

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

IN PERSON MEETING

November 21, 2024 at 7:00pm

Held at Washington Township Hall, 8989 S. Baldwin Rd. Ashley, MI 48806

- I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Whaley at 7:00pm, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll call- Present: Eric Whitford, Nancy Rogers, Kevin Whaley, Barbara Hoffer, Howard Whaley. Howard thanked the public for their attendance. Agenda, reports & relevant materials cast to screen for attendees to see during meeting (using deputy clerk's hotspot)
- II. Motion to approve minutes from October 17, 2024 Board Meeting by Kevin Whaley, 2nd by Nancy Rogers, all in favor.
- III. Motion to approve Agenda with removal of V.g) & V.j) as already completed to be replaced by V.g) Wind Turbine Sound Study and V.j) MPSC; under VII. start with Public Comment, a) Clerk Resignation Letter b) Township Policies/Procedures, annual evals-closed session by Eric Whitford, 2nd by Kevin Whaley, all in favor.
- IV. Eric to check agreement for Invenergy Fund (refund or absorption by Twp.) Motion to approve financial reports (contingent on Clerk/Treasurer reconciliation & balancing) by Eric Whitford, 2nd by Nancy Rogers, roll call votes, yeas- Eric Whitford, Nancy Rogers, Kevin Whaley, Barbara Hoffer, Howard Whaley, nays- none. Due to our internet being temporarily down the Treasurer's & Clerk's Offices were unable to do the previously scheduled BS&A GL #'s updates. To be rescheduled once the repairs are made.
- V. Open Issues/Visitors: County Commissioner, Steve Sopocy present.
 - a) Sale Lot on 127 – Howard reported the Permit Fee has still not been paid so he will move forward with legal action.
 - b) Grants – Nancy reported the ARPA grant from county has been paid & used, the state grant approved going retro to October 31st to be paid via SIGMA within a month. She will be looking at appliances on tomorrow (11/22/24.)
 - c) Microsoft 365 Business – Nothing new to report as additional steps haven't been taken.
 - d) Election update & costs – Barb reported the County Canvass has already approved and the state Board of Canvassers are scheduled to meet tomorrow (11/22/24). The election inspectors did a fantastic job as usual. Steve Sopocy pointed out that Washington Township was one of/possibly the first in the county to submit election results with accuracy thanks to the leadership of Clerk Hoffer.
 - e) Turbine complaints & solar update – Complaint Report from Addison read. Tax from solar to be Ad Valorem or PILT to be decided at December meeting.
 - f) Sight Right-of-Way in Pompeii – Howard reported it is ongoing, nothing more has been done & probably won't happen until spring.
 - g) Wind Turbine Sound Study- we haven't heard back regarding not signing/approving the study. Howard to contact them about the study following our agreement.

- h) Addition Construction Update-Nancy: Carl Kilpatrick to take sample of old trim to color match stain for false beam repair (Twp to reimburse.) Received \$363 for old siding that Eric scrapped. Discussion re: push bars being a safety issue. Nancy to obtain additional quotes from Trevor for Push Bar Doors & add on kits before approving door purchases. Nancy checking into grant paying for replacing rotted out kitchen door. Eric has old furnace in his garage & will attempt to sell (covers for front are missing). Nancy has the old windows posted for sale. Special meetings may be called for renovation decisions as necessary. Motion by Kevin Whaley to authorize \$550 for cabinet/counter upgrade in office suite and \$120 for TV outlet, 2nd by Eric Whitford, roll call vote: Yea's-Eric, Nancy, Kevin, Barb, Howard. Discussion re: steps to office suite combined with kitchen steps to become handicap accessible when doing sidewalk in the spring.
- i) Playground / Renovation Sponsorship Updates- Barb reported that all pieces of the playground have been sponsored & we should start collecting the funds, Ruth Malek pledged/paid \$3000 toward bathroom renovations & John Chvojka pledged 384.92/rounded his payment up to \$500. Thank you to all who donated!
- j) MPSC – Discussed lawsuit by Foster Swift re: PA 233 changes to enforcement, appeal vs repeal, CREO still needed for renewable energy/battery storage. Howard encouraged everyone to follow this lawsuit & how it will affect us at state & federal levels.
- VI. Public Comment for old business/open issues/new business – Gayla Phillips said that Clinton County is hosting a meeting re: Battery Storage on December 20th at 9am at the Clinton County Commissioners Office. Barb to add to Twp Calendar. Gratiot Commissioners working with Spicer Group re: Solar, Wind & Battery Storage. Steve Sopocy thanked everyone for supporting him as Commissioner and thanked Clerk Hoffer for her service.
- VII. New Business:
- a) Clerk Resignation Letter- cast to screen. An emotional discussion re: need to find/appoint a clerk ASAP. Motion to accept clerk resignation effective January 1st by Kevin Whaley, 2nd by Howard Whaley, roll call vote: Yea's – Eric, Nancy, Kevin, Nay's - Howard. Barb will contact Doreen re: written decline of appointment after winning the election.
- b) Township Policies & Procedures, Annual Evals – Clerk Hoffer still working on Policies & Procedures Manual & willing to continue DRAFT after resignation from position. End of regular business, public was dismissed to be allowed re-entry after closed session. Motion to enter Closed Session at 8:45pm by Nancy Rogers, 2nd by Eric Whitford, all in favor. Motion to end Closed Session at 9:31pm by Eric Whitford, 2nd by Nancy Rogers, all in favor.
- VIII. Letters/Correspondence - none
- IX. Additional Public Comment - none
- X. Motion to adjourn by Nancy Rogers, 2nd by Eric Whitford, all in favor. Adjourned at 9:32pm

Respectfully submitted and posted by Barbara Hoffer, Washington Township Clerk

Approved: _____

Washington Township Supervisor / Date

Washington Township Clerk / Date

DRAFT