

**VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 2, 2023**

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 given to the flag.

**Council Members in Attendance:**

Tim Fandel, President	Tanner Droste	Phil Smith	Jim Pivarnik
David Boswell, Clerk	Bill Schmitt	Steve Miller	Kevin Krzeminski

**Minutes & Agenda:** Member Pivarnik made the motion, supported by Member Krzeminski to approve the minutes of the September meeting as presented and the Agenda for the October meeting. Motion carried.

**Appointments:** President Fandel appointed Karen Boswell to the role of assisting the Village Clerk on an as-needed basis.

**Guests:** Guests in attendance included:

Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor	Brant Mercer, Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering
Phil Hanses, Clinton County Drain Commissioner	Brett Thelen, Planning Commission
Nate Thelen, Resident	

**Water:** DPW Supervisor Hanses provided the Council with an update on the water main improvement project. Significant progress has been made, with approximately 90% or more of the actual water main installed. Also, many connections have been made to the new main. Based on the amount of work not yet completed and limitations on construction and paving that will occur as winter and inclement weather approaches, work will focus on the areas in which work/construction has already been started. The objective is to complete water main construction, connections to the new main, yard reconstruction and paving in these areas. If necessary, work in other areas will be delayed until Spring, so as not to have service interruptions and road construction during winter months.

**Sewer:** At the Village Council meeting in May 2023, the Council reviewed a proposal from the Clinton County Drain Commission for improvements to the Thome and Weiber Drain. The recommended improvements will improve the drains' ability to handle the increased volume of water from more intense storms, which are becoming more frequent. The Drain Commission's proposal is to install a "relief drain", flowing to the north, at the point at which the drain enters the Village limits on the east edge of the Village. This will significantly reduce the volume of water flowing through the Thome and Weiber Drain inside of Village limits. Construction of the relief drain is expected to begin in November.

**Financial:** Expenditures made during the previous month were presented and reviewed. A motion to approve all invoices was made by Member Schmitt and supported by Member Krzeminski. Motion carried.

The Revenue and Expenditure Report for the current fiscal year was reviewed to determine if the budget for the fiscal year should be amended. No changes were made at this time. Revenue and expenditures will be reviewed periodically, and the budget amended as needed.

Pay Request #4 from Nashville Construction was presented. Member Schmitt made a motion, supported by Member Krzeminski, to approve the Application for presentation to EGLE for reimbursement.

**Planning Commission:** A question has been submitted by a resident regarding how the Village's Zoning Ordinance is administered for adjoining lots when Clinton County will not allow the actual joining of the lots due to how the lots have been documented at the County level. (i.e. Metes and Bounds versus Plat Map) The Planning Commission recommends to the Village Council that adjoining lots should be administered as one lot, in accordance with the Village's Zoning Ordinance. Planning Commission recommends that appropriate changes be made (if necessary) to the Zoning Ordinance and a process be developed to facilitate administration.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, at 6:00 pm.

**Building & Zoning:** There were no applications for Plot Plan approval submitted for the October Village Council meeting.

A question has been submitted by a resident regarding how the Village's Zoning Ordinance is administered for adjoining lots when Clinton County will not allow the actual joining of the lots due to how the lots have been documented/described at the County level. (i.e. Metes and Bounds versus Plat Map). Village Council agrees that the inability to combined adjoining lots due to County requirements should not be a detriment to a property owner being able to use their property in accordance with the Village Zoning Ordinance. The Village will work with its' attorney to develop a process to address these situations as they arise.

**Streets:** No new business.

**Community Service:** The Village congratulates Pewamo-Westphalia Elementary School on being recognized as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The "Blue Ribbon" award is given to schools based on their overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Pewamo-Westphalia Elementary School serves as a model of effective and innovative school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation.

The Homecoming Parade for Pewamo-Westphalia Schools will take place, in Westphalia, on Friday, October 13, beginning at 4:30 pm.

Halloween Curfew: the hours for Trick-or-Treating in Westphalia will be 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Due to changes, on a national level, in the regulations governing post offices, along with more frequent visits by postal inspectors, changes are being implemented at local post offices. Of specific note, effective immediately, changes are being made to the items that can be posted on the bulletin boards at local post offices. It is no longer acceptable for post offices to allow the posting of "want ads", help wanted notices, "for sale" items, or handwritten notices. Items that can be posted include official notices from the U.S. Postal Service, government postings (i.e. minutes of Village meetings), notices of community/church fund raisers, business cards and notices of community events. Postings for community events should include the date of the event and should be removed immediately following the event.

**Parks and Recreation:** Discussions continue regarding the potential upgrades to the facilities at Droste Park. Residents Nate Thelen and Brett Thelen attended the Council meeting to answer questions regarding opportunities to expand recreation opportunities at Droste Park. Plans could include additional baseball/softball fields, pickleball courts and upgrades to restroom facilities and buildings. Discussions have been had with Westphalia Township – the Township is willing to partner with the Village on improvements to the park. Village Council is considering the distribution of a survey to residents to determine what facilities and improvements are appropriate.

Currently, new signs are being built at the entrance to the west parking lot.

Maintenance of the current park facilities will continue as needed. Mulch will be added to the playground area, probably in Spring 2024.

**DPW:** The Village DPW has experienced an interruption in telephone service due to a broken line. We apologize for any inconvenience and unreturned telephone calls.

**Administrative Issues:** Discussion continues regarding the benefits that the Village and residents would receive from the installation of security cameras at various locations throughout the Village. Discussion regarding security cameras will continue as additional information is gathered.

Granger Waste Services has requested permission from Clinton County to expand their ability to serve area residents by beginning to use a previously approved/licensed portion of their current landfill on Grand River Avenue. The Village Council supports the use of the already established portion of the landfill and voted unanimously to approve a resolution amending the Clinton County Solid Waste Management Plan accordingly.

**Next Council Meeting:**

- Regular Meeting: Monday, November 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Member Smith, supported by Member Miller. Motion carried.