

**VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
*January 2, 2024*

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

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

**Appointments:** There were no appointments.

**Guests:** Guests in attendance included:

Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor

Dave Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner:

provided the Council with an update of activities for Clinton County, including: an update on the status of the county-wide broadband initiative: the County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution revising their agreement with the Greater Lansing Area Stormwater Program which protects waterways and rivers; the Board approved a request from the St. Johns Chamber of Commerce to use Clinton Lakes for night hike events in conjunction with MSU Abrams Planetarium. The events are scheduled for January 25, February 24, and March 25; the Board approved a contract for preparation of a Parks and Greenspace Master Plan.

**Water:** DPW Supervisor Hanses provided the Council with an update on the water main improvement project. The generator being installed as part of the water main improvement project has been delivered (a month ahead of schedule) and will be installed.

**Sewer:** The relief drain being installed as part of the Thome & Wieber drain, on the east side of town, has been completed.

**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 Droste. 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. A budget sub-committee plans to meet to review revenues and expenditures and fund allocations in greater detail and to recommend budget amendments to Council.

The Employee Compensation Budget for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 was reviewed and recommendations made for adjustment to the compensation for some positions. Member Smith made a motion, supported by Member Krzeminski, to approve the adjustments. Motion carried.

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission continues to review opportunities for improvements at Droste Park. A sub-committee is being established to ensure that progress continues. The sub-committee will include representatives from the Village and from Westphalia Township. The Planning Commission is considering how to best obtain feedback from residents on what improvements/facilities they would like to see. Also being reviewed are potential costs, availability of grants, etc.

Chuck Nelson, a professor at MSU and former chairman of the Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Committee will be attending the Planning Commission meeting in February to provide input on how the Planning Commission might proceed.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

**Building & Zoning:** Application for Plot Plan Approval #24-001, for a fence at 118 E. Main Street, was presented and reviewed. The application/proposed fence meets the requirements of the Village's Zoning Ordinance. Member Pivarnik made a motion, supported by Member Droste, to approve the application. Motion carried.

**Streets:** No new business.

**Community Service:** Council reviewed the Village's ordinance #133 which addresses the burning of trash, refuse, rubbish and other waste materials and the requirement of permits for certain fires (including the burning of brush). Burn permits are issued and/or denied by Westphalia township. Village residents must contact the Township when a burn permit is needed.

**Parks and Recreation:** Discussions continue regarding the potential upgrades to the facilities at Droste Park.

**DPW:** A DPW staff member will be leaving the Village DPW in January. The Village has multiple interested candidates. The Village will proceed with the interview process and hire a replacement as quickly as feasible.

**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. Proposals from two security/camera companies are being reviewed. Discussion regarding security cameras will continue as additional information is gathered.

The Village will be reviewing options for expanding its capabilities for video and audio conferencing and for allowing virtual attendance of Village meetings. The review will be ongoing, with no timeframe established for implementing changes.

**Next Council Meeting:** Regular Meeting: Monday, February 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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