

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
Township Board
Minutes
September 26, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

PLEDGE/INVOCATION

Chick provided an invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Marlene Chockley, Supervisor	Present
Kathleen Manley, Clerk	Present
Lenore Zelenock, Treasurer	Present
Tawn Beliger	Present
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
Wayne Dockett, Trustee	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present

Also present:

Public Safety Director William Wagner
Township Manager Steven Aynes
Township Attorney Bradford Maynes
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble
Members of the community

ADOPT AGENDA

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Manley supported, that the agenda be adopted as presented.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Lynn and Steve Lyman, 134 Lakeview Drive, David Gordon, 5558 Hellner, and Chuck Steuer, 760 Six Mile Road, made comments regarding the planned change in name of Lakeview Drive to Lake View Avenue, the Land Preservation Committee presentation, and the Township's failure to comply with its own ordinances.

BOARD MEMBER CLARIFICATIONS

Board members responded to comments about lack of covers on low-voltage electrical boxes in the Township Hall and the change in name of Lakeview Drive and discussed the Township's liability for unemployment benefits. They also discussed at length a recent consent judgment in a case regarding removal of junk vehicles from a Northfield Township property.

- ▶ **Motion:** Dockett moved, Beliger supported, to direct the Township attorneys, (which includes Mr. Burns and any other attorney employed by the Township), to provide

in writing to every Board member a monthly synopsis of cases they are working on that includes a brief description of the case and progress on each. This information is to be delivered by the first of each month to the Township Manager, to be delivered to each Board member no later than 48 hours after receipt of such information. The effective date of the first submission of documents will be November 1, 2017.

Board members discussed the details of what should be included in the report, the frequency of the report, the rarity of zoning enforcement tickets being issued, and whether action on the motion should be delayed.

- ▶ **Motion to Amend:** Otto moved, Beliger supported, that the report be provided quarterly, or earlier if appropriate, in a confidential format.
Amendment to motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.
- ▶ **Motion to Amend:** Zelenock moved, Beliger supported, that the report exclude traffic tickets.
Amendment to motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.
- ▶ **Amended motion:** Dockett moved, Beliger supported, to direct the Township attorneys, (which includes Mr. Burns and any other attorney employed by the Township), to provide in writing to every Board member a synopsis of cases they are working on that includes a brief description of the case and progress on each, but not including traffic tickets. This information is to be delivered by the first of each quarter, or earlier if appropriate, in a confidential format to the Township Manager, to be delivered to each Board member no later than 48 hours after receipt of such information. The effective date of the first submission of documents will be November 1, 2017.

Amended motion carried 7—0 on a roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Board member reported on correspondence received from residents and others about the junk car court case.

AGENDA ITEMS

**1.
Presentation:
Land Preservation Committee**

David Perry, Susan Shink, Julia Henshaw, and Andy Lakatos, members of the Land Preservation Committee, gave a slide presentation about what land preservation is, why it should be done, various mechanisms for doing it, what kind of land should be preserved and how it is

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selected, which local entities have preservation programs (Ann Arbor and five Washtenaw County Townships), how this is funded, and land that has already been preserved in Northfield Township.

They answered questions including how much land has been preserved in Northfield Township already and where the funding for it came from, how the committee will share this information and get input from the public, and what purchase of development rights is vs purchase of land.

**2.
Approval of
Land Preservation Committee By-Laws**

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chockley supported, to approve the by-laws of the Land Preservation Committee, pending approval by the Township attorney.

Board members made comments, including that this is an advisory committee only, not a commission, which has tried to assign to itself duties it has not been assigned, and there is no need for by-laws. They also said compensation is not addressed, there is no need for a Treasurer, “duties” rather than “powers” should be referred to, and taxpayer money should not be used for their goals.

Motion withdrawn.

It was agreed to have the Township attorney review a revised draft and the issue of whether by-laws are appropriate, and allow the Committee to review the revision before bringing it back to the Board. Several Board members expressed their continued support for the group’s efforts.

**3.
Consider MERS
as Township’s Retirement Plan Provider**

Aynes noted the Police Department is already under the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS), and this would cover only full-time employees. The Board asked for fund returns data from MERS and the other two companies considered. It was agreed to delay action until a MERS representative is available to make a presentation to the Board.

**4.
Civic Event Application: Trunk or Treat**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Otto supported, to approve the Civic Event Application for Trunk or Treat on October 22, 2017.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

**5.
DDA Request for Trunk-or-Treat Contribution**

It was agreed that no funding is needed due to donations being provided from community groups and individuals.

**6.
Northfield Human Services
Request to Use Public Safety Building**

Aynes referred to this request to use the building on December 10th and 17th.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to allow the Northfield Human Services Food Pantry to use the upstairs portion of the Police Station for Christmas Adopt a Family and Toys for Tots programs. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote, Zelenock abstaining.**

**7.
Organization Chart**

Board members reviewed the new draft and recommended additional changes.

**8.
Acceptance of Health Department Grant**

Aynes referred to the list of proposed pieces of equipment to be purchased with \$5,000 in grant funding from Washtenaw County. A Board member objected to grant funding in general.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, to accept the \$5,000 grant from Washtenaw County for a new handwashing sink for the Community/Senior Center, replacement three food warmer trays, replacement of four folding tables, pump and parts to repair the well at the Community Garden, and picnic tables (14 estimated) to be used throughout the Township, subject to review and approval by the Township attorney. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Beliger opposed.**

**9.
Resolution 17-574:
Residential Opt-out of Smart Meters**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock supported, that the Township pass Resolution 17-574, in recognition of the concerns of residents about smart meters.

Beliger said House bill 4220 is currently under consideration in the Michigan legislature in support of this. Maynes confirmed that the resolution will have only political, not legal effect, so there is no reason for him to review this. Board members asked for information about the House bill and asked for revisions.

Motion withdrawn.

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**10.
Training Budget
for Township Manager and Controller**

Aynes referred to his written request for funding in excess of the \$500 in the budget for training for himself and the Controller.

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock supported, to approve the training expenditures for the “MTA on the Road” and the Michigan Municipal Executive Annual Conference as presented by the Township Manager. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**11.
Proclamation Congratulating Kiwanis Club of
Whitmore Lake for 70 Years of Exceptional
Service to the Northfield Township Community**

Chockley read the proclamation aloud and noted that Otto and Zelenock are members.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to adopt the *Proclamation Congratulating Kiwanis Club of Whitmore Lake for 70 Years of Exceptional Service to the Northfield Township Community*.

Zelenock called attention to George Brown and Phil Rutledge as members who have been serving the community with Kiwanis for a very long time.

Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

**1.
Electrical Supplier**

Aynes noted he will be bringing information about alternative suppliers for the Township’s account at a future meeting.

10:05 pm

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Joan Steuer, 760 Six Mile Road, Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside Drive, Shannon Thompson, Chuck Steuer, David Gordon, and Sharon Kinney, 9541 Main Street asked whether the Public Safety Building meets all building codes, the junk car court case, grant funding, smart meters, availability to the public of information on police activity, the board retreat, and the Land Preservation Committee.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members made comments about the value of Kiwanis, the name change of Lakeview Street, the Township following its own ordinances, the Land Preservation Committee, and the smart meter resolution, and urged support of local businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

Chockley adjourned the meeting at 10:27 P.M.

Submitted by Lisa Lemble.

Corrections to the originally issued minutes are indicated as follows:
Wording removed is ~~stricken through~~;
Wording added is underlined.

Approved by the Township Board on October 10, 2017.

Kathleen Manley, Clerk

Official minutes of all meetings are available on the Township’s website at http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township_board_of_trustees/