**VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA**

***COUNCIL MEETING***

***April 7, 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 | Steve Miller | 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.

***Appointments*:** There were no appointments.

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

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| * Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor
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| * Mr. Robert Craig, currently of St. Johns, was in attendance to answer questions regarding his Application for Plot Plan Approval for a new residence on Leontine Way in Vidua Acres.
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| * Zach Rudat, Clinton County Commissioner provided an update on activities at the County level, including:
* The Board of Commissioners held an infrastructure meeting to discuss the County Jail, and the possibility of renovations or a rebuild of the facility. The infrastructure meeting was informational only so no action was taken. The Board will hold a meeting to further discuss options for the jail in May.
* The Board of Commissioners received an update from County Medical Examiner, Michelle Fox. One piece of information that stood out is that in the first 3 months of 2025, she has already seen half the number of suicides she had for the entire year of 2024. As a reminder, crisis, mental health and family services are available through Community Mental Health by calling (517) 346-8460 or by visiting ceicmh.org
* The Board approved pre-funding for the County’s share of the Homeland Security Grant Program and authorized Ingham County to serve as the fiduciary for our region. The Board also approved the purchase of new evidence software for the prosecutor’s office and the participation of the Tri-County regional aerial photography project. These photos are used by various departments (law enforcement, central dispatch, drain department, etc.), and will be accessible to local units and the public this fall.
* The county provides cell phone reimbursements (up to $54 per month) to county employees whose jobs require the use of a personal cell phone. The board approved expanding this benefit to Commissioners.
* The Board approved revisions to the Smith Hall/Fairgrounds Use Agreement and Fee schedules to include an “open field only” rental option and expanded the 501c3 discounted rate to include 501 c5s.
* The Board formally adopted its 2026 budget calendar. In May the Board will review the capital improvement plan. Over the summer the Administrator will draft a recommendation that is presented to the Board in August. The Board reviews the recommendations over the fall and formally adopts a budget in October.
* The Board approved a special land use petition to construct a cell phone tower on Hollister Road near Sleepy Hollow State Park.
* The Board approved the addition of a Deputy Treasurer position, the hiring of a road patrol position, and the part-time hiring of an intern in the Prosecutor’s office.
* At the recommendation of the County Health Alliance, the board authorized public entity membership in the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool for a 3-year period for county employee healthcare benefits.
* The Board received annual reports from Drain Commissioner Phil Hanses and the Clinton County Planning and Zoning Office.
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***Water:*** Council reviewed utility accounts that are past due. Residents with past due accounts will be notified of the delinquency and, if the situation is not remedied, the Village will proceed with shut off of water services.

***Sewer:***

* The Village has been contacted by residents expressing concern with the function of the storm water detention area in the new phase of Vidua Acres in the northeast section of the Village. The detention area serves its purpose of retaining water during times of heavy rain, however, does not drain sufficiently in dry periods. The Village will review the situation with the Drain Commissioner and attempt to determine a solution.
* The Village will be obtaining estimates for the relining of storm sewer lines in the vicinity of Oak Street and Willow Street. Once estimates are received a determination will be made on the extent of work to be completed.
* The Village has received an estimate of costs to replace the fence surrounding the Village’s wastewater treatment and storage lagoons. A decision was not made as to if or when the fence will be replaced.

***Financial:***

* Expenditures made during the previous month were presented and reviewed. A motion to approve all expenditures was made by Member Schmitt and supported by Member Smith. Motion carried.
* Certificates of Deposit at Union Bank will expire/renew in April. The Village reviewed terms and rates and elected to renew the certificates for a term of 91 days.

***Building & Zoning:*** Member Droste presented Application for Plot Plan Approval #25-004 for a new residence at 406 Leontine Way. The proposed residence meets the requirements of the Village’s Zoning Ordinance. Member Droste made a motion, supported by Member Krzeminski to approve the application. Motion carried.

***Streets:*** The Village has received a matching funds grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to be used in 2026. Proceeds from the grant, and the matching funds, will be used for resurfacing portions of some streets, chip seal of some streets, and replacement of the culvert on East Pine Street.

***Community Service:*** The Village has received a recommendation from some local businesses to consider creating a “social district” (or similar) for a portion of the central business district. Significant discussions were had regarding the recommendation. The subject was tabled to allow time to gather more information and input.

***Planning Commission*:**

* Work continues on the Village ordinance to regulate the installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems.
* Discussions were had regarding Cruise-In 2025. Tanner Droste presented the Planning Commission with a mockup of a “Facebook event page” that he created for the Cruise-In and a mockup of the Cruise-In 2025 postcard. The Planning Commission approved both the event page and the postcard.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

***Parks and Recreation:*** Members of the Parks sub-committee evaluated the buildings at Droste Park. Discussions were had regarding possibilities for the repair and/or replacement of some or all of the buildings. No decisions were finalized.

Multiple residents of the Village have expressed interest in serving on the Parks Committee and assisting with planning for possible improvements at Droste Park.

***Administrative Issues*:** The Village is in the process of reviewing and evaluating various administrative and service fees.

***Next Council Meeting:*** Regular Meeting: Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

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