

Norwood Township Board of Trustees Meeting
Approved Meeting Minutes
July 20, 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 June 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes, MM by Warner to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by Smolenyak. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment related to Agenda – None

Approval of Agenda – MM by Warner to approve Agenda as presented, 2nd by Spilis, Ridenour stated he needed to remove Charlevoix Library Presentation under New Business as Ryan Deery could not attend. Motion carried as amended 5-0.

Supervisor’s Report –

Supervisor and Bill Gnodtke met with Charlevoix County Road Commission’s Pat Harmon and Jim Vanek and Sheriff Vondra at Lake Street at the hill sight. Discussion on blind hill and on the potential of danger for people walking with traffic with limited sight. CCRC suggested clearing brush and trees which is the only thing that can be done legally. Vondra said if 25 mph speed limit signs were put in place he would make sure it was strictly enforced. Law states any sign for the hill must be back 100’. Speed Test results were an Average of 30.6mph at bottom of hill and 29mph at top of hill.

Ridenour reported the following on the New Township Hall:

- a. He and Smolenyak will meet with Morton Builders Representatives on July 22 to go over updated contract and review plan
- b. Supply documentation to Charlevoix State Bank
- c. Will get with Bryan Graham regarding A99 contract for Charlevoix State Bank
- d. Status from Performance Engineering on the following:
 1. Geotechnical Boring-Will be done this week
 2. Environmental Study-Everything on track and waiting for the document report to be complete
 3. Updated contract with Performance Engineering

Supervisor stated he and David Kolka, PC Chairman, had a meeting on June 29th with T.A.R.T. , now Nakwema Trail which is Norwood to Bells Bay Rd. They met with Elizabeth Calcutt, Community Planner for Newtowrks/Northwest, Brent Bolin, Trail Council Director, Richard Hill and Tom Coperhaver, DNR and Larry Fox, consultant from engineering firm out of Gaylord. They reported the cost is estimated to be \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Ridenour and Kolka brought up the following questions:

- A. Trail will be 10' wide and made out of asphalt and boardwalk through wetlands
- B. Three proposals; one through Holody property, right turn past new Township Hall sight and off Lake Street power line.
- C. No room to expand parking at Norwood Park and DNR did not know Norwood Park would be trailhead starting point
- D. How is it going to extend from Norwood to Eastport, bikes would have to go up blind hill on Lake St so there may be liability issues
- E. Questioned why purchased Holody Property?
- F. Questioned why not take a look at Limestone Mine/Quarry?
- G. Questioned if they are taking look at cost vs. route?

A presentation will be made at the August 17, 2020 Township Board Meeting.

Ridenour reported Marion Light has resigned from Zoning Board of Appeals and will need to find replacement.

Reported roads graded and dust control applied on 6/29/2020.

Supervisor had meeting the David Vermeesch, President of Norwood Historical Society, on July 8, 2020 to discuss the five phase plan. Also had a meeting on 07/15/2020 with Richard Neumann, Historical Architect, at the Township Hall to look at structure and foundation. Neumann stated the foundation could be re-mortared since it has a large rock base.

Supervisor reported on EMS billing issues. Ridenour has contacted Don McMullen Director of Charlevoix EMS on two occasions. McMullen stated was surprised that a meeting with the Township Supervisors hasn't been set up yet to review billing. Billing was delayed because of Covid and new accounting system. Ridenour contacted Chuck Center, Charlevoix Township Supervisor and also Mark Heydlauff, Charlevoix City Manager. Per Mark he will be setting up meeting next week with he and the Township Supervisors. Per conversation with City Manager cost for EMS has doubled and our new proposed rate would be \$31,679.00. There is a loss in EMS revenues of \$500,000.00. Other Township Supervisors may be requesting an independent audit. Discussion at next week meeting will be why loss of revenue and ways to fund, possibly a county millage.

Board of Review will meet July 21, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the Norwood Township Hall.

Ridenour said that according to Register of Deeds the Township Hall was deeded to Norwood Township on January 24, 1884 but in 1887 there was a fire and documentation was destroyed therefore there will need to be verification through title company. Need to survey west side of Township Hall. East side and North side have already been staked out. Biggest problem will be drainage since there is only three feet between Melke garage and Township Hall so property line only 1.5'?

Supervisor had phone meeting on July 16, 2020 with Emily Selph, Equalization Director, regarding the new State law Property Assessing Reform. The State Commission will require the Counties and Townships to have a backup Assessor in place.

Discussion that there were 11 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday in Charlevoix alone. Discussion on should we go back to Zoom meetings for August and September. Recommendation was made that we could have outside meetings @ the Norwood Park. It

was decided to keep monitoring and make final decision and post on Website a week before next meeting.

Treasurer's Report –

Fund Balances: as of 06/30/2020	General:	\$ 52,879.06 (Chx State Bank)
	Vanguard:	294,129.70
	(Vanguard includes \$45,000 improvements)	
	Total:	\$347,008.76
	Road:	40,012.90
	Emergency:	106,022.00
	Phragmites:	8,260.82
	(includes \$1,405 for Frank Hamilton fund)	
	Tax Fund:	2,371.59

Smolenyak reported she got the tax bills out and has been updating addresses

Clerk's Report –

Preapproved:	\$ 156.00 (GLE)
Unapproved:	\$ 32,827.73
Totals:	\$ 32,983.73

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

Freds reported there have been 217 Absentee Ballots returned

Trustee's Report –

Warner reported that the July 13, 2020 PC Meeting was via Zoom. PC got updates from Alex Mitchell of AM Mfg. PC working on Master Plan updates and Survey. Parks Committee needs new member as Theron Reibel removed himself. Discussion on the DTE contractors that are working on gas lines in the area that are parking on Alex Mitchell's property off US 31 across from Cedarview. Warner explained that Cedarview residents were concerned about this taking place. Smolenyak stated the contractors are here for a good reason, that everyone wants natural gas so people should be happy they are in the area working and knows the parking will only last as long as the gas lines are going in. Discussed that this should not be a concern since it is only temporary.

Spilis stated he has had four contacts and two emails regarding the parking at the north end of Lake Shore Drive. He said he received a complaint about an unlicensed vehicle in the area. Received complaint regarding clay being dug up by DTE and how it may damage the water going into the lake and reported on the Court Ruling by Court of Appeals stating absentee ballots must be in before election day. Spilis also wants to hear what the DNR has to say about the public parking at the end of the road and not paying park fees.

Spilis would also like to see signs posted to require masks be worn when entering Norwood Township Hall according to CDC requirements.

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

Old Business –

Historical Preservation Plan Phase I Approval-

Discussion on estimate to restore Township Hall building. Richard Neumann, Historical Architect, will provide estimate information on exterior and interior plus foundation in order to get help with grants. Cost for Neumann to write estimate will be split with the Norwood Historical Society.

MM by Warner to approve funds of \$2,500.00 to get historical documentation from Richard Neumann for cost of restoration estimate. Township Board will pay up front and Historical Society will reimburse Township, 2ndy by Freds. Motion carried 5-0.

Historical Society President Vermeesch stated the Historical Society officers were unanimous to share cost but need to get members approval but felt this should not be an issue.

New Business –

Parking Problem on Lake Shore North in Clipperview-

Discussion on problem with people parking at the north end of Lake Shore Dr to go into the State Park and causing a lot of congestion for the turn around. Ridenour had a discussion with CCRC about signs and they said they need to get approval from Michigan State Police. Ridenour talked to Sheriff Vondra and he said ok to put up signs and he would have law enforcement enforce the no parking signs. After talking to Vondra the CCRC stated they would remove the signs if not approved by MSP. Pat Harmon will speak with Vondra and Spilis will contact Jerry Hilborn from Traverse City MSP Post. Township can purchase signs and post. Discussion on DNR is losing revenue from people entering park without paying for park passes. There is also a concern if Emergency vehicles need to get around in that area.

Announcements & Correspondence –

Next Township Board Meeting will be August 17, 2020 at 7:00pm. Venue will be announced on Norwood Township website due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Public Comment –

David Vermeesch, Norwood Historical Society, thanked the Board for their continued work on Township Hall preservation and since this is the first new Township building in over 120 years he would like the exterior be white to go with the same color scheme as the Township historical buildings.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Shari M. Jones, Recording Secretary