

**VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA
COUNCIL MEETING**

March 5, 2012

The regular meeting of the Westphalia Village Council was called to order by President Dean Kohagen at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance given to the flag.

Council Member, Attendance: Tim Fandel Steve Miller Dean Kohagen, President
Kevin Krzeminski Phil Smith Sandy Smith, Clerk
Nort Upson, Pres. Pro-Tem

Guests, Present: Dave Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner
Jim Bierstetel, DPW Supervisor
Scott Strong, Resident
Kevin Kirk, running for State Representative 93rd District
Cliff Hengesbach
Mike Engels, MRWA Wastewater Technician
Kyle Knight, Clinton County Sheriff

Minutes & Agenda: The agenda was accepted with changes. Member Miller made the motion, supported by Member Upson to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2012 regular meeting with changes. Motion carried.

Guests: Dave Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner gave an update on County issues. Kyle Knight gave a Sheriff update. Mr. Kevin Kirk introduced himself to the Council and announced his plans for running for State Representative 93rd District. Resident Scott Strong presented a cost estimate for the construction of tennis courts. The Council will continue to research the possibility of such a project. Currently, the Village does not own property that would easily accommodate such a project.

Water System: In an effort to ensure Municipalities stay within budget, the State of Michigan suggests that cities and villages have a rate study done periodically. Mike Engels from Michigan Rural Water Association has been working with Village staff to ensure the Village is set financially for current and future water and sewer system needs. Based on the study, Mr. Engels suggested the water and sewer rates increase slightly and that the Village consider tying future rate increases to the annual rate of inflation. In an effort to bill more fairly another significant suggestion was to discontinue the 10,000 gallon base rate and begin billing at gallon one which would actually reduce the water cost for many residents. The Council will take his suggestions and discuss further at a future meeting. It is probable that there will be a slight increase in water rates this calendar year.

Financial: Member Fandel presented the bills to the Council and made a motion to approve. Member Krzeminski seconded. Motion carried.

Building & Zoning: President Kohagen presented Zoning Permit number 12-002, Westphalia Telephone Co., new tower, number 12-003, Nort and Maggie Upson, 214 E. Main St, in ground pool, number 12-004, Cliff Hengesbach, Ox's Smoked Meats, lean-to back of building. Zoning permits comply with zoning requirements at this time. Member Krzeminski made a motion to approve 12-002, 12-003, 12-004, Member Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Community Services: Member Miller made a motion, seconded by Member Upson to accept the bid that was received from Granger Inc. for a once a week trash pickup. Motion carried. Information will be sent to residents this month and a public meeting will be held April 9, at 6:00 before the regular Council Meeting.

Planning Commission: The next Planning Commission meeting is March 6, 2012 (7:00 p.m.).

Parks & Recs: A donation for Parks & Recs was received from the Dickie Thelen family. Parks & Recs would like to thank the family for their thoughtfulness.

Next Council Meeting: April 9, 2012, Monday (7:00 p.m.)

Adjournment: Moved by Member Smith supported by Member Upson. Motion carried.