



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Laura Crum  
Manager of Public Outreach  
[laura@wvtownship.us](mailto:laura@wvtownship.us)  
317-574-9490, ext 3

### **Westfield Washington Township board votes 2-1 to rescind action not to proceed with remonstrance process of the parks bond**

*Democratic process derailed by citizens' board*

Today the Westfield Washington Township board voted 2-1 to cancel the parks bond series to acquire land for open green space and natural areas within the township. This decision comes after the board unanimously approved two real estate purchase agreements on Dec. 20 pending the outcome of the petition drive to approve the bonds.

"I'm confused by this odd move to rescind the bonds," said Westfield Washington Township Trustee Danielle Carey Tolan. "It's disappointing that the will of the people cannot be heard and acted upon through the democratic process set forth through the remonstrance."

The Westfield Washington Township board voted 2-0 on Dec. 12 to move forward to petition in favor of the \$15 million park bond series after a remonstrance against the bond was filed. The bonds would have provided funding for land acquisition to preserve open spaces and natural areas, specifically near MacGregor Park, as land became available for sale. The 30-day period in which petitions in favor of or against the proposed park bond was set to begin Jan. 16.

"I'm frustrated by the vote and outcome of today's meeting that ends this process for the public to have their voice heard and the project to acquire land at this time," said Tolan. "Despite this setback, I look forward to continuing the vision set forth in the township's strategic plan and carrying out the desires of the residents of Westfield Washington Township."

More than 40 people attended the board meeting where board member Danyele Easterhaus invited them to share their opinions on board member David Gill's motion to rescind the bond. A total of 11 people spoke with seven people sharing opinions in favor of continuing the petition drive and four people opposed.

The last information fair scheduled for this Thursday (Jan. 10) will be cancelled. The Westfield Washington Township Trustee's Office thanks residents for their interest and participation in the process.

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**About Westfield Washington Township**

Founded in 1834, the Westfield Washington Township, trustee and elected board are responsible for Township assistance, fire protection, cemetery maintenance, weed control and other duties as specified by the state legislature. In addition, the Westfield Washington Township oversees Parks & Recreation and a variety of recreation activities, programs and event for all ages. Project Ever Green embraces a future that includes park space to ensure a positive quality of life for future generations.