

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP  
Township Board  
Minutes  
June 27, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 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	Present
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
Wayne Dockett, Trustee	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present

Also present:  
Public Safety Director William Wagner  
Township Attorney Paul Burns  
Township Attorney Stacy Belisle  
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble  
Members of the community

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Otto asked Item 1 be split into three parts. Maynes corrected the title of Item 8.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that agenda be adopted as amended. Zelenock called for a roll call vote. Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Zelenock opposed.

**FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No comments.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chockley noted that she removed appointments to the DDA, Board of Review, Parks & Recreation, and Land Preservation Committee due to lack of applicants. She urged interested residents to apply. Dockett noted that old Board members can also nominate candidates.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1.**

**Township Manager  
Employment Agreement & Salary**

a. *Township Manager Job Description as Amended by the Labor Attorney.*

Otto noted the amended description has not been approved by the Board.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Beliger supported, to approve the amended job description for the Township Manager. Motion carried 7—0 on a roll call vote.

**b. Township Manager Employment Agreement.**

The Board discussed changes to be made including the reporting hierarchy, the effective date, presentation of performance review, benefits, and severance.

c. *Township Manager Salary.* Chockley noted she had placed \$60,000 in the budget.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that negotiations for the Township Manager annual salary begin at \$60,000. Dockett called for a roll call vote. Motion carried 5—2 on a roll call vote, Dockett and Zelenock opposed.

**2.**

**Authorize Labor Counsel to Begin Negotiations  
for Township Manager Position**

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Belisle supported, that the authorization for labor counsel to begin negotiations for the Township Manager position be tabled to July 11, 2017. Motion carried 7—0 on a roll call vote.

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Chockley recessed the meeting briefly.

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**3.**

**Land Preservation Committee  
Plan and Budget Request**

Zelenock recalled that the Board had requested that the committee prepare this budget request. A committee member briefly reviewed the content and need for the funding. The Board asked about the services a consultant would provide and how committee members could participate. Beliger said this proposal changes the original purpose and goals of the committee.

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Dockett supported, that the Farmland and Preservation Committee be dissolved July 25, 2017, at which time the committee will present to the Board their final report regarding strategies that would benefit the Township.

Committee member Julia Henshaw spoke in opposition, and Board members commented pro and con.

Motion failed 2—5 on a roll call vote, Chick, Otto, Manley, Chockley, and Zelenock opposed.

4.  
**Presentation, Public Hearing & Discussion:  
Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget  
and  
6.  
Resolution 17-567: General Appropriations Act  
Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget**

Chockley made a slide presentation and the Board discussed possible adjustments, as well items not funded, including building improvements and master planning.

Chockley distributed a revised version of the General Appropriations Act which included several corrections. There was discussion about whether to amend it to remove funding for the items discussed (Preservation and Parks & Recreation committees, staff salary increases, and escrow planner). It was agreed that could be done later.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Manley supported, to approve the Northfield Township General Appropriations Act, Resolution 17-567, as revised. **Motion carried 5—2 on a roll call vote, Dockett and Beliger opposed. Resolution adopted.**

5.  
**Resolution 17-566:  
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Amendment #5**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, to approve Resolution 17-566 amending the 2017 (current year) budget. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed. Resolution adopted.**

7.  
**Life and Disability Insurance Contract Renewal**

Chockley distributed a revised schedule, noting the rates are for two years and the agent is recommending MetLife at a lower premium than the current policy.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to approve the proposal from MetLife for life and long-term disability insurance. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

8.  
**Synagro (Sludge Hauler) Contract Assignment**

Maynes explained Synagro is being taken over by another company. He recommended that when the original

contract expires at the end of the year he review the new contract.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to authorize the Township Supervisor to execute the Assignment, Assumption, and Novation Agreement between Synagro and Michigan Agribusiness Solutions, LLC. **Motion carried 7—0 on a roll call vote.**

9.  
**Berends, Hendrick & Stuit  
Liability Insurance Contract Renewal**

Chockley noted the cost of the policy is going down for this one year renewal.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, that the Township enter into the contract with Berends, Hendrick & Stuit for liability insurance. **Motion carried 5—2 on a roll call vote, Dockett and Beliger opposed.**

**SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

David Gordon, 5558 Hellner Road, and Jim Nelson, 7777 Sutton Road, commented on issues including the Township Manager job description, the cost of the Township Manager position, and Board opposition to funding for committees.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board members wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, asked that everyone shop locally and keep first responders and members of the military in their thoughts, thanked Chockley for her work on the budget, commented on proposed budget changes, and noted donations can be made to Township projects.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board members and Wagner reviewed 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Fireworks, and boat race information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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/)