervisor Thelen touched base on the Road Commission. They will be meeting Thursday morning at the township hall and will be driving roads to determine what projects need to be completed in Westphalia Township.

Supervisor Thelen also talked about the ARPA money and that the Fire Department improvements will be beginning soon.

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An ordinance from Consumers was presented but will be tabled until the June board meeting.

Supervisor Thelen talked about the planning and zoning for the township. He stated that he spoke with Bengel Township in regards to their board beginning about six years ago. An annual cost of about $10,000.00 yearly was estimated and salaries of between $2500.00 and 3000.00 were mentioned for committee members. A survey was discussed to present to all residents but will be brought back up at the June meeting. This would be to get the opinions of township members and whether or not anyone would be interested in serving as a board member if the township were to adopt a Planning/Zoning committee.

Clerk Platte discussed the Michigan Township Association conference she attended in Traverse City.

Next scheduled meeting has been moved to Monday, June 5 @ 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by T. Thelen, supported by Buckley at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Platte, Clerk Troy Thelen, Supervisor