

VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA
COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2025

The meeting of the Westphalia Village Council was called to order by President Tim Fandel at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members in Attendance:

Tim Fandel, President	Kevin Krzeminski	Bernie Lehman	Phil Smith
David Boswell, Clerk	Bill Schmitt	Steve Miller	

Minutes & Agenda: Member Lehman made the motion, supported by Member Krzeminski, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion carried.

Appointments: There were no appointments.

Guests: Guests in attendance included:

- Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor
- Zach Rudat, Clinton County Commissioner provided an update on activities at the County level, including:
 - Last year Clinton County won a \$15 million ROBIN Grant to expand broadband access throughout the county. The planning phase of the project is complete, the engineering process is underway and expected to be completed in Q1 of 2025.
 - A study was conducted and presented to the Board on the possibility of a new Public Safety Campus to replace our County jail on Townsend Road. Based on this report, the estimated cost of such a project would be \$91 Million. The County is considering options and how to proceed.
 - Live streaming of County board meetings will begin this month starting with our committee meetings on February 20th.
 - The Board made updates to our Personnel Policies to reflect the upcoming changes to the state's Earned Sick Time Act. The changes are set to go into effect on Feb 21st.
 - The Board was presented with a new ordinance from the Planning Commission on noise produced by wind turbines. The ordinance was tabled and will be considered at our next meeting.
 - Considering that the population growth in our County's southern tier is outpacing the rest of the county, there's a chance in the future we could have a board majority wholly within DeWitt and Bath, which could have different priorities than other parts of the County, including expansion of wind and solar energy across our county. I outlined that a long-term top priority should be looking into ways the County can assist townships interested in developing their own zoning.

Water:

- The Village's well and water system were recently inspected. Minor repairs were made to the system.
- The Village recently completed the 2024 Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the State of Michigan/Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Copies of the report are available at the Village office. This year, as in the past, the Village's water system exceeded the quality and safety requirements of the State/EGLE.
- The Village has experienced an increase in the number and dollar amount past due on delinquent water, sewer and trash collection accounts. The Village is also experiencing an increase in the number of returned checks/payments that are made on the accounts. Accordingly, the Village has defined a process for addressing delinquent accounts. The process will provide notice to accounts that are delinquent and will ultimately result in shut-off/discontinuation of service.

Sewer: No new business.

Financial:

- Expenditures made during the previous month were presented and reviewed. A motion to approve all expenditures was made by Member Schmitt and supported by Member Krzeminski. Motion carried.
- The Council reviewed fiscal year-to-date budget/spending activity. Member Schmitt made a motion, supported by Member Lehman to amend the Operating Budget based on actual expenditures. Motion carried.
- Member Schmitt made a motion, supported by Member Miller to adopt the amended budget as the initial operation budget for fiscal year 2025 – 2026. Motion carried.
- Union Bank presented the Village with the option of using a new type of checking account, specifically designed to benefit municipal governments. Converting to the new account will reduce expenses and increase interest and dividends received by the Village. Member Smith made a motion, supported by Member Krzeminski to convert to the new account type. Motion carried.

Building & Zoning: President Fandel temporarily appointed Member Lehman as Building and Zoning representative for Council. Member Lehman presented Application for Plot Plan Approval #25-001 for a residence at 443 Julie Way. The proposed structure does not meet the setback requirements of the Village's Zoning Ordinance. Member Lehman made a motion, supported by Member Krzeminski, to deny the application. Motion carried. If the resident desires to proceed they will need to modify their proposed plan or request that the plan be reviewed by the Board of Appeals.

Streets: No new business.

Community Service: The Village is working with Clinton County Department of Waste Management and Facilities and Project Management to replace the platforms used at the recycling site. It is anticipated that the new platforms will be installed in the Spring.

Planning Commission:

- Work continues on the Village ordinance to regulate the installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems.
- The Planning Commission approved proceeding with *Cruise-In 2025*. 2025 will be the 20th anniversary of the Village's Cruise-In.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Parks and Recreation: The Village DPW is working with the Parks Committee to determine what repairs and maintenance should be performed at Droste Park.

Administrative Issues: Discussions were had regarding the amount of repairs required on Village equipment. The Village will be assessing whether to have equipment repaired or to replace with updated equipment.

Licensing of DPW staff to meet the requirements necessary to perform required functions was reviewed. DPW staff will be obtain additional licenses as needed.

Next Council Meeting: Regular Meeting: Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Member Smith and supported by Member Lehman. Motion carried.