

**VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 5, 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, Member    | Phil Smith, Member |
| David Boswell, Clerk  | Bill Schmitt, Member     |                    |
| Jim Pivarnik, Member  | Kevin Krzeminski, Member |                    |

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

**Appointments:** Member Krzeminski presented himself as a candidate for the vacant position of President Pro-Tem. Member Smith made a motion, supported by Member Pivarnik to elect Member Krzeminski to the position. Motion carried.

**Guests:**

Guests in attendance included:

- Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor
  
- David Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner provided the Council with an update on activities at the County level.
  - ALICE Program (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) is a program designed to provide certain types of assistance to households in which individuals are employed yet the household income is below the basic cost of living for the area. United Way and other agencies provide qualifying families with assistance with budgeting, tax preparation, diet planning, etc.
  - ITC Holdings Corp will be constructing new electric transmission lines through Clinton County (and other counties). The transmission lines will run very near/and or through Westphalia. Public meetings regarding the project will be held in the area, including a public meeting at the Westphalia Township Hall on October 10 at 5:00 pm.
  - The County Board of Commissioners is considering implementation of an ordinance authorizing and regulating off-road vehicles (ORVs). A public meeting regarding the issue will be held at the regular meeting of the County Board of Commissioners at the Clinton County Courthouse on Tuesday, October 31.

**Water:** DPW Supervisor Hanses provided the Council with an update on the water main improvement project. Significant progress has been made, with approximately 80% or more of the actual water main installed. Also, many connections have been made to the new main. As construction progresses, problems with the existing water main, due primarily to the age of the system, are being encountered. These issues sometimes result in the need to shut off water service to residences. The Village apologizes for the interruptions in service and appreciates your understanding.

**Sewer:** Evaluation of the storm sewer indicates that improvements to the system are needed on Chestnut Street. To minimize costs, improvements to the storm sewer along Chestnut Street will be made in conjunction with water main construction occurring in the area.

**Water and Sewer:** In accordance with the rate study that was required at the initiation of the water main improvement project, the Village reviewed the recommendations of the study and discussed the need to revise water and sewer rates. Member Krzeminski made a motion, supported by Member Droste to raise the rates, in accordance with the rate study. Effective immediately, water and sewer rates will be increased to:

- Water; base rate: \$ 28.29
- Water, usage rate per 1,000 gallons: \$ 2.59
- Sewer; base rate: \$ 47.61

**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 #3 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:** There was no Planning Commission meeting in September. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, October 2 at 6:00 pm.

**Building & Zoning:** There were two applications for Plot Plan approval submitted and acted on: The applications were:

- #23-012 for a new residence at 407 Bierstetel Circle. The application and plan meet zoning requirements for the district.
- #23-013 for a fence at 402 Bierstetel Circle. The application and plan meet zoning requirements for the district.

Member Pivarnik made a motion, supported by Member Droste, to approve applications 23-012 and 23-013. Motion carried.

**Streets:** The Village continues to experience vandalism to street signs. If anyone has information regarding the vandalism, please contact the Village. The Village has notified the Sheriff's Department of the occurrences.

**Community Service:** Austin's House/Chosen Vision will be hosting an open house at its Westphalia location, located at 508 Rosemont Drive. The open house will be held on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 until 7:00 pm. Chosen Vision is excited for their friends and neighbors in Westphalia to meet the residents and to see the changes that have been made at Austin's House.

**Parks and Recreation:** Discussion was held regarding the potential upgrades to the facilities at Droste Park. Some preliminary bids/estimates of costs for updating the Parks Master Plan, grant application assistance, survey and design work have been received. Discussion will continue as the Village considers if and how to proceed with the project.

**DPW:** The Village DPW, assisted by volunteers and residents, dealt with the damage in the Village as a result of the recent storms/high winds. Comments were received from multiple residents regarding how quickly damage was cleaned up. The Village thanks our DPW employees and everyone that assisted in the clean-up.

**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.

**Next Council Meeting:**

- Regular Meeting: Monday, October 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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