Westphalia Township

Regular Meeting March 3, 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

13950 W. 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, Clerk Thelen, Treasurer Buckley, and Trustee Thelen.

ABSENT: Trustee Barker

PRESENT: Zach Rudat, Randy Bengel, Jon Thelen, Deputy K. Thelen

A motion was made by Supervisor Thelen, supported by Treasurer Buckley, to accept the minutes from February 3, 2025, as well as to accept the agenda for March 3, 2025. Motion Carried.

Randy Bengel – Gave fire update. Expressed the need to be thinking about a new fire truck as the companies that build them are about 4-5 years of getting them completed. Engine 2 didn’t pass the ISO inspection and the thought is to add a pumper to the tanker. He also mentioned that Nick Martin is looking to get a class at PW to hold cadet classes. There is paperwork that is needed to get this approved. This was part of RESA and no longer is an option, Nick will look into getting more information on this.

Zach Rudat – Gave an update on the County. Zach took a tour of the county jail and has some concerns about the layout and weak points that an inmate could put staff and the community at risk. He also updated that the County meetings are now live streamed. The County will be holding an Infrastructure meeting on March 17 at 9:00 am at the County Courthouse. Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is due to renew again at the end of this year.

Supervisor Thelen and Zach Rudat – Brought up that there is a Q&A session being held at the Westphalia Township Hall on Wednesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm with Consumers Energy to discuss digesters (methane capture).

Supervisor Thelen – 2025 road maintenance projects; gravel for Jason Road between Wright Road and Tallman Road and Tallman Road between Price and Centerline. Supervisor Thelen will also look into guardrails for the new culver on Jason Road.

Supervisor Thelen and Trustee Thelen – Discussed that the County Road Commission has started the process to change our primary road from Chadwick Road to Culter Road from Grange Road to Clintonia Road.

Chloride schedule for 2025; May 20th, July 10th and August 6th.

Supervisor Thelen – Presented the three lawn mowing contract bids to the Board; Smith Mowing out of St Johns, Platte Lawn Care out of Westphalia and Dave Martin out of Pewamo.

A motion was made by Supervisor Thelen, supported by Treasurer Buckley, to accept the mowing bid from Dave Martin, a one-year contract, with a change added of mowing at the Supervisor’s discretion. Motion Carried. Yeas: 4; Nays: 0

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 the bills presented for the General and FD funds. Supported by Clerk Thelen. Motion carried.

It was mentioned regarding the Clerk and Treasurers deputies; this will be finalized at the budget meeting that Clerk Thelen will retain Kelly Thelen as deputy and Treasurer Buckley will have Jamie Trimmer named as her deputy.

In addition, it was discussed to increase salaries for the Board members for upcoming fiscal year 2025-2026; Supervisor increase of $600.00, Clerk and Treasurer increase of $850.00, Trustees increase of $275.00 each. As previously discussed, each meeting that is attended by the deputies, they will be paid $75.00.

Clerk Thelen brought that the Township is need of a new flag, and asked if anyone knew where we can purchase a new flag and properly dispose of the old flag. It was mentioned that VFW will take the old flags. Clerk Thelen will also check with the VFW on were they get their flags from. It was also brought up that the flood lights that shine on the flag need to be replaced, Clerk Thelen will get with Westphalia Electric to see about them replacing them.

Supervisor Thelen asked for a status update on the phone being updated through WBI. This is still a work in progress as we have to provide account number and/or pin number so that the phone numbers can be released back to WBI. An email was sent to our account rep at 8x8, and we are waiting to hear back.

Randy Bengel was asked about when we should be sending fire bills out. He feels that a bill should go out each time there is a fire/EMS run, and stated that it would be up to the Township to decide on the billing of each run. Brief discussion on the fire auxiliary and what the stipulation are for that; they would still get paid, wouldn’t be budgeted for new gear, they could still go to fires and run the trucks. Further information is needed from the insurance carrier. It was mentioned to have form/document for holding them accountable to stay within the bi-laws once they are written. Also, new fireman should not have mileage or classes paid until they are certified.

Clerk Thelen advised the Board that we have once again consolidated with Riley Township for the St Johns School Board election to be held on Tuesday May 6th. There are 11 voters in the St. Johns School district and they will be notified of the change in voting location.

Next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. Board of Review meeting(s) will be held Wednesday March 12th 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Thursday March 13th at 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Budget meeting will be held on Monday March 24th @ 6:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted

Kristana Thelen, Clerk Troy Thelen, Supervisor