

## WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### VIRTUAL MEETING

November 17, 2020

**Due to the COVID-19 emergency, Whiteford Township Board of Trustees held a virtual meeting.**

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 p.m. in the Whiteford Township Offices. Present were Donald Sahloff, Tim Hill, Angela Christensen, and Walter Ruhl. Bernice Heidelberg joined the meeting via Zoom at 8:10 p.m. There were 19 guests via Zoom.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda of November 17, 2020 made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2020 made by Donald Sahloff, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**Check Registers:** Motion to approve the November 17, 2020 General Government check register with disbursements totaling \$105,521.61 made by Tim Hill, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent. Motion to approve the November 17, 2020 Utilities Operations check register with disbursements totaling \$29,007.46 made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** Motion to approve the November 17, 2020 Treasurer's Financial Report as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**2019 – 2020 Audit Report:** Deb Sabo, CPA, of Cooley Hehl Sabo & Calkins, P.L.L.C. addressed the board with her audit findings and reported Whiteford Township had a good clean audit with unmodified opinion for 2019 – 2020. Motion to accept the audit as presented made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**Cooley Hehl Sabo & Calkins , P.L.L.C. Audit Invoice:** Motion to approve payment of \$16,950 to Cooley Hehl Sabo & Calkins, P.L.L.C. for their 2019 – 2020 audit services made by Angela Christensen, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**2021 Poverty Exemptions Resolution:** Motion to adopt the 2021 Poverty Exemption Resolution within the purview of Whiteford Township as it applies to real property made by Tim Hill, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**TMACOG Dues:** Motion to approve annual membership dues to TMACOG in the amount of \$1,202.00 made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 4-0, 1 absent.

**Rezoning Request by Wheel Holdings, LLC, petitioning for Literal Life Tabernacle:** Discussion was held on request by Wheel Holdings, LLC, 9020 Lewis Avenue, Temperance, Michigan 48182 petitioning for Literal Life Tabernacle regarding parcel #5815-023-090-00 located at 8314 Whiteford Center Road, Ottawa Lake, Michigan 49267. Appellant is seeking rezoning from R-1 Single Family Rural Residential to B-2 General Business District for the purpose of business office and childcare for employees only. Motion to approve rezoning as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, no. Motion passed 4-1.

**Monroe County Equalization Department Designated Assessor Inter-Local Agreement:** Motion to approve the Monroe County Equalization Department Designated Assessor Inter-Local Agreement P.A. 660 of 2018 naming the Inter-Local Assessor as Michael Woolford, MMOA made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Water Plant Internet:** Motion to connect the water plant to MetaLINK Technologies, Inc. internet service at a cost of \$96.90 per month made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Ordinance Officer/Liquor Inspector:** Discussion held on hiring a person as Ordinance Officer and Liquor Inspector. Motion to table until December's meeting made by Tim Hill, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Fire Report:** Ottawa Lake Fire Department reported 18 calls for the month of October, 2020. Whiteford Center Fire Department reported 32 calls for the month of October, 2020.

**Water 2 Public Discussion:** Walter Ruhl opened the floor to further discussion of the water line extension from Whiteford Schools south on Sylvania-Petersburg Road to Sterns Road, then east to Schnipke Drive, south on Schnipke Drive to Section Road, continuing east on Sterns Road to Whiteford Center Road, including a water tower on Sterns Road at Stoneco Park. This project is known as "Water 2" for Whiteford Township. The businesses along Sterns Road have requested this project which is estimated to start in the Spring of 2021 taking less than one year to complete at an estimated cost of \$4,758,000. The businesses along the route will shoulder the majority of the costs. Should Whiteford Township request money for Water 2 from USDA Rural Development?

- Ted Peacock, Sylvania-Petersburg Road, Ottawa Lake, Michigan 49267 – Asked what the interest rate would be, would this be considered a special assessment, would there be different assessment amounts?
- Jeff Kiefer, 8372 Head-o-Lake Road, Ottawa Lake, Michigan 49267 – Inquired how assessments will be determined, will assessments be the same as Water IA and IB, and why borrow money?

**Water District 2 Environmental Report:** Walter Ruhl reported the Environmental Report for the Water 2 Extension is available in the Township office and on the Whiteford Township website.

**Park Report:** Walter Ruhl informed the board concrete has been poured at the Ottawa Lake Park for pavilion and swing set is complete. Darby Ready Mix Concrete Company donated all concrete for the parks. Concrete at Stoneco Park has also been repoured. An auto accident on October 24, 2020 damaged the fence at Stoneco Park. Marleau Hercules Fence and labor costs are \$550 to repair which are going to try to be recovered from the auto owner's insurance.

**Additional Items To Come Before The Board:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. after completion of the agenda.

Angela Christensen  
Whiteford Township Clerk