

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
Township Board
Minutes
January 10, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

PLEDGE/INVOCATION

Supervisor Chockley provided a brief 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	Absent with notice
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present

Also present:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Tim Hardesty
Public Safety Director William Wagner
Community Center Director Tammy Averill
Township Attorney Brad Maynes
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble
Members of the community

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Minutes**
- **Bills**

Otto asked that the Bills be pulled for discussion. Chockley asked that the Minutes be pulled for corrections.

ADOPT BALANCE OF AGENDA

Chockley added a reaffirmation of a rezoning previously acted upon as Item 9 and Bills and Minutes as Item 10.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto supported, that the balance of the agenda be adopted as presented.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Udo Huff, 6431 Whitmore Lake Road, made comments opposed to hiring an interim Township Manager.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Otto replied to Huff's comments, providing information about what would have to be done to eliminate the Township Manager position.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board invited the public to a Community Park Master Plan Public Workshop on Tuesday, January 17th.

REPORTS

Fire and Police. Wagner answered questions about the Fire Inspector, a substitution being used for Epi-Pens, and billing for service calls involving non-Township residents.

Wastewater Treatment Plant. Hardesty answered a question about the Shadowwood Farms pumping station

Senior Center. The Board complimented Averill on increased participation and asked about problems with receiving background checks from the County for the Meals on Wheels program.

Financial. Zelenock reported a problem with office equipment and she is working with the bank regarding a renewal of collateralizing of Township funds.

Parks and Recreation, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Planning Commission. Did not meet.

Supervisor's Report. Chockley referred to her report and provided additional information about the DEQ's Redevelopment Ready Community program and the January 21st Board retreat, and the Board briefly discussed upcoming road improvement projects and a planned presentation by the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS

1.

Proclamation in Honor of Debra Mozurkewich

Tabled to February 14th to allow family members to attend.

2.

Appointments

a. Planning Commission. Amy Steffens, John Zarzecki, Cecilia Infante, David Gordon, Craig Warburton, and Ken Dignan spoke about their interest in serving, their experience and other qualifications, and their vision for the Township.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, that John Zarzecki be appointed to the Planning Commission for the term ending December 31,c017.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, that Amy Steffens be appointed to the Planning Commission for the three year term ending December 31, 2019. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

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- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, that Cecilia Infante be appointed to the Planning Commission for the three year term ending December 31, 2019. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

b. Zoning Board of Appeals.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that Stephen Safranek be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the three year term ending December 31, 2019. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that Jeff Lehrke be appointed as alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the three year term ending December 31, 2019. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

c. Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. David Perry, Susan Shink, Michael O'Shea, Julia Henshaw, Victor Volkman, Mary Robinson, Beverly Patterson, Jacob Donner, and Patrick Kelley, spoke about their interest in serving, their experience and other qualifications. Chockley said she sees this committee operating for one or two years.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Chockley supported, that Patrick Kelley be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Chick supported, that Michael O'Shea be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Chick supported, that Mary Robinson be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, that Susan Shink be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Chockley supported, that Julia Henshaw be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Otto supported, that Jacob Donner be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Beliger supported, that David Perry be appointed to the Farmland and Natural Areas Preservation Committee. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

d. Board of Review. Removed from the agenda.

**3.
Planning Commission Amendment
to the Zoning Ordinance:
Ordinance 16-53**

Township Planner Patrick Sloan, McKenna Associates, referred to his memo of December 23, 2016, and explained the proposal to eliminate the ES-Enterprise Service district, the HC-Highway Commercial District and rezoning all of those parcels to GC-General Commercial and make several other text amendments related to these changes.

Chockley said while these are overall excellent changes, she expressed concern about some uses (e.g. hotels, motels, auto repair) previously allowed in HC being allowed within one-half mile of expressways in GC zoning. She suggested making them conditional uses. She also expressed concern that the legal notice for the public hearing where this change was proposed did not provide sufficient information of this change. Larry Roman, Planning Commissioner, said he agrees with Chockley's comments.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that proposed Ordinance 16-53 be remanded to the Planning Commission for further consideration of uses allowed in GC zoning within one-half mile of expressway interchanges. **Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.**

**4.
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association
Agreement Renewal**

Wagner explained this is a formal agreement for mutual response between Northfield Township and other governmental agencies.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto supported, that the Amended Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Association Agreement be approved as presented subject to a review by Township legal counsel. **Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.**

**5.
Summer Homes Parks Parcels**

Chockley referred to information from the County Treasurer about three parcels in the Summer Homes Subdivision which are facing foreclosure for past due taxes. Chockley asked for permission to contact the owners to see if they are interested in deeding the properties to the Township as part of the acquisition of land in that area for future use as parkland.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chockley supported, that the Supervisor be authorized to contact owners of three parcels in the Summer Homes Subdivision to pursue quit claim deeds to the Township in lieu of payment of taxes. **Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.**

**6.
Cobalt Community Research: Citizen Survey**

Chockley reported she spoke with a Cobalt representative who indicated they would agree to a six month extension

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of the contract. Beliger noted the Township could opt to have Cobalt return almost \$4,000 to the Township rather than having them continue to work on the survey. She said the survey is not needed. Chick explained that a community survey is required before the next review of the Master Plan.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to approve an extension of the Township's contract with Cobalt Research through August 30, 2017, as noted in the letter from Cobalt. **Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Chick opposed because she prefers to move forward with the project now.**

**7.
Huron River Watershed Council:
Letter of Support**

Chockley said she would like to send a letter from the Township to the Huron River Watershed Council in support of grant funding they are seeking.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, to send the letter of support dated January 10, ~~2016~~ 2017, to the Huron River Watershed Council. **Motion carried 5—1 on a voice vote, Beliger opposed.**

**8.
Costs and Consideration
of Hiring an Interim Township Manager**

Chockley referred to information about the possibility of hiring an interim Township Manager. Otto and Chick said until this issue is decided there will be problems with staff performing non-statutory duties, which must be paid for separately and approved by the Board. The Board discussed the distribution of duties prior to the hiring of the Township Manager and the way they were handled after the hiring of Fink. Chockley noted this will be discussed in depth at the Board retreat.

**9.
Reaffirm Zoning**

Chockley explained that the notice of a rezoning approved at the December 13th meeting was published too late, so that action needs to be reaffirmed.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, to reaffirm the rezoning of the Washtenaw County Road Commission request to rezone Parcel 02-21-300-004 from RTM-Research Technology and Manufacturing to LI-Limited Industrial. **Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.**

**10.
Bills and Minutes**

Otto asked about what could be a double payment for assessing services and Beliger asked about engineering expenses for a grant. Chockley said having descriptions of payments would be helpful. It was agreed the Supervisor should be authorized to approve invoices, which was something previously done by the Township Manager.

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Chick supported, to authorize the Supervisor to approve invoices in the interim. **Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.**

Chockley corrected the spelling of a name in the December 13th meeting minutes and eliminated an unnecessary word.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, that the minutes of the December 13, 2017, regular meeting be approved as corrected and to dispense with the reading. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members thanked those appointed to Commissions and committees and others who were interested, thanked outgoing members of those groups for their service, and reminded the community to attend the Community Park Master Plan Public Workshop on Tuesday, January 17th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 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 February 14, 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/