

VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA
COUNCIL MEETING
January 6, 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:

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

Minutes & Agenda: Member Schmitt made the motion, supported by Member Droste, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda for tonight's meeting, with changes. Motion carried.

Appointments: There were no appointments.

Guests: Guests in attendance included:

- Alex Hanses, DPW Supervisor
- Lieutenant Dan Spitzley, Clinton County Sheriff's Department, provide the Council with an update on enforcement activities within the County.
- Zach Rudat, Clinton County Commissioner provided an update on activities at the County level, including:
 - The County held their organizational meeting, where all 7 commissioners were sworn in for their new terms. The Board elected Bruce DeLong (R-Saint Johns) as Chair and Zach Rudat as Vice Chair.
 - The Board adopted its meeting schedule for 2025. The Board will meet at the Courthouse on the last Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, with a few exceptions.
 - The Board requested that the County Administrator look into options for adding a live stream of meetings online, a public video archive of those recordings, and a virtual public comment option.
 - The Board also adopted its 2025 By-Laws and Committee Appointments. Many of Commissioner Rudat's assignments are agriculture and public safety focused.

Water: No new business.

Sewer: No new business.

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 Miller. Motion carried.

The Employee Compensation Budget for the fiscal year 2025 – 2026 was reviewed and recommendations made for adjustment to the compensation for some positions. Member Lehman made a motion, supported by Member Smith, to approve the adjustments. Motion carried.

A recommendation was made to increase the "Special Project Rate" that applies to some positions when amounts of time beyond normal expectations are required to work on special projects. A motion was made by Member Krzeminski, supported by Member Schmitt, to increase the Special Project Rate. Motion carried.

Building & Zoning: No new business.

Streets:

- The Village has received a proposal from Consumers Energy for the installation of new streetlights on Julie Way and Leontine Way. Member Lehman made a motion, supported by Member Droste, to accept the proposal and proceed with installation of the new streetlights. Motion carried.
- The Village has received complaints from business owners and residents regarding the failure of some property owners and/or tenants to clear snow from the sidewalk in front of their property. Clearing snow from sidewalks is the responsibility of the business owner and/or tenant. In the event that snow is not removed from sidewalks the Village will take appropriate action, which may include billing property owners for snow removal.
- Please note – parking is not allowed on streets within the Village between the hours of 2:00 am and 5:00 am. Violation of this provision may result in the towing/removal of the vehicle at the owner's expense.

Community Service: President Fandel presented the Council with renewal of the Village's contract with the Clinton County Sheriff's Department. After review and discussion, Member Droste made a motion, supported by Member Lehman, to renew the contract. Motion carried.

The Village is working with Clinton County Department of Waste Management and Facilities and Project Management to replace the platforms used at the recycling site. It is anticipated that the new platforms will be installed in the Spring.

Please note the following guidelines regarding the recycling site:

- Acceptable materials:
 - Plastic bottles, jugs and jars – please remove the lid and rinse containers.
 - No motor oil or pesticide containers are allowed.
 - Newspapers and mixed office papers.
 - Brown paper bags.
 - Metal cans (steel, tin and aluminum).
 - No scrap metal allowed.
 - Corrugated cardboard – must have wavy corrugation in the middle.
 - No boxboard or wax-coated boxes are allowed.
 - Please remove all packaging materials.
- Items NOT ALLOWED:
 - Plastic bags.
 - Glass.
 - Oil containers.
- If the recycling dumpsters are full, please DO NOT leave your recycling items anywhere outside of the dumpster.

Planning Commission: To assure that future development within the Village is done in a manner that protects the character of the Village and the value of properties within the Village, the Planning Commission will be developing an ordinance or amendment to the current Zoning Ordinance to regulate the installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Parks and Recreation: To plan for ongoing improvements at Droste Park and to be prepared to apply for grants as they become available, the Planning Commission plans to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Administrative Issues: Discussions were had regarding the fees charged by the Village. Fees under review include:

- Sewer and water connection fees
- Zoning Application fees
- Board of Appeals fees

Next Council Meeting: Regular Meeting: Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

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