

Norwood Township Board of Trustees Meeting
Approved Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2020
Norwood Township Hall

Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance – by all present

Roll Call – Warner-present, Freds-present, Ridenour-present, Smolenyak-present, Spilis-present

Approval of July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes, MM by Warner to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by Spilis. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment related to Agenda –

Bill Gnodtke, Norwood Village Resident, asked to speak about the Agenda item pertaining to the Bike Trail. Gnodtke stated he has had communication with the Township Supervisor, Clipperview Residents and Lake Shore Resident who have all had concerns about the proposed Bike Trail. Gnodtke asked the representatives that were at the meeting from the Trails Council to address the requirements they have had to meet, how other Townships have contributed and if the archeological sites have been discussed. Gnodtke spoke on the concerns he had with the Norwood Township Park as being a trailhead for the bike trail and the maintenance of the Park if this is the case. There were questions on if the Charlevoix County Road Commission and M-DOT have been conferred with and why the Township residents seem to find out more from the paper than from the Trails Counsel.

Approval of Agenda – MM by Warner to approve Agenda as presented, 2nd by Smolenyak. Motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor’s Report –

Bill Gnodtke attended the July 22, 2020 Charlevoix Board of Commissioners Meeting and presented a case to the Board to have Norwood Road resurfaced. The Commissioner voted 5-0 to approve the resurfacing of Norwood Road in 2021. Supervisor thanked Mr. Gnodtke for his presentation to the Board.

All FEMA forms are up to date, including Plats and drawings. These are available for review at the Township Hall.

Received an email from Tipp of the Mitt Watershed to notify the Township that there is Grant Funding from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and Petoskey/Harbor Springs Area Communication Foundation. This Grant provides assistance to local governments within Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. The Grant will help perform an assessment of the Master Plan so Supervisor will immediately take action for the grant help.

Supervisor and Trustee Spilis attended a meeting on August 5, 2020 with Michigan State Police, Charlevoix County Road Commission and Charlevoix County Sheriff Vondra regarding issues with the parking at the north end of Lake Shore Drive in Clipperview. The CCRC states they will not allow No Parking Signs but Pat Harmon will discuss the problem of the parking with Tom Copenhaver from the DNR. Supervisor said they will look at possible Grants available through Charlevoix County to put in gravel parking lot but for now signs will be posted to park off the roads surface to allow turn around area.

Supervisor advised of complaint received regarding mobile home resident's domestic issue in the Village of Norwood. Complaint has been registered with the Township Attorney and Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department.

Supervisor and Treasurer will be meeting with Morton Builders tomorrow, August 18, 2020 to discuss the final contract to start construction of the new Township Hall. Supervisor now has all the information so he can submit to Township Attorney Bryan Graham to finalize the A99 contract with Charlevoix State Bank. Ridenour discussed the walls will now be paneled rather than have steel walls so increased cost for that. A new total of project including updated electrical and plumbing was presented to the Board. Further discussion under New Business.

Treasurer's Report –

Fund Balances: as of 07/31/2020	General:	\$ 48,804.28 (Chx State Bank)
	Vanguard:	294,155.89
	(Vanguard includes \$45,000 improvements)	
	Total:	\$342,960.17
	Road:	40,017.98
	Emergency:	78,872.61
	Phragmites:	8,260.82
	(includes \$1,405 for Frank Hamilton fund)	
	Tax Fund:	83,732.08

Clerk's Report –

Preapproved:	\$ 154.00 (GLE)
Unapproved:	\$ 35,646.35 (includes EMS Invoice)
Totals:	\$ 35,800.35

MM by Warner to approve Clerk's Report to pay bills, 2nd by Spilis. Motion carried 5-0.

Freds reported there were 292 voters for the primary elections and thanked her great election team

Trustee's Report –

Warner reported that the PC discussed the Cleland S.U.P. Public Hearing which will take place at the September PC Meeting. Warner also reported on the complaints regarding the

parking of DTE contractors at the AM Mfg property. PC will not do anything since just temporary.

Spilis reported DTE is on their last leg at Clipperview installing natural gas lines and there are three new homes being constructed in Clipperview Subdivision which will help the tax base. Spilis also reported on the July 22 meeting with Michigan State Police, CCRC and Charlevoix County Sheriff. Spilis stated they compromised on posting a “No Parking on Road” sign. Spilis also reported on how Townships are focusing on Mask usage and Norwood should do the same.

Zoning Administrator’s Report-Supervisor stated the ZA report is on line.

Old Business –

EMS Authority 2020 Billing-

Ridenour reported on meeting of the five Township Supervisors (Norwood, Marion, Hayes, Eveline, Charlevoix) and the City of Charlevoix Manager. Supervisor Ridenour will be requesting an independent Audit of the City of Charlevoix to have a better understanding on why \$500,000.00 revenue shortage on a \$1.4 million budget and no details on billing, etc. City said the shortfall is mostly due to the amount repaid to the City from Medicare billings. There will be a meeting set up after Labor Day to discuss how the Townships are going to proceed. There is a possibility to start and EMS authority for the five Townships which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ridenour was concerns that the City billing has been delayed after the Township has budgeted for their fiscal year and the billing for the previous fiscal year did not get sent out until the new fiscal year. Ridenour also noted there is a possibility to partner with Torch Lake Township for EMS services and will contact Torch Lake Supervisor to discuss. There was discussion regarding concerns of the Torch Lake EMS service but it was noted that Torch Lake will be adding ALS (Advanced Life Support) in the near future. There was also discussion that the cost for EMS should be proportionate to the use for the Township.

New Business –

Ryan Deery Charlevoix Library Director Presentation-

Deery said he is happy to be the new Director of the Library. He is from Petoskey but has worked for Libraries in Allegan and Suttons Bay. Deery wanted to inform the Township of the Public Cares Act for Digital Access in Rural Areas. Would like to put in better internet access hot spots which could be obtained from a grant which pays for better equipment but not for data. Deery stated he spoke to the Library Board and would hope to cost share for cost to provide this. The cost is \$90.00 per month for 30gb and would like to share 50% cost. Discussion by Township Board regarding presentation but no decision made on the proposal.

Nakwema Trailway Presentation from Elizabeth Calcutt from Networks Northwest and Brent Bolin, Trails Council President-

Presentation included a review of the current bike trails which includes 200+ miles of trails from Charlevoix to Petoskey to Harbor Springs and Alanson to Pellston to Mackinaw City. Would like to connect Charlevoix to Elk Rapids and Traverse City which would mean going through Norwood Township. DNR and Trails Council will fund and maintain trail. Funds from Trails Council are 60% from public fund raising and 40% from private donations and there is a funding strategy underway to complete the trail.

The concerns the Board had was how a plan and funding are put together that would benefit the Township. Supervisor stated the concept of going through proposed properties is not an option. Smolenyak said Norwood does not feel it has ever been in favor of the Township Park as a Trailhead for the path. The presenters stated that about 55% if users of the paths are local residents and hopes the Council and Township can work together.

New Police Power Ordinance on the Norwood Beach Discussion-

Discussion on the problems at the park including parking, garbage being left, drinking, loud music and not being family oriented. Board agreed that sign at the park needs to state that if rules are not followed then violators will be prosecuted. Ridenour stated that when the new hall is built there will be security cameras that could identify violators. Other options could be to not allow alcohol, administer fees, remove fire pits or hire someone to police the use. Warner stated there is already a Police Power Ordinance in place for the park so the Township just needs to update the sign and enforce the rules. Freds and Smolenyak both stated they use the park quite a bit and feel the park has been used by families and does feel there is an issue other than the parking and garbage. Both stated that if the private property owners around the park have issues they should call law enforcement and the Supervisor should advise them of such. Further discussion tabled to future meeting.

Venetian Festival Donation Discussion-

Supervisor stated a donation for the festival was not in the 2020-2021 budget since the festival was canceled due to COVID-19. Board agreed not to donate.

Millage Rate Request-

Request must be in to the State by September 30, 2020 to get on to the winter tax bill. Maximum request can be .1698, .9602 for Roads and .9736 for Emergency Fund.

MM by Warner to accept the 2020 millage rates, 2nd by Smolenyak. Motion carried to approve 5-0.

Morton Buildings & Performance Engineer Contracts-

Discussion on fund balances for the completion of the new Township Hall.

MM by Warner to approve the Supervisor and Treasurer to sign the completed contracts from Morton Builders and Performance Engineers, 2nd by Freds. Motion carried to approve by role call vote: Spilis-aye, Smolenyak-aye, Warner-aye, Freds-aye, Ridenour-aye. Approved 5-0.

Announcements & Correspondence –

Next Township Board Meeting will be September 21, 2020 at 7:00pm. Norwood Township Hall unless otherwise noted on Township Web Site due to COVID-19.

Public Comment –

Tom Richards, resident of South Lake Shore Drive, Banks Township and former City Manager of Harbor Springs stated he has worked on the Trails project. He suggested to the Township Board to look for a balance on attracting visitors from outside of Township and for enhancing the quality of life. Richards stated he would be happy to help in anyway the Township needs regarding the trail.

Tom Mielke, Norwood Township Resident, stated he feels the Board should have voted on whether to donate to the Venetian Festival. Mielke also said he feels the Board should continue to police the activities at the Township Park and should not allow alcohol use. Mielke went on to say he is excited about the bike path and since he is an avid bike rider he feels anyone using path would police themselves regarding the misuse of the trail.

Shari M. Jones, Recording Secretary spoke about how the EMS billing should not be an issue and that bills should go out quarterly as they are scheduled and not delayed. Jones stated each month the EMS reports should be turned in to the City's Treasurer's office so invoices can be sent out to generate revenue and feels the short fall could not be just based on slow or minimal payments by Medicare and suggested an audit would be a good idea.

Jones also said she feels the bike trail is not a bad idea and agreed with Mielke that the riders would pick up after themselves and not cause issues. Jones also stated she had talked to some families that have been using the park beach and have not complained about any issues other than the parking and if anyone has complaints they should call law enforcement. Jones also stated she felt that the Township should still continue to give to the Venetian Festival even if no festival due to COVID because work goes into organizing festival all year long.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Jones, Norwood Township Recording Secretary