

NORWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2015
Norwood Township Hall

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

Pledge of allegiance -

Roll Call – Spilis – Excused absence; Warner, Pajtas, Hamilton, Smolenyak – All present

Approval of Minutes – Board meeting of August 17, 2015

MM by Warner to approve minutes as published; 2nd Pajtas; all Ayes - MC

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Approval of Agenda – Pajtas requests addition of appointment of new ZBA member under New Business.

MM by Warner to approve agenda as amended; 2nd Smolenyak; all Ayes - MC

Supervisor’s Report – Bill Gnodtke & Supervisor Hamilton met with Charlevoix County subcommittee of Buildings & Grounds at their request regarding legality pertaining to financing of Township roads. The topic was referred to the County’s attorneys (who are also Norwood Township’s attorneys), but response is still pending.

Mike Spilis is home again recuperating from his surgery but it isn’t known if he is up to visitors as yet.

<u>Treasurer’s Report</u> –	Fund balances:	General	\$ 163,718.02
(As of 8/31/2015)		Road	129,261.59
		Emergency	4,233.65
		Tax balance	103,652.12

Summer taxes are still payable to Treasurer, but are subject to penalty in addition to tax amount.

<u>Clerk’s Report</u> –	Preapproved:	\$ 310.82
	Unapproved:	20,232.44
	Total:	\$ 20,543.26

Unapproved figures include payroll for the 3rd quarter & also about \$ 2,100.00 over anticipated charges of tree removal services in cemetery.

Clerk awaits payment from the State to cover costs of election activities held in May 2015.

MM by Warner to pay bills this month in amount of \$ 20,543.26; 2nd Smolenyak; all Ayes - MC

Trustees’ Reports – Sign ordinance has been forwarded to our attorney resulting from Charlevoix County Planning Commission review.

Zoning Administrator Report – On-line for review.

Public Hearing on MDC request for tax abatement

Opened @ 7:08 PM

Sara Christensen of Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, representing Manthei Development Corporation in their quest for tax abatement on their plan for an 18,000 sq ft expansion to their current facility. She explained the details of the benefits to the Township of approving this abatement request,

There were no question from public in attendance or Board members. Comments heard were, “...it’s a win/win..”

Public hearing closed @7:13 PM.

Resolution to accept/approve was read by Clerk Pajtas & Supervisor Hamilton.

MM by Pajtas to approve the exemption request submitted by Manthei Development Corporation LLC; 2nd Warner; Roll call: Warner – yes; Pajtas – yes; Hamilton – yes; Smolenyak – yes; Resolution carried.

Old Business – None

New Business –Fireworks Ordinance discussion – Complaints have been filed stating that Township needs to review need for some regulation to preserve the health & safety of its residents. Currently there are bills (#4725 & #4726) in the house dealing with more stringent laws, therefore Norwood will table any actions until we know the outcome of these bills.

MM by Pajtas to table this issue until results of House Bills #4725 & #4726 are known; 2nd Warner; all Ayes – MC

Budget amendment - For the amount of \$125 to cover the cost of Workers Compensation Audit.

MM by Warner to approve a budget amendment for \$125.00 to cover the cost of Workers Compensation Audit; 2nd Smolenyak; all Ayes – MC

Township Park of 1978 – Any amendment or repeal of this ordinance could not be found therefore this is a valid existing township ordinance. Hamilton expressed his thoughts that since many things have changed since the inception of this ordinance, it would be wise to recreate a park committee to review the wording/needs of said ordinance to determine its validity to today's township residents. Hamilton will discuss with individuals their interest in volunteering to examine this document.

Demolition fee - The previous listing for demolition fee was \$75.00, but was over-looked in the latest posting of zoning fees.

MM by Warner to approve a fee of \$75.00 covering a building permit for demolition; 2nd Pajtas; all Ayes – MC

ZBA Appointment – Hamilton suggested naming Marty Swanson to fill vacancy on Zoning Board of Appeals.

MM by Smolenyak to approve naming Marty Swanson as new member of ZBA; 2nd Warner ; all Ayes – MC

Correspondence/Announcements – Usual monthly newsletters.

There will be an Election Commission meeting to be held Wednesday 9/30/2015 at 3:30 PM @ Town Hall.

Public Comment – Bill Gnodtke brought to Board's attention that any burning is subject to DNR Burning Permit & perhaps this wording should be considered in Park Ordinance.

Mr. Parsons also commented on his ongoing issues with his neighbor and the zoning complaints submitted to the ZA. Supervisor Hamilton informed Mr. Parsons that after meeting with the Township attorney where the original minutes and finding of fact statement was reviewed, Mr. Dutcher's decision to close the complaints was proper and legal and that substantial case law would back up that decision. Mr. Parson stated that he had one more issue he would like addressed. Mr. Parsons was advised that if he put in writing that he agreed that all issues were resolved less the one he would like to re-address, Supervisor Hamilton would set up a meeting with Mr. Parsons, Mr. Currier, Mr. Dutcher and Mr. Hamilton in an attempt to finally resolve this. Mr. Parsons said he would consider this.

He also inquired if the cemetery sexton has right to pull artificial flowers from gravesites as listed "No Artificial Flowers on Gravesites" in cemetery rules.

Adjournment – 8:16 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sadie Bartosik, Recording Secretary