Westphalia Township

Regular Meeting December 4, 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 Barker, Trustee Thelen, Treasurer Buckley, and Clerk Platte.

GUESTS: Dave Pohl

Randy Bengel

A motion was made by T. Thelen, supported by Barker, to accept the minutes from November 6, 2023 with a word correction, as well as the agenda for December 4, 2023. Motion carried.

Treasurer Buckley presented the financial statements 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. Supported by Supervisor Thelen. Motion carried.

Dave Pohl – see attached noted. He also touched on the septic code which he states will be coming back next year. The county brought back prior persons to present. Also, a question was asked to Dave by Trustee Thelen in regards to the well over at the Pratt Road Park. Mr. Pohl stated that he would need to look into this a little more.

Supervisor Thelen told the board that our current cleaner, for hall cleanings, would like to be done at the end of December, if possible, instead of the original date of March 31, 2024. Last month Clerk Platte mentioned that she would look into a cleaning service and did report her findings to the board. Supervisor Thelen made a motion to go with B&L Janitorial Services effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Buckley supported. Motion carried. The cleaning service contract was signed by Supervisor Thelen and will be faxed to B&L by Clerk Platte.

Supervisor Thelen also stated the invoice, in the amount of $105.00 for Lynne Wieber’s cleaning after garbage was left behind from Burns McDonnell/ITC’s informational meeting in October, needs to be sent. Clerk Platte to email Christina Schafer in this regards. This was for October 20 and 21, 2023 extra cleaning.

Supervisor Thelen discussed the passing of the renewable energy bill. He stated that the bill has removed the counties authority from townships planning and zoning in regards to solar and wind. He brought in information and wanted the following statement to be noted:

“The legislation impacts solar projects in communities with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or greater, wind projects with a nameplate capacity of 100 megawatts and energy storage facilities with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more. Smaller projects can continue to be addressed by local zoning ordinances.”

He will look into the meaning of the wording “nameplate.”

Supervisor Thelen also discussed that he talked with Tim Fandel (Village) in regards to the park remodel. He and Mr. Fandel will be working together on a survey to be sent to township residents, as well as the Village of Westphalia residents, to get input.

Randy discussed he has bids from three sources for new turn out gear for the four new guys, as well as a few other firemen that are in need of new gear. The gear does have a timespan for expiration. He also said that some of the guys are in need of new boots. Supervisor Thelen stated that he will be working on the budget for the 2024-2025 year soon and will factor this into the fire department budget.

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Supervisor Thelen made a motion to accept the 2023-1 Ordinance Consumers Energy Gas Franchise to be adopted. Trustee Thelen seconded. Motion carried. Clerk Platte to submit signed paperwork to Consumers.

Supervisor Thelen made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-16, Resolution Approving Amendment to Clinton County Solid Waste Management Plan. Barker seconded. Motion carried. Clerk Platte to get documents to Katherine Neese.

Clerk Platte asked Supervisor Thelen if he has had any more information on the keypad, he discussed months ago. He said no. Clerk Platte asked if he could look into that again for the side door as it would help with renters and her not having to hand out keys.

Clerk Platte made note to the board that we have an election February 27, 2024 which is the presidential primary and will include a school bond from Portland and Pewamo-Westphalia but that she hasn’t seen any verbiage yet. Also, elections will be held May 7, 2024 which is for the St. John’s School bond only and she is hoping to consolidate for this election. Then there will be elections in August and November 2024.

Next scheduled meeting has been moved to Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Buckley, supported by Barker at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Platte, Clerk Troy Thelen, Supervisor