

# NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

## Township Board

### Minutes

### September 10, 2019

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Supervisor Chockley at 8350 Main Street.

#### PLEDGE/INVOCATION

Trustee Beliger provided a brief invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Marlene Chockley, Supervisor	Present
Kathleen Manley, Clerk	Present
Lenore Zelenock, Treasurer	Present
Tawn Beliger, Trustee	Present
Janet Chick, Trustee	Present
Wayne Dockett, Trustee [left at 9:00 P.M.]	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present

Also present:

Public Safety Director William Wagner  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Dan Willis  
Township Manager Steven Aynes  
Planning consultant Paul Lippens, McKenna  
Township Attorney Paul Burns  
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble  
Members of the community

#### ADOPT AGENDA

- **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger seconded, to adopt the agenda with *Adoption of Master Plan* removed. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Zelenock opposed.**

#### FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside, commented on the *CCW/CPL Policy for Township Employees* agenda item.
- Eric Patterson, TerraFirma, Inc., 3780 Morgan Road, Ypsilanti, introduced himself as the new owner of the property known as Nursery Merchants at 6410 Whitmore Lake Road.
- Doug Nelson, 8314 Walnut Creek, and Craig Warburton, 450 W. Joy Road, commented on the Township's process used for approving ballot language for the marijuana initiative and on Board involvement in the initiative.
- Mary Barnett, 428 East Shore, commented on the code enforcement activity regarding 424 East Shore.
- David Gordon, Hellner Road, proposed creation of a land preservation fund and commented on the

proposed sewage retention basin and the cost to the Township of the second floor of the Public Safety Building since construction.

#### BOARD MEMBER RESPONSE

Board members made comments, including:

- Welcomed TerraFirma to the Township.
- Commented on the process used and Board involvement in placing the marijuana initiative on the November ballot, including how the special meeting was called, lack of prior information available to Trustees, and the involvement of the cooperative attorney. (Burns explained that the County Clerk asked the Township Clerk to approve the ballot language by the August 13<sup>th</sup> deadline, he asked the Clerk and Supervisor to call a special meeting, and in his roll of protecting the Township he put the language from the petitioning group in proper statutory form without changing the content and without reaching to either side of the issue to maintain his independence. He said there was no time to bring the matter to the full Board and to meet the statutory deadline).
- Asked for an update on code enforcement at 424 East Shore, for future updates to be included in the Manager's report, and for the code enforcement officer's report providing information about this to be emailed to the neighbors. (Aynes reported he has been keeping neighbors updated by email and listed the enforcement action taken since the last Board meeting. He said the owner has meet requirements for a building permit for the house and paid for the permit).

[Manley left the room].

- **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Otto seconded, to adjourn at 9:00 P.M., with a process check at 8:45 P.M. **Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Chockley opposed.**
- **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chick seconded, that at the next meeting the process used to assemble the Board agenda and the packet be provided to the Board for discussion. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

[Manley returned].

Aynes provided an update on code enforcement action at 8005 Lakeshore Drive and said he would provide additional information.

**Northfield Township Board Meeting  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street  
September 10, 2019**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **Reports**
- **Minutes of August 27, 2019, Regular Meeting**
- **Check Disbursement Report for Paid Bills**

Docket made one addition to the August 27<sup>th</sup> minutes and asked about the cost of renewing the Township's life and disability insurance policy.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley seconded, that the consent agenda be adopted with the correction made to the minutes of August 27, 2019.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A Trunkapalooza will be held on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the middle school.
- Kiwanis approved repair of the Kiwanis "anchor" bench, and depending on the cost may repair the other eight benches.
- There will be a Police and Fire open house, including children's activities, on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Chockley referred to a letter from Barb Griffith-Watkins, chair of the Downtown Development Authority, regarding agenda Item 10.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1.**

**Approve Payment of Open Bills  
(expected check run date 09-11-2019)**

- ▶ **Motion #1:** Chockley moved, Manley seconded, to approve payment of Open Bills (expected check run date 09-11-2019) for a total of \$320,993.25 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account.
- ▶ **Motion #2:** Beliger moved, Docket seconded, to remove the 2020 dues payment of \$1,000 to WATS.

Chockley said there is great benefit to the Township compared to the small cost of the dues.

**Motion #2 failed 2—5 on a roll call vote, Manley, Chick, Otto, Beliger, and Zelenock opposed.**

There was a brief discussion about whether various Township-owned land parcel should be sold.

**Motion #1 carried 6—1 on roll call vote, Beliger opposed.**

**2.**

**Renewal of DEA Contract  
for a Task Force Officer Assignment**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Beliger seconded, to approve the contract with the DEA for the period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, for the assignment of Task Force Officer Detective Sargent Dave Powell and allow Chief Wagner to sign the contract.

Docket said the money for this could be better used for something else. Wagner said there is great value in the contacts and relationships this officer brings to the Township.

**Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

**3.**

**Hiring of Paid On-Call Firefighter Trainee  
Travis Johnson**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock seconded, to hire Travis Johnson as a Paid On-Call fire fighter trainee contingent on successful passing of background check and physical.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**4.**

**Police Department Replacement  
of Body and In-Car Cameras**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Beliger seconded, to approve the purchase of body and in-car cameras from Pro Vision Video Systems for a cost of \$41,000 to be paid out of fund 266-900-970.

There was discussion about whether the amount is correct. Wagner said he will pay no more than the actual cost.

- ▶ **Amended motion:** Chick moved, Beliger seconded, to approve the purchase of body and in car cameras from Pro Vision Video Systems for a cost not to exceed of \$41,000 to be paid out of fund 266-900-970.  
**Amended motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**5.**

**CCW/CPL Policy for Township Employees**

Aynes reviewed the research he has done on the issue of whether Township employees should be allowed to be armed under Carrying Concealed Weapon (CCW) and Concealed Pistol License (CPL) laws, including consulting with the safety representative from the Michigan Municipal League. He asked whether the Board would like any presentations made on the issue.

Wagner said he has significant concerns, such as what carrying firefighters would do with weapons when responding to locations where firearms are not allowed. He said psychological testing is not done for firefighters

**Northfield Township Board Meeting  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street  
September 10, 2019**

and he has concerns about supervising employees carrying weapons.

Aynes said the Township offices have an open counter and none of the walls or windows are bulletproof. Ideas discussed included installing bulletproof glass at the Township counter, having an officer present at Township Board meetings, installing alarms at desks. The pros and cons of allowing or not allowing employees to carry guns, whether not allowing it would be an infringement of individual constitutional rights, and what kinds of policies and procedures should be implemented were discussed.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Manley seconded, to suspend the carrying concealed weapons (CCW) policy for Township employees until further review.

Zelenock said Wagner had confirmed to her that anyone with the proper license could enter the building carrying a variety of different types of guns. She said that gives them more rights than Township employees. Otto said the Board previously voted on this policy without having all of the necessary information and without considering related policies (such as whether there should be psychological testing for employees) and whether the rules would apply to Board members.

- ▶ **Amended motion:** Otto moved, Manley seconded, to suspend the carrying concealed weapons (CCW) policy for Township employees until no later than December 31, 2019. **Motion failed 3—4 on a roll call vote, Dockett, Beliger, Zelenock, and Chick opposed.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Chockley seconded, that the four Board members who voted against the preceding motion come back with answers to all questions posed in the packet. **Motion failed 3—4 on a roll call vote, Dockett, Zelenock, Chick, and Beliger opposed.**
- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chick seconded, that the Township Manager come up with a policy on the issue of Township employees being able to conceal carry by the end of October, 2019. **Motion carried 5—2 on a roll call vote, Otto and Beliger opposed.**

**6.**

**Resolution 19-611:  
Barker Road Play Path Maintenance Agreement**

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Chick seconded, to approve Resolution 19-611: Barker Road Play Path Mural Maintenance Agreement between Michigan Department of Transportation and Northfield Township, and to authorize Steve Aynes, Township Manager, to sign the agreement. **Motion carried 6—1 on a voice vote, Dockett opposed Resolution adopted.**

**7.**

**Conditional Use for The Doghouse LLC**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Otto seconded, to approve the expansion of the Doghouse LLC's Conditional Use Permit to use an existing pole barn for canine boarding and support care. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**8.**

**Re-Affirm Zoning Ordinance Amendment:  
Ordinance 19-68: Include Residential Uses on the First Floor as a Conditional Use in WLD\_D and WLD-NV**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto seconded, to approve Ordinance 19-68, an Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of Northfield Township, Michigan to amend Article XII—Whitmore Lake District, Section 36-340—Uses Permitted, to allow first floor residential in the Whitmore Lake Districts and place in the Muni Code.

Lippens explained that reformatting this into ordinance language allows it to be codified, and this will be done with all future zoning ordinance amendments.

**Motion carried 6—1 on a voice vote, Dockett opposed.**

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Chockley seconded, to have the Planning Commission investigate home occupations being a permitted—rather than conditional—use in all residential zoning districts. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

[Dockett left the meeting]

**9.**

**Adoption of 2019 Master Plan**

Removed from the agenda.

- ▶ **Motion:** Zelenock moved, Beliger seconded, to table items 10, 11, and 12. **Motion carried 5—1 on a voice vote, Chockley opposed.**

**10.**

**Consider Entering into the  
Redevelopment Ready Communities Program**

**11.**

**Review Draft Board Policy on Reading Letters  
from Residents at Board Meetings**

**12.**

**Review Draft Board Policy on Allowing Residents  
to Share Time During Call to the Public**

Items 10, 11, and 12 tabled.

**Northfield Township Board Meeting  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Public Safety Building; 8350 Main Street  
September 10, 2019**

**TRUSTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger seconded, to receive all Trustee/Liaison reports.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.**

**SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Dylan Atkinson, 17 Anna Drive, commented on the concealed carry issue and asked questions about marijuana dispensaries in the Township. David Gordon commented on ending the meeting early, the concealed carry issue, and the sewer basin study, and asked that the Township website be updated with the current draft of the Master Plan.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The Board made comments and asked questions on a variety of topics, including:

- Whether draft motions should be included in Board materials.

- The timeline of events regarding the marijuana businesses referendum not being signed. (Chockley noted she started it and it was added to by Manley and perhaps others).
- Asked that the draft marijuana ordinance be on every Township Board agenda until it is approved, that the sunset clause be addressed, and that the requested separation maps be reviewed.
- Urged support of local businesses.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned 9:19 P.M.

---

Submitted by Lisa Lemble.

Corrections to the originally issued minutes are indicated as follows:

Wording removed is ~~stricken through~~;

Wording added is underlined.

Approved by the Township Board on September 24, 2019.

---

Kathleen Manley, Clerk

Official minutes of all meetings are available on the Township's website at [http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township\\_board\\_of\\_trustees/](http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township_board_of_trustees/)