

# NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

## Township Board

### Minutes

#### August 29, 2017

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

#### PLEDGE

Trustee Chick provided an invocation and 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	Present
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
Wayne Dockett, Trustee	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present

Also present:

Public Safety Director William Wagner  
Township Attorney Brad Maynes  
Township Manager Steven Aynes  
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

Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside, made comments about the Township Manager, People's Express, and flooding in Texas. Brant Johnson, Okemos, representing a Township property owner, spoke about medical marijuana.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members made comments about a letter received at a prior meeting, the request for funding from People's Express, the property tax payment deadline, supporting appropriate development in the Township, car sales under the zoning ordinance, and communication with the public about local road construction.

#### CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Township Manager Report.* Aynes briefly reviewed his report highlighting financial and sewer issues, and reported that he received notice today that the Township has been awarded a SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater) grant from the State of Michigan.

*August 8, 2017, Special Election Expenditure.* Dockett noted the reported preliminary cost for this special August election was \$4,381, and he asked for this to be on the agenda again when the full costs are known.

*Board Retreat.* Chockley reported on possible dates for this.

#### PRESENTATIONS

1.

##### Parks & Recreation Funding Proposal

Sam Iaquinto, Chair of the Parks & Recreation Board referred to the proposal for a total of \$5,000 in funding for the Committee (\$1,000 each for the Community Garden, Bark Park, and Riverwalk, and \$2,000 for the Community Park). He said they are also proposing that Parks & Recreation manage the Community Park. Township Board members made brief comments, including noting that not all of the former Van Curler property will be park. Iaquinto provided details about how the funds would be used, and there was discussion about whether the specific expenditures must be approved by the Board.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chick supported, that \$5,000 be allocated in the budget for the Parks & Recreation Board. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

2.

##### People's Express (PE) Funding Request

Jim Purrington, a member of the People's Express Board of Directors, referred to written information about the services provided, noting that \$30,000 in services was provided for the \$10,000 in funding from the Township. Purrington and Zelenock confirmed that federal and Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) funding is leveraged with the Township's support, and they answered questions about the contract period and insurance coverage.

Board members made comments about People's Express' exemption from property taxes in the township, other options at equal or lower cost for residents to receive the same service, funding from other townships, and benefits resident receive from this service.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Chick supported, to accept the agreement with People's Express, Inc. for \$10,000 to continue with the contract from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018, upon review by the Township's legal counsel, subject to showing liability insurance increased from \$3 million to \$5 million. **Motion carried 4—2—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett and Beliger opposed, Zelenock abstaining.**

**Northfield Township Board Meeting  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street  
August 29, 2017**

**3.  
Code Enforcement**

Michael Rankin, Township Code Enforcement officer reviewed ordinance violation complaints and methods for dealing with them. He said these include blight and nuisance issues (junk, old vehicles, dangerous buildings, noise from people and animals, etc.), neighbor disputes about encroachments and unwanted activities, parking, pet problems, multiple vehicles for sale on the same property, broken and blocked sidewalks, and conditional use permit violations. He said some people are not aware of ordinances, and some do not have the means to comply. He described roadblocks to resolving issues, including lack of legal access to property, lack of resources to identify owners of vehicles, and lack of mechanism to attach liens to properties. He provided a list of his enforcement activities.

The Board briefly discussed possible roadblocks to solutions, including updating township ordinances to ease restrictions where appropriate. They thanked Rankin for his work, and noted that they hear from residents who have appreciated his help. It was agreed he should work with the Township attorney and Aynes regarding possible ordinance changes.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1.  
Fire Truck Purchase**

Chief Wagner said this proposed purchase of a tanker pumper combines two pieces of apparatus the Township currently has as part of a plan to reduce the amount of equipment, noting it would cost over \$700,000 to purchase two separate vehicles. In answer to questions he reviewed the source of funding, said this truck has an expected life of 20 years, and said about \$90,000 will be realized from the sale of the equipment being sold.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to authorize Purchase Order 2017-0000100 for Smeal Holding LLC to purchase the 2500 gallon pumper tanker, and to authorize the Township Manager to sign the purchase order.

The Board discussed that the issue of whether to pay for the chassis when it is available, with a savings of approx. \$6,000, is not being addressed at this point, nor is whether additional savings could be realized by making other payments early.

**Chockley requested a roll call vote. Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

**2.  
Re-Appointment of Chuck Steuer  
to Parks & Recreation Board**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that Chuck Steuer be reappointed to the Parks & Recreation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2020.

There was discussion about the process for making appointments to Township boards and commissions, including how residents should indicate interest, who can make a nomination, and whether an application should be required.

**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**3.  
Non-Permanent Park Path**

Beliger referred to the drawing showing proposed 4'-8' wide footpaths in the Community Park. She said materials and labor will be donated, with paths created using woodchips and mowing, and she and the Parks & Recreation Board will manage the project. Sources of free woodchips were suggested. Maynes said Aynes will confirm that Township liability insurance covers this activity.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chick supported, to give the Parks & Recreation Board authorization to start construction of the non-permanent path as depicted in the Board passage packet, subject to approval of the Township's liability carrier. **Dockett requested a roll call vote. Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

**4.  
First National Bank Security Agreement**

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chockley supported, to authorize the Township Treasurer to execute the First National Bank security agreement as reviewed by the Township attorney, which showed an expiration date of December 31, 2016, contingent upon the date being changed to December 31, 2017. **Motion carried 5—2 on a roll call vote, Dockett and Beliger opposed**

**5.  
Morgan Stanley  
Authorized Persons and Enabling Resolutions**

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Manley supported, to adopt the Morgan Stanley enabling resolution 572 as contained in the Board packet. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed. Resolution adopted.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Otto supported, to authorize the Treasurer to execute the Morgan Stanley Authorized Persons agreement contained in the Board packet. **Chockley requested a roll call vote. Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

**Northfield Township Board Meeting  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street  
August 29, 2017**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1.  
Organizational Chart**

Otto referred to the organization chart dated January 22, 2013, and noted that the Controller reports to the Township Manager, not the Treasurer and Supervisor as had been discussed.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved to update the organizational chart to include the Ordinance Officer as reporting to the Township Manager.

Board members and Maynes suggested additional changes.

**Otto withdrew her motion to allow the chart to be updated and presented for approval at the next meeting.**

**SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Brant Johnson, Okemos, Bryan Azar, 78998 Dixboro Road, and Jerry Gerry Hermann, 8365 Earhart Road, made comments about medical marijuana usage and allowing related businesses in the Township.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board members made comments about taxes, donations to the Township, support for the people of the flooded Houston area, medical marijuana, shopping locally, plans for the Community Park property (including possible private development), and the Downtown Strategic Plan,

**ADJOURNMENT**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, that the meeting be adjourned.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 P.M.

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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 September 12 2017.

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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/](http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township_board_of_trustees/)