

Norwood Township Board of Trustees Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
Monday October 17, 2022

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** – by all present

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

**Approval of September 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes, MM by Warner to approve September 19, 2022 minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pirie. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Approval of Agenda – MM by Brenda Freds to approve Agenda as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warner. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Supervisor’s Report** – by Supervisor Ben Freds

- Supervisor spoke with Rob Muma from Charlevoix County Road Commission and Muma stated they are going to be grading soon, as soon as rain stops
- Supervisor took a call from Tom Coppenhaver from the DNR and he stated they DNR is building a guardrail at Whiskey Creek to prevent people from illegally entering beach with vehicles.

**Treasurer’s Report** –

Fund Balances: as of 09/30/2022	General:	\$224,088.54 (Chx State Bank)
	Road:	92,619.20
	Fire:	45,941.71
	ARP:	75,068.44
	Phragmites:	7,927.03
		(includes \$1,055 for Frank Hamilton fund)
	Tax Fund:	16,701.10

Smolenyak reported on the following:

- General Fund includes \$12,000 taken as a Performance Bond on a zoning matter
- Stated that if anyone wants anything added to newsletter to be included in winter tax bills to get that information in by November 1
- Past due tax notices were sent out
- Requested information delivered to Auditor
- Refund submitted to O’Hallaron for STR fee
- May be close to the Township limit for STR license applications

**Clerk's Report –**

Preapproved: \$ 321.04 (GLE/Truestream)  
Unapproved: \$ 3,269.72  
Totals: \$ 3,590.76

**MM by Warner to approve Clerk's Report and pay bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pirie. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

Clerk reported on the following:

- Ballot box is being relocated to the new Township Hall
- Mailbox will be put in at the new Township Hall
- 174 absentee ballots have been sent out
- There is a \$1,500 Grant available for election supplies
- Clerk would like to use Grant funds to purchase new laptop for elections as well as security supplies

**MM by Warner to purchase up to \$1,500.00 for election supplies including laptop and security supplies, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pirie. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Trustee's Report –**

Warner reported on the following:

- At the Planning Commission's October 10, 2022, meeting the PC approved Version 6 of the Master Plan. This is the version presented to the Township Board for approval.
- PC working on ordinance for Solar Panels

Pirie reported on the following:

- Touched base with Marion Township Clerk, Tim Matchett regarding the light pole at Klooster and Barnard Roads intersection.

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

**Old Business –**

**Master Plan –**

Planning Commission passed Version 6 of the Norwood Township Master Plan at their October 10, 2022 meeting with a vote of 3-2. The Overlay verbiage was removed from the Master Plan as well as other updates done.

**MM by Warner to approve Version 6 of the Norwood Township Master Plan dated October 10, 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pirie. Roll call vote: Warner-aye, Smolenyak-aye, Ben Freds-aye, Brenda Freds-aye, Pirie-aye. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Township Hall Rental-**

Discussion included letting the Township know that rental is available, reviewing draft contracts and hold harmless form, who rental will be available to, deposit and cleaning fees, rules that will need to be followed when in use, capacity, amount of time of notice for rental, use of beach when used for rental.

It was agreed that the rental agreement draft and forms should be reviewed by Township Attorney and revisited at the November Township meeting.

**MM by Brenda Freds to table Township Hall rental pending Attorney review, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warner. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**New Business-**

**Streetlight for Clipperview –**

There was a request made by Clipperview residents to have a streetlight installed at Whitmer Road and US 31. Supervisor stated he called Great Lakes Energy, and they stated as long as there is a pole then it would be ok. Supervisor contacted the Clipperview Association, and they stated it would be ok. GLE stated that a 70watt LED would be \$11/month.

**MM by Warner to put light at Whitmer Road and US 31, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brenda Freds. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Street Name Resolution –**

Resolution for the Township Board approve Sorensen Lane as an approved road name.

**MM by Smolenyak to approve Norwood Township Resolution Number 10 of 2022, Authorization of Sorensen Lane to be made a Private Road Name, 2<sup>nd</sup> Warner. Roll call vote: Warner-aye, Smolenyak-aye, Ben Freds-aye, Brenda Freds-aye, Pirie-aye. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Cemetery Rate Discussion –**

Supervisor stated that Pam Gnodtke attended MTA Cemetery Management meeting so she may be helpful to this discussion.

David Parsons, Norwood Cemetery Sexton, felt the fee structure needs to be changed to reflect resident vs. non-resident. Parsons reported there are 165 lots in cemetery and each lot has 8 spaces. There are 29 half lots sold and 101 lots used so there are 49.5 lots available. Supervisor asked the Board to review the Ordinance and the fee schedule should match the Ordinance.

**MM by Brenda Freds to table Cemetery Rate Discussion until the November 2022 Board Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pirie. Motion carried to approval 5-0.**

**Correspondence/Announcements-**

Supervisor stated he received a letter from Roger Soldano stating he was not happy with the response he received from the Zoning Administrator regarding an incident that happened at the neighboring STR. The Board discussed there is no issue if the STR rules are being followed and with this incident there was no violation.

**Public Comment-**

David Parsons stated he has talked to owner of neighboring property of the cemetery to see if there is a possibility of purchasing some land to expand cemetery.

Bill Gnodtke said the cemetery fencing was saved from when they put in the archway so that could be used if there is an expansion. Gnodtke also said he would like to be able to put flags on all Veterans graves but is not sure who are the Veterans are if they were before WWII. He said he would like to raise money for these additional flags. Clerk stated she has a spreadsheet with dates on known burials that may have this information on it. Gnodtke also stated he will have an EMS update at the November 2022 meeting.

Nancy Ferguson stated she is running for District 5 County Commissioner. She said she is no running with any party affiliation so anyone that would like to vote for her must vote on split ticket. She said she was previously on the County Commission for six years and is currently on the County Planning Commission. Ferguson asked how the Township feels about the bike trail going through Norwood Village. There was a discussion on this with the Board stating their concerns about how the influx of bikers would cost the Township more due to the maintenance of the Township Park.

Bill Gnodtke stated he was not happy with the arrogance of the Bike Trail group stating no decision had been made, however, there was a map done that showed the trail going through the Village.

Shari Jones stated that all the other bike trails in the area run parallel with main highways, such as US 31 between Charlevoix and Petoskey and Boyne City Rd trail so those paths don't actually go through a residential area like this bike trail would.

Lynn Smolenyak stated that the bike trail was a hot topic two years ago and previous Supervisor David Ridenour voiced his concerns with the Bike Trail Association.

Supervisor Freds asked Ferguson what she felt about her opponent's stance on the MERS situation with the County.

David Parsons asked about getting Beatty or Warner Roads fixed and the Board suggested he review previous meeting minutes where this has been discussed and at this time there are no funds available.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.**

Submitted by Shari M. Jones, Recording Secretary