

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP Township Board Minutes August 13, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

PLEDGE/INVOCATION

Beliger 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, Trustee	Present
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
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

ADOPT AGENDA

Zelenock asked for the *Assignment of FOIA Coordinator Assistants* and the *Wastewater Treatment Plant Report* to be pulled for discussion. Beliger asked for *Open bills* to be pulled, and Dockett asked for *Paid Bills* to be pulled.

There was discussion about the need for Board members to ask for changes to the agenda before the draft is finalized. Dockett said most items in the Consent Agenda need to be discussed.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger seconded, that the agenda be adopted as amended. **Motion carried 6—1 on a voice vote, Otto opposed.**

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jamie Howe, 426 East Shore Drive, Mary Barnett, 428 East Shore Drive, Bob Stuber, owner of 429 East Shore Drive, and Patricia Dallaire, 433 East Shore Drive, asked for code enforcement of the property at 424 East Shore Drive which has numerous violations including installations in the required 50 foot wetland setback, construction equipment stored on the property, and unsightly weeds. Howe said she brought this to the attention of the Board a year ago.

Stan Wutka, 5985 Leland Drive, said the actual figure for Northfield Township residents voting in favor of the 2018 Statewide marijuana initiative was 63.8%, and he offered suggestions for the Township to improve communication with residents.

David Gordon, 5558 Hellner Road, spoke in opposition to the construction of a sewer equalization basin.

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSE

Board members thanked the neighbors for bringing the problems at 424 East Shore to the attention of the Board. Aynes said he will check on the status of enforcement. Burns said the code enforcement officer can write tickets, and the Board can authorize him to bring a suit against the owner. Otto asked for an update on code enforcement regarding a house on Horseshoe Lake.

Manley said she can add an informational message to sewer bills without additional cost to the Township.

Dockett asked about problems with the Township phones earlier in the day and the air conditioning, and suggested updating the Community Center sign. Manley thanked Wagner for an active shooter staff training earlier in the day.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Beliger seconded, that the meeting end at 9:00 P.M. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Aynes said he will be bringing information to the Board about addressing the issue of short term rentals in Township ordinances.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Dockett seconded, that when the North Village development comes back to the Board that it be scored according to the synthesis plan developed. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- July 23, 2019 minutes
- Resolution 19-609; Temporary Road Closure for Homecoming Parade
- Reports, except WWTP

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley seconded, that the consent agenda be adopted as listed. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Zelenock opposed.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beliger noted:

- Small Potatoes is doing a good job of cleaning up the building on Main Street for their catering business.
- The sidewalk replaced at 50 East Shore looks good.
- East Shore storm drains (near Walnut) need to be replaced or repaired.
- The active shooter class presented today for staff and officials by Wagner was excellent.
- Calvary Baptist Church thanked the Township for supporting their open house.

AGENDA ITEMS

1A.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Report

Zelenock and Beliger thanked Police, Fire, and the WWTP staff for their support during a recent power outage.

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Zelenock asked if any additional equipment, such as generators, are needed for these types of events. Willis said what they have is sufficient unless outages become more frequent. In answer to another question, Willis said a recent report showed the plant is in compliance with current regulations for biosolids.

In answer to a question from Dockett, Willis said \$5,000 spent was for a 15-20 year old roll-up door that was corroded.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock seconded, to accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant report.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

**1B.
Fire Station #2
Budgeted Roof Repair and Replacement**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick seconded, to approve Chief Wagner to spend not to exceed \$23,000 for the roof replacement at Fire Station #2 contingent upon the contractor providing proof of insurance.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

**2.
Budgeted Purchase of New Body Armor**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto seconded, to approve the Police Department to purchase body armor for all officers with expired equipment at a cost not to exceed \$24,500.00.

It was noted funding is coming from the Narcotic Fund.

Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

**3.
Budgeted Purchase of
Two New Police Vehicles**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick seconded, to approve the Police Department to purchase 2 Chevy Tahoes from Champion Chevrolet for a total of \$76,686.02.

Wagner noted equipment from an existing vehicle will be used to outfit one of these vehicles to lower the cost, one of the existing vehicles will be sold at auction, and the other will replace another vehicle which in turn will be sold.

The Board discussed three recent accidents involving Police and Fire Department staff and vehicles, what steps should be taken when accidents happen, and whether anything can or should be done to prevent future accidents.

Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

**4.
Discuss Equalization Basin
Design Engineering Options**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto seconded, to proceed with using Tetra Tech for Engineering Services related to the design and construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Equalization Basin subject to Board and Township Attorney review and approval of the

Tetra Tech contract to be submitted to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 27, 2019.

The Board discussed the differing views of whether a basin is needed and why. Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent said the basin is needed with or without additional development. He said nearby communities were hit yesterday with 6" of rain and had to release sewage into a river. He said that has not happened here, but if it did they would probably also have to dump untreated sewage. He said they have come close to doing so in the past and have released partially treated sewage.

Aynes reviewed the history of Board consideration of this project, and explained the costs involved. Dockett objected to not putting the engineering work out to bid. Chockley and Otto listed reasons for staying with Tetra Tech.

Chockley referred to information she had provided about direct purchase of bonds from banks. She noted she has been receiving many phone calls expressing interest in development in the Township.

Otto said she has learned that Dundee was recently forced to install a basin after being sued. Chick said she contacted Evan Pratt, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, about this, who said release of any sewage into the system, even if partially treated, is too much. She recalled that the last WWTP Superintendent also supported construction of a basin.

Willis said the Township's sewer plant is too small to be high on the MDEQ's list for enforcement.

Zelenock listed reasons in support of not building a basin including:

- Tetra Tech has been saying this basin is needed for 30 years, yet the plant has been running without it.
- Existing customers would have to pay for this, rather than new customers.
- This has been the wettest spring in years and the plant has been able to handle the flows.
- The DEQ indicates the capacity of the plant is sufficient as is.
- Construction could be more expensive in the current booming economy than later.

She suggested surveying the public ask if they are willing to pay for this or for other things such as keeping the North Village property as a park or for more road improvements. Willis questioned running the WWTP by popular vote.

Otto said delaying infrastructure needs, such as roads and sidewalks, leads to them deteriorating further, and that is not the way to manage the Township assets. Dockett said a basin will not give the plant any additional capacity.

Motion carried 4—3 on a roll call vote, Dockett, Zelenock, and Beliger opposed.

**5.
Application to MDOT for Mural
near Barker Road Play Path**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick seconded, to approve the letter of support for the mural and the Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

6.
**Discuss Goals and Priorities
in Context of Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto seconded, to table discussion of Goals and Priorities to the end of the meeting if there is time for discussion then.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

7.
Assign FOIA Coordinator Assistants

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger seconded, to designate the following individuals as FOIA Coordinator Assistants:
 - Jennifer Carlisle
 - Cristina Wilson
 - Shannon Clark
 - Susanna Hamilton

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

8.
Approve Payment of Open Bills (expected check run date 8/14/19) for a total of \$107,034.26 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick seconded, to approve payment of open bills (expected check run date 8/14/19) for a total of \$107,034.26 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account.
- ▶ **Amendment to motion:** Beliger moved, Dockett seconded, to remove dues to Huron River Watershed Council from open bills. **Amendment to motion failed 5—2 on a roll call vote, Manley, Zelenock, Chick, Chockley, and Otto opposed.**

Dockett said he wants to see the bills for the color printing and mailing of the township newsletter, and objected to how much space was taken up by articles by the Supervisor rather than the Manager.

Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Beliger opposed.

9.
Accept Check Disbursement Report for Paid Bills (check date from 7/9/18 - 8/8/19) for a total of \$158,931.73 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger seconded, to accept the check disbursement report for paid bills (check date from 7/9/18 - 8/8/19) for a total of \$158,931.73

from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

TRUSTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock seconded to accept all Trustee and Liaison reports.
Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mary Barnett, Jamie Howe, and Bob Stuber again asked for the Township to swiftly take code enforcement action regarding 424 East Shore Drive.

David Gordon said meetings should be run on time, the code enforcement issue cited should not have gone this long, the air conditioning and sound system in the building should be improved, and objected to construction of a sewer retention basin. Jim Nelson, 7777 Sutton, said the SAW grant report about the condition of the sewer system should be reviewed before making decisions about the sewer system.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members made comments, including:

- Thanked the property owners on East Shore for bringing the code violations to the attention of the Board, said the inaction was not acceptable, asked Aynes to address this as soon as possible, and asked for a review of why progress has not been made on enforcement.
- Asked the public to support local businesses.
- Noted the Township has a very large number of documents regarding the sewer basin issue for review by the public. Said the Board has been delaying action on this issue, but took action tonight rather than waiting until it is too late or damage is done.
- Thanked everyone who voted last Tuesday, and noted election workers will be needed for November.
- Made suggestions for improving the agenda.
- Reported the proposal to ban marijuana businesses in the Township was submitted to the County for inclusion on the November 5th ballot.
- Asked everyone to look at the photos in the back of the Supervisor report.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 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 August 27, 2019.

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/