

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
Township Board
Minutes
May 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

PLEDGE

Supervisor Chockley led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present:

Public Safety Director William Wagner
Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Dan Willis
Township Manager Steven Aynes
Township Attorney Paul Burns
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble
Members of the community

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside, Susan Shink, 600 West Joy Road, David Gordon, 5558 Hellner Road, and Faith Wheeler, 371 Grove Street, made comments about the removal of trees along North Territorial by the Road Commission.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS

Dockett objected to Township police officers telling the owner of the Barker Road video store to check for stolen property at his pawn shop. He said he has necessary licenses, he reports as needed to the Police Department, and he has never had a problem with police regarding stolen property.

Other Board members made comments:

- in opposition to using federal grant money,
- about Washtenaw County tax levels,
- about the removal of trees along North Territorial and the need for better communication with the Road Commission,
- about the need for MDOT to replace trees along US-23.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Burns noted that a motion is needed to dismiss the lawsuit regarding the property on Shady Beach since the problem has been addressed.
- Board members:
 - Reported an incident of marijuana being smoked on school property near the Bark Park.
 - announced that appointments to the DDA and Parks and Recreation Committee will be made to fill terms expiring at the end of June.
 - announced the County Cleanup day on June 9th.

**ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA:
Reports**

Board members asked for the Police, Fire, and Wastewater Treatment Plant reports to be pulled for discussion.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that the consent agenda be adopted as amended.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

ADOPT BALANCE OF AGENDA

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, that the balance of the agenda be adopted with the addition of Item 3b, Police and Fire Reports, and Item 7, Dismissal of Shady Beach lawsuit. **Motion carried 4—2 on a roll call vote, Dockett and Zelenock opposed.**

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT

Willis answered a question from Dockett about the recent installation of a pump.

**PRESENTATION:
Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)
Annual Meeting**

Roy Townsend, WCRC Managing Director said the WCRC is working with the County Board to improve procedures regarding projects such as the one that resulted in the removal of trees along North Territorial.

He referred to his letter and report dated May 7th, noting that the State has provided an addition \$175 million for roads this year, but \$2 billion dollars of work is needed. He reviewed the report and the list of recommended projects in Northfield Township. Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, said from an economic standpoint, Dixboro Road is a recommended project, and the Joy Road projects rank high due to the poor condition of that road. He said partnerships with Salem Township and Ann Arbor are possible for those projects. He added that Spencer Road at

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Five Mile is a low cost project that would provide significant improvement, as is the segment of Kearney Road south of 9214 Kearney (not in the report).

Townsend also reviewed available local sources for road funding, including millages and special assessment districts (SADs), noting the success some Townships have had using these sources.

Board members brought up additional specific road issues, and discussed funding sources, the responsibilities of the County and the Township for road maintenance and improvement, the possibility of creating a road subcommittee, and which projects to include in the Township's plan for the next year.

AGENDA ITEMS

1.

**Establish Budget for Road Commission
Annual Work Plan**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to approve a total of \$125,000 for road improvements, maintenance, and three dust control applications, and to authorize Chief Wagner and Mr. ~~Maynes~~ Aynes to work out the details, and to authorize Mr. Aynes to sign the contract with the Road Commission.

Beliger confirmed that this would include the bulleted items in Chockley's memo dated May 2nd, (a section of Kearney Road, the corner of Spencer and Five Mile, and Dixboro between Five Mile and Six Mile, as well as an area north of Six Mile).

Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.

2.

**Resolution 18:585:
Enhanced Communication with
Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to approve Resolution 18:585, Enhanced Communication with Washtenaw County Road Commission.
- ▶ **First Amendment to Motion:** Otto moved, Beliger supported, as follows, to amend the motion as follows:

WHEREAS two of the guiding principles of the WCRC are to promote openness and transparency in decision making and to provide ample opportunities for participation by and communication engagements to the public and local government, and

First Amendment to Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

- ▶ **Second Amendment to Motion:** Beliger moved, Dockett supported, to amend the motion by making the following changes to the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS Northfield Township ~~enlists the~~ recognizes with appreciation the value of the services provided by the WCRC ~~and its efforts to meet the safety needs of the motoring public, and~~

WHEREAS Northfield Township ~~thanks the WCRC for coordinating funding with the Washtenaw County Resources Commission and expediting the replacement of two unexpectedly collapsing culverts that compromised the safety of Township residents, and"~~

WHEREAS the additional guiding principles of the WCRC are to be conscientious stewards of the public's money, ~~to value diversity and its employees, to be sensitive to the environment, and to provide leadership in transportation planning and road system improvement; and~~

WHEREAS there may be alternatives to the removal of healthy historic trees bordering Northfield Township roads,

Second Amendment to Motion failed 2—4 on a roll call vote; Otto, Manley, Chockley, and Zelenock opposed.

Amended motion carried 4—2 on a roll call vote, Beliger and Dockett opposed. Resolution adopted.

3a.

**Police Department
Sergeants Promotion Testing Process**

Chief Wagner explained the proposal and said this is needed to fill two Sergeant positions that are or will soon be available.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Beliger supported, to approve the Sergeants promotional process by the Police Department. **Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

3b.

Fire and Police Reports

Wagner briefly reviewed a plan he will be presenting to use funding from the County mental health millage to better handle police encounters with people with mental illness. He also provided an overview of union contract negotiations and the Board discussed whether the Township Manager or Board members should be involved. The Board complimented police and fire personnel on recent significant incidents.

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4.

**Discussion of the Downtown Development
Agency Authority (DDA) Request to Engage a
Design Engineer: 75 Barker Road**

Chockley referred to her memo of May 3rd explaining the need to hire a design engineer to determine the use options for the building at 75 Barker Road. The Board discussed where the funding would come from, what the cost would be, and the options of demolishing the building or selling the property.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Otto supported, to bid out to get a design engineer to evaluate the fixes needed to be done with 75 Barker, and that the monies come out of the revenue that has been in the 75 Barker revenue fund. **Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Otto supported, to get bids on the cost of an appraisal of 75 Barker Road. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

5.

**Resolution 18-586: Waiving Fees for
Late-filed Property Transfer Affidavits**

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Beliger supported, that Resolution 18-586, Waiving Fees ~~or~~ on Late-filed Property Transfer Affidavits be approved.

Chockley and Manley explained that most communities waive these State-mandated fees which are charged when the buyer of a property or title company fails to file their transfer affidavit.

**Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.
Resolution adopted.**

**6.
Bills**

Aynes answered questions about several bills and said he would find out about a voided payroll check.

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Dockett supported, to not pay the \$250 membership dues to the Huron River Watershed Council.

There was discussion about what this organization does and its value to the Township, and whether the Township should support it.

**Motion failed 2—4 on a roll call vote, Zelenock,
Chockley, Manley, and Otto opposed.**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, to adopt and pay the bills. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

7.

**Dismissal of Lawsuit:
Shady Beach Property**

Burns reported that the house on this Shady Beach property that was subject of this lawsuit has been demolished and the work inspected. He requested approval by the Board to dismiss the lawsuit previously approved by the Board.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, to authorize Paul Burns to dismiss the lawsuit regarding 7725 Shady Beach. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

REPORTS/UPDATES

- *Zoning Board of Appeals.* There was no meeting in April, and the next meeting is May 21st.
- *Planning Commission.* No report.
- *Land Preservation.* May 10th is the next meeting
- *Financial/Treasurer/Fund Balance.* Zelenock noted that total investments at the end of April in CDs were \$1,028,056.20, and negotiations with Huntington Bank to move Township accounts there are continuing.
- *Parks and Recreation.* Beliger reported that the Planning Commission will be considering a recommendation regarding Bark Park rules, and their next meeting is May 17th. She said the committee was told at it does not have the authority to post “no swimming” signs in the North Village Park.
- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Otto supported, that the Parks and Recreation Committee work with Chief Wagner to determine appropriate North Village signage. **Motion carried 6—0 on voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chockley supported, that the Parks and Recreation Committee determine cost, locations, and duration for portable toilets in North Village Park. **Motion carried 6—0 on voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Otto supported, that the Parks and Recreation Committee look at options for trash pickup and costs. **Motion carried 5—1 on voice vote, Dockett opposed.**
- *Supervisor.* Dockett said many members of boards and committees are not residents of the Township so should not be spending Township money.
- *Manager.* In answer to a question, Aynes said he will provide a report to the Board about employee evaluations. Burns advised what can be discussed in open session and when closed sessions may be called regarding personnel matters. There were brief discussions about tax abatement options for the

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downtown area and a list of recommended fees to be waived. Regarding code enforcement, Aynes said the County Prosecutor declined to take action on complaints filed by the Township's code enforcer and against a property owner, so the Township will have to decide how to proceed because the code enforcer is not currently making field inspections.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Dockett supported, to postpone approval of the April 10, 2018, special meeting minutes pending correction.
Beliger withdrew her motion.
- ▶ **Amended motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to adopt the minutes of the special meeting of April 10, 2018 with the addition of: *"Mr. Dockett objected to a police officer suggesting that stolen goods may be at Mr. Dockett's pawn shop"* under First Call to the Public.

Otto also made a minor correction.

Beliger withdrew her original motion. Amended motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of April 10, 2018, with the correction that Zelenock referred to the Fund Balance report, not Chockley.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Beliger supported, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 24, 2018, as presented. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

George Brown, 7868 Shady Beach, said the Horseshoe Lake Corporation supports the County Cleanup Day. David Gordon, commented on the length of Board meetings. Gerry Hermann, 8365 Earhart Road, invited everyone to the June 30th Whitmore Lake 5K run.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members made comments about the 4th of July Parade, taxation in the County, the cost of running the Township, supporting local businesses, a possible special Board meeting on May 22nd, fences being constructed without zoning compliance permits, and amending the Township's tax increment financing (TIF).

ADJOURNMENT

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 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 May 22, 2018.

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/