**VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA**

***COUNCIL MEETING***

***September 2, 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:***

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| Tim Fandel, President | Kevin Krzeminski | Bernie Lehman | Tanner Droste |
| David Boswell, Clerk | Bill Schmitt | Phil Smith |  |

***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.

***Guests:*** Guests in attendance included:

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| * Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor
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| * Lee Klein, Klein Cabinets & Interiors Inc.
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| * Zach Rudat, Clinton County Commissioner provided an update on activities at the County level, including:
	+ Inmate Medical Services: Ongoing staffing issues and rapidly escalating costs prompted the Sheriff’s Office to review providers for inmate nursing and medical services. The Sheriff’s Office has identified Around The Clock (ATC) as their new provider for these services. ATC provides improved staffing at the same availability as the previous provider at a much lower cost, projected to save the county $20,000 for the remainder of 2025 and over $100,000 annually thereafter.
	+ Credit Card Policy: At the request of the County Administrator, the Board of Commissioners amended the County Credit Card Policy, increasing the credit limit from $5,000 to $20,000. The $5,000 credit limit was initially adopted in 2014, and since that time more vendors that the county utilizes have switched to electronic means of payment exclusively. The County only owns one credit card, which is housed in the Administrator’s office and only used for budgeted items.
	+ Planning and Zoning: The Board approved 5 petition recommendations, with one notable petition:
		- Procedurally, when a property owner seeks a zoning amendment through the county, that request goes to the Planning Commission for approval or denial, then comes to the County Board of Commissioners for approval or denial. Typically, these requests get unanimous approval or denial.
		- A recent rezoning request in Duplain Twp. was denied by the Planning Commission on a 4-3 vote, but approved by the County Board of Commissioners on a 7-0 vote. The rezoning request was opposed by Duplain Twp., but the request was in line with the County’s Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map.
	+ September Meeting Changes: Full Board Meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am. For September, the full board meeting will be held a week earlier, on September 23rd. The Ways & Means and Human Resources Committee Meetings will be on the previous Thursday, September 18th. An additional Ways & Means meeting will be held on September 11th at 9:00 am, where the County Administrator will be presenting their budget recommendation for the next fiscal year.
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***Appointments*:** There were no appointments.

***Water:*** No new business.

***Sewer:*** Work has begun on relining sections of the sanitary sewer. Initial work on Oak Street uncovered a significant issue which resulted in a specialized repair. Based on the condition of the sections of the sanitary sewer being worked on, it was determined that the portion of the system that has not been visually inspected (via camera) should be reviewed. This includes approximately 6,800 feet of sewer lines. Member Schmitt made a motion to approve visual/camera inspection of the remaining portion of the sewer system, contingent on obtaining competitive pricing. Member Lehman supported the motion. The motion carried.

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

***Building & Zoning:*** Council reviewed Application for Plot Plan Approval #25-008 for an addition to a building at 204 W. Main Street. The application and proposed addition comply with zoning. Motion to approve the application was made by Member Droste. The motion was supported by Member Krzeminski. Motion carried.

***Streets:*** To comply with the requirements of the MDOT grant to be used for making improvements to local streets in 2026, the Village is required to pass a resolution naming our street administrator as an authorized signer and Project Supervisor. Member Lehman made a motion to name Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor as the authorized signer and Project Supervisor. Member Smith supported the motion. Motion carried.

A component of the street improvement project is the replacement of a culvert where the Thome & Wieber Drain passes under Pine Street. The Village will be coordinating the replacement of the culvert with the Clinton County Drain Commissioner.

***Community Service:*** Several of the surrounding communities have eliminated and/or are limiting access to their recycling sites. Council discussed the changes being made in other communities and some options available to the Village and our local residents. At this time no changes are being made to the Village’s recycling program/site.

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

***Parks and Recreation:*** Discussions continue regarding park improvements and development of a new Park Master Plan for use in future grant applications. Member Schmitt made a motion to work with Fleis & Vandenbrink on the development of a Parks Master Plan. The motion was supported by Member Lehman. Motion carried.

***Village DPW:*** The sidewalk replacement on East Main Street will be completed the week of September 1.

Discussions were had regarding screening the view of the Village’s brush pile and material storage area. Options under consideration include fencing and/or trees/bushes.

***Administrative Issues*:** The Village has had several inquiries regarding the approval of the ITC power line project and the MPSC approval of the Alternate Route that will run on the east side of the Village limits and go through a portion of wooded property owned by the Village. The Village and Clinton County have no control over the approval process of this project. There have been several questions by residents regarding contact numbers for the agencies affiliated with the project.

The project was approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. They can be contacted at:

1-800-292-9555

[www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)

Michigan Electric Transmission Company (ITC)

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***Next Council Meeting:*** Regular meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

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