

## WHITEFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 17, 2023

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. Present were Donald Sahloff, Tim Hill, Bernice Heidelberg, Angela Christensen, Walter Ruhl, and Township Attorney, Alex Drescher. There were also 13 guests in attendance.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda of January 17, 2023 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Motion passed 5-0.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2022 made by Tim Hill, second by Angela Christensen. Motion passed 5-0.

**Approve Joint Workshop Minutes:** Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 3, 2023 Joint Workshop made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Angela Christensen. Motion passed 5-0.

**Check Registers:** Motion to approve the January 17, 2023 General Government check register with disbursements totaling \$427,212.86 made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Motion passed 5-0. Motion to approve the January 17, 2023 Utilities Operations check register with disbursements totaling \$37,505.41 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Motion passed 5-0.

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** Motion to approve the January 17, 2023 Treasurer's Financial Report as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Motion passed 5-0.

**MTA Conference:** Supervisor Walter Ruhl informed the board the MTA Conference this year is April 18 – 20 in Traverse City, Michigan. Motion to approve paying for the MTA Conference for township board members or deputies made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Motion passed 5-0.

**Utilities Operating Account Loan:** Motion to approve a loan to the Utilities Operating Account for \$30,000.00 from the General Bank Account made by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Budget Amendment:** Motion to approve increase in Capital Outlay – Land Improvement 401-901-974.000 account for \$313,000 to come from fund balance made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution To Adjust Sewer Rates For Sewer I Deficit Elimination Plan:** Motion to approve Resolution To Establish Sewer I Deficit Elimination Plan and Exhibit A, three-year budget made by Tim Hill, second by Angela Christensen. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Motion to appoint Ernie Sasse, Keith Gray and Hunter Sanner to the Zoning Board of Appeals made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Rezoning Request by Brian Brink, Ottawa Lake Terminals:** Discussion was held on request by Brian Brink, Ottawa Lake Terminals, P.O. Box 266, Hamilton, MI 49419 regarding parcel #5815-027-014-00 located at 6260 W. Sterns Road. Parcel contains approximately 14.69 acres and is zoned B-2 General Business. Appellant is requesting a zoning change from B-2 General Business to M-2 General Industrial to fit the needs of a warehousing business. Motion to approve rezoning request as presented made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Rezoning Request by Steve and Renee Oberle:** Discussion was held on request by Steven & Renee Oberle, 9209 Whiteford Road, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 regarding parcel #5815-014-012-00 located at 9659 Whiteford Road, Ottawa

Lake, MI 49267. Parcel contains approximately 39.24 acres and is zoned AG-Agricultural. Appellant is requesting a zoning change from AG-Agricultural to R-1 Rural Residential for two acres containing a house in order to split two acres from the parent parcel. The parent parcel would remain AG-Agricultural. Motion to approve rezoning request as presented made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Rezoning Request by Michigan Materials & Aggregate Co./Stoneco of Michigan:** Discussion was held on request by Michigan Materials & Aggregate Co/Stoneco of Michigan, 2575 Haggerty Road, Canton, MI 48188 on behalf of Shirlie J. Heiney, 8069 Whiteford Road, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 regarding parcel #5815-026-003-00 containing approximately five acres and zoned Agricultural, and on behalf of Sharon and Chester Tipping, 8003 Whiteford Road, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 regarding parcel #5815-026-031-00 containing approximately six acres and zoned Agricultural. Appellants are seeking a zoning change from AG – Agricultural to EX – Extractive. Motion to approve rezoning requests as presented made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Pond Permit Fees:** Motion to approve the fees for a pond permit for site plan review as \$1,000, each additional pond review as \$250, Planning Commission meeting as \$500, pond permit to be determined by Building Inspector made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution To Adjust The Rate Charges For Sewer District II:** Walter Ruhl informed the board on increases in Sewer II rates from the City of Sylvania, and recommended an increase from \$7/1,000 gallons to \$9/1,000 gallons. Motion to approve Resolution To Adjust The Rate Charges For Sewer District II as presented made by Tim Hill, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Angela Christensen, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Water Plant Employee Health Insurance:** Walter Ruhl and Tim Hill gave the board information from Dave Spiess on health insurance coverage for the Water Plant employees. Motion to approve recommended health insurance rates with the township paying \$200 each month for one employee to begin with employee's January hours worked and rates and township contribution to be re-evaluated each year made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Water Rates:** Walter Ruhl and Tim Hill informed the board on the need to raise water rates due to inflation. Motion to approve 15% increase onto the base charge of both residential and commercial water charges made by Donald Sahloff, second by Bernice Heidelberg. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Park Report:** Walter Ruhl reported on the need for a side by side for the park. Motion to table decision on purchase of side by side for the park until the February 2023 meeting made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Park Maintenance Employee:** Motion to change Ernie Sasse from a 1099 sub-contractor to a W2 employee, with submission of monthly log of work performed, changing his pay to \$24/hour made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Resolution Approving The Construction Of An All-Inclusive Playground At Whiteford Stoneco Park:** Walter Ruhl explained the request for an all-inclusive playground at Stoneco Park, and invited discussion from the board and guests in attendance. Discussion was held. Motion to approve Resolution Approving The Construction Of An All-Inclusive Playground At Whiteford Stoneco Park as presented made by Donald Sahloff, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Whiteford Recreation:** Nick Puhl, President of Whiteford Recreation, presented information to the board on the schedule of Whiteford Recreation ball teams and proposed payment for the next two years. Motion to approve two-year contract for Whiteford Recreation toward ball field rental as \$1,400 for the 2023 playing season, and \$1,500 for the 2024 playing season made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Fire Report:** Ottawa Lake Station #42 had 15 runs for the month of December, 2022. Whiteford Center Station #29 had 28 runs for the month of December, 2022. Ottawa Lake Station #42 ended 2022 with a total of 218 runs, Whiteford Center Station #29 ended 2022 with a total of 408 runs. Motion to approve purchase of air compressor for Ottawa Lake Station #42 not to exceed \$1,500 made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0. Motion to approve payment of \$825 for service on eleven overhead doors at the fire houses made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Tim Hill. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Fire Grant for Vent Fans:** Motion to approve matching money of \$6,457 of an \$11,456 grant for two new battery vent fans to be used at both Ottawa Lake and Whiteford Center stations made by Bernice Heidelberg, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Road Report:** Bob Schnipke and Walter Ruhl presented the Monroe County Road Commission contracts for 2023. Motion to approve the Monroe County Road contracts for 2023 on Single Chip Seal of Jeffs Road, \$13,573, Jeffs Doty Road, \$23,887, Tabbert Road, \$41,899, Temperance Road, \$6,562, Whiteford Road, \$36,982 made by Tim Hill, second by Donald Sahloff. Roll call vote: Donald Sahloff, yes, Tim Hill, yes, Bernice Heidelberg, yes, Walter Ruhl, yes, Angela Christensen, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Fire Department Building:** Walter Ruhl informed the board he is creating a committee to check property availability for a new fire department building.

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. after completion of the agenda.

Angela Christensen  
Whiteford Township Clerk