

Norwood Township Board of Trustees Meeting
Approved Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2022
Norwood Township Hall

Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Ben Freds

Pledge of Allegiance – by all present

Roll Call – Warner-present, Smolenyak-present, Ben Freds-present, Brenda Freds-present, Pirie-present

Approval of April 7, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes, MM by Warner to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by Pirie. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of April 18, 2022, Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes, MM by Warner, 2nd by Brenda Freds. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Supervisor’s Report –

-Supervisor Freds stated that Planning Commission Member Theron Reibel put in his resignation but did say he would stay on for three months which means his last meeting will be the July PC Meeting. Freds stated he has been working on getting a replacement.

-Supervisor stated he was approached by a Citizen that asked about renting new Township Hall. Freds stated that Norwood resident Nancy Parschall is the one that asked and since she is an Attorney, she offered to write up a contract. Smolenyak stated she has a document that was written up by the Charlevoix Historical Society which is a model rental contract and feels the Board should evaluate rules, parameters, overseeing, etc. Freds will get with Trevor Dotson to discuss since he handles the Historical Society rentals.

-Supervisor discussed tying in the Frank Hamilton memorial dedication with the Memorial Day activities with Bill Gnotdke, however after discussion with Gnotdke the Frank Hamilton Memorial will take place at a later date. There was discussion that there may be a fund raiser to build a Gazebo as a memorial. Smolenyak, Ben Freds and Gnotdke will discuss privately raised funds.

-Supervisor stated he has contacted Northern Michigan Dust Control from Gaylord to schedule dust control. They said they will put Norwood on the schedule over the next two weeks.

Treasurer’s Report –

Fund Balances: as of 4/30/2022:	General:	\$214,301.11
	Road:	98,259.79
	Emergency:	76,778.87
	ARP	38,057.83
	Phragmites:	7,925.05
	(Includes \$1,055 for Frank Hamilton fund)	
	Tax Fund:	1,374.45

Smolenyak reported on the following:

-Treasurer stated the Tax Fund amount on the report is after paying the IFT fund to the State
-Summer tax statements will go out July 1st and said if anyone wants anything enclosed to let her know by the June meeting.

-Wanted to let everyone know that there will be a Charlevoix County Hazardous Waste drop off on June 10th & 11th at the Shaw Road County garage building.

Clerk's Report -

Preapproved: \$ 353.16 (GLE/Truestream)

Unapproved: \$ 10,378.10

Totals: \$ 10,731.26

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

Clerk stated the Charlevoix County Clerk is putting on an Election Inspector Training. She stated that anyone interested should contact the County Clerk, Julia Drost.

Trustee's Report –

Warner's report-

Warner reported the Planning Commission had their election of officers at their May 9, 2022, meeting and all positions stayed the same. David Kolka-Chairman, David Vermeesch-Vice-Chairman, Doug Warner-Secretary, Trevor Dotson-Member, Theron Reibel-Member.

Warner stated Trevor Dotson offered to help with signs for the park and discussed possibly using the available Grants from the insurance company.

Pirie Report-Nothing currently

Zoning Administrator's Report-ZA report is online.

Old Business –

Road Budget-

Supervisor said there is two years left on the road millage which will bring in approximately \$108,000 after two years plus the \$98,259.79 that is currently in the road fund so over \$200K in two years. The county has \$15,000 in Grants for 2021, 2022 and 2023 so another \$45,000 available plus ARP funds of \$78,000. All totals approximately \$323,000.

The cost of ½ of Beatty Road, which is US 31 to Vratana, would be \$330,000-340,000. This quote was from 5-6 months ago so the cost would be more now. Discussion on taking both Beatty and Warner back to gravel which would cost approximately \$600,000 for both so there are not enough funds right now. Further discussions on possibly having an increased road millage in two years, getting a financial commitment from Marion Township for Warner Road and possible assessment to residents on the two roads.

Possible solutions are to increase the millage and borrow against the millage but need a commitment from Marion Township. The Board addressed the audience and said the Beatty Road and Warner Road residents need to push for a millage renewal in order to repave the roads.

2022/2023 Budget –

Treasurer stated the tax rolls that are published in the draft budget are based on ownership of property as of 12/31/2021. There is a 5.43% increase and the County average is up 6%. Treasurer also said the State Owned Land Tax is about 50% of what the private taxes are.

The Budget for the new Enforcement Officer will be included with the Zoning Administrator and Planner. The State Revenue sharing is a % of state sales tax. There will be a public hearing for the budget at the June 20, 2022, Board meeting.

Enforcement Officer –

The Enforcement Officer will be a part time seasonal job and the pay will be \$500/month for 6 months of the year.

MM by Warner for the Township to hire an Enforcement Officer, 2nd by Pirie. Motion carried to approval 5-0.

Historic District Ordinance Draft –

Supervisor stated the goal of creating Historic District Ordinance is to get grants to help restore the old Township Hall. The Historic District would include the old Township Hall, Schoolhouse, Church, Cemetery and Old Lumber Mill Area. This is required by the State to get grants. There will be a public hearing at the June 20, 2022, Board meeting. They will get a quote for paint job, amend the statement of purpose, designate legal boundaries. This will be a line item for the June 20, 2022, Board meeting Agenda.

New Business-

Sadie Bartosik Split Fee Waiver Request –

Supervisor stated Sadie Bartosik is donating land to Little Traverse Conservancy. Mrs. Bartosik has two lots, one that is 40 acres and one that is 80 acres. She would like to keep 13 acres of the 40 acres lot for private use so that lot will need to be split and the remaining acreage of 27 acres will be part of the conservancy. Mrs. Barosik asked that the \$50 split fee be waived since it is to donate land.

MM by Brenda Freds to waive the \$50 fee, 2nd by Ben Freds. Discussion that the fees are used to help defray the costs for PC and ZA. **Roll call vote: Warner-aye, Smolenyak-aye, Ben Freds-aye, Brenda Freds-aye, Pirie-aye. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

Phragmites Administrator –

Supervisor stated there is currently no Phragmites Administrator. Kelly & Chris Morris have volunteered for this position. There is \$6,870 in the Township's Phragmites Fund to use for the fight against Phragmites.

MM by Pirie to accept Kelly & Chris Morris as the new Phragmites Administrators, 2nd by Warner. Motion carried to approval 5-0.

Purchase OWL Teleconference with ARPA Funds –

Supervisor stated he would like to purchase an OWL Teleconference system. This would be used for people that cannot make meetings that is similar to Zoom but it would be used for public meetings that take place at the Township Hall.

MM by Smolenyak to purchase the OWL Teleconference System using ARPA funds, 2nd by Brenda Freds. Motion carried to approval 5-0.

Appointment of Norwood Township Library Board Member –

Smolenyak has served as the Norwood Township Library board member for years and stated that Julia Drost, Norwood Township resident, has offered to be the Norwood Township representative on the Charlevoix Library Board. This is a 3-year term that starts on July 1, 2022.

MM by Ben Freds to appoint Julia Drost as the Norwood Township representative for the Charlevoix Library Board, 2nd by Warner. Motion carried to approval 5-0.

Norwood Township Hall payments on pre-approved bills –

Clerk asked to add the Township Hall mortgage payments to pre-approved bills.

MM by Pirie to add the mortgage payments to pre-approved bills, 2nd by Warner. Motion carried to approval 5-0.

Correspondence/Announcements-

Clerk Freds wanted to remind people that Lake Michigan beach access on private property is to the high-water mark.

Public Comment-

Randall Williams, Warner Rd resident, stated Warner Rd is a popular road and Norwood Township has not spent any money on it and they have not spent any on Beatty Rd either. He said he feels this needs to be done. He said many people use Warner Rd from Antrim County also, so it gets used frequently. Williams said he understands the money situation and John Frye owns 90% of the land that is on the East side of Warner Rd.

Curt Ewald, 1127 Warner Rd., stated six years ago he and several other Warner Rd residents approached the Norwood Township Board regarding the condition of Warner Rd and nothing has been done. He stated that taking back down to dirt would devalue property. He said he bought a home on a paved road not a dirt road. He said six years ago the group was told Warner would be the next road fixed and Beatty Rd was not included but now all of a sudden Beatty seems to be the priority but feels Warner should be the priority.

Williams again spoke and said he was involved with the Board in the 1980's and said Beatty was on the list at that time to get fixed.

Tony Kleiber, Warner Rd resident, feels Marion Township should help fix Warner Rd because farmers use Warner Rd to farmland in Marion Township with heavy farm equipment which he feels causes harm to the road. He feels the Road Commission should perform more maintenance that lasts. He did not agree with the gravel roads either.

Suzette Daly, Warner Rd resident, stated they have been driving on the shoulders for years due to the condition of Warner Rd. She stated that they have been bottoming out due to so many potholes and it is in terrible shape. She said the Road Commission is wasting money because the repair work is not being done properly. She also feels Marion Township should help with the expense of fixing road due to the use of farm equipment. She said the tractors that use the road are heavy.

Chad Baldwin, Warner Rd., stated he would like the Norwood Township Board to ask the Road Commission not to plow unless there is more snow because when there is minimal snow the blows cause more damage to the road.

Supervisor Freds suggested to the Warner Road residents to call the Charlevoix County Road Commission with their concerns.

Baldwin spoke again stating the CCRC does selected patching.

Matt Umulis, Warner Rd, handed out maps to the Board showing the residents on Warner and Beatty Roads. Said there are 20-21 homes that use Warner Rd which includes homes on Beck Rd also. There are 11 homes on Beatty Rd.

Again, Supervisor Freds urged the Warner Road residents to contact the CCRC with their concerns.

Leland Hershy, resident of Beck Rd off Warner Rd., stated he has lived there for 22 years and feels the budget is not being used appropriately regarding taking care of township roads.

Howard Camp, 4084 Beatty Rd., feels if they shorten the distance that they fix the road the cost will be less. Last time Beatty was fixed was pre-1983. He feels the Township should do what they can this year.

Kleiber again spoke and felt doing sections may be a good idea.

Tina Whitley, Clipperview resident, questioned the Hall rental Agenda item and asked if when the Clipperview group met at the Hall if that was a donation? Asked if anyone could view the township bills and Clerk told her she can view the Check Register on the website. Whitley said at the PC meeting on May 9th she asked the PC what the purpose of the Master Plan is and does it need to go to the Attorney. Supervisor Freds stated it does not at this point. Master Plan goes from PC to County to Board. Whitley discussed with the Board using the Township Attorney for creating a Petition. Clerk stated the creator of the petition must ask for help. Whitley asked if the Board is looking to change Attorneys from Bryan Graham? There was further discussion on the law of petitions. Whitley asked if there were any pending lawsuits with the Township and Supervisor stated, No.

Dennis Daly, Warner Rd., asked what the Township's immediate road plans are and felt going to dirt was not a good idea.

Whitley spoke again stating she does not agree with spending any money the old Township Hall. She said she does not want to see the Township spending money on this.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Shari Jones, Recording Secretary