

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP  
Township Board  
Minutes  
June 11, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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	Present
Jacki Otto, Trustee	Present

Also present:

Public Safety Director William Wagner  
Wastewater Treatment Plan Superintendent Dan Willis  
Township Manager Steven Aynes  
Township Attorney Paul Burns  
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble  
Members of the community

**ADOPT AGENDA**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, that the agenda be adopted as presented.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

David Gordon, 5558 Hellner Road, made comments and asked questions about plans for a sewage retention basin and sewer system expansion.

**BOARD MEMBER RESPONSE**

Chockley said she would get answers to questions posed by Gordon.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER UPDATE**

Aynes said:

- He will work on recruiting members of the road improvement citizen committee.
- The committee established to work with the North Village developer will begin meeting soon.

The Board briefly discussed the terms of the lease for farming of part of the Fire Station #2, whether the Manager's performance review should be done in open or closed session, and how to make sure local companies are notified of opportunities to bid on Township properties.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chockley thanked all those, especially Dana Forster Forrester, James Trunko, and Jack Secrist who worked on the past weekend's Trunkapalooza and Classic Boat Show.

~~Board members~~ Beliger announced Community Garden plots are still available, Whitmore Lake Races will be on June 29<sup>th</sup>, and two seats will soon be available on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A number of changes were discussed.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that the minutes of the May 28, 2019, Regular Board Meeting be tabled to the next meeting.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1.

**2019-20 Fiscal Year Budget**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that the public hearing for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year Budget be opened. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

Chockley called for comments from the public. There were none.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that the public hearing for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year Budget be closed. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

2.

**Ordinance 19-64:  
Barking Dogs and Dog Leashes**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Chick supported, that the public hearing on Ordinance 19-64, Barking Dogs and Dog Leashes, be opened.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

Chockley called for comments from the public. There were none.

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- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that the public hearing on Ordinance 19-64, Barking Dogs and Dog Leashes, be closed.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Item 0.**

**Questions on Wastewater Treatment Plant Report and Police Report**

In answer to questions, WWTP Superintendent said overtime was due to weather, the plant was over the 1.3 million/gallon per day permit for a couple days, they were at about 1 million gallons for nine days, and using their third aeration tank for the first time helped them handle the flow, although it would not be sufficient in flows approaching 2 million gallons/day.

Wagner explained the “map view” report and graph of police calls he had included in the packet for the first time.

**1.  
DTE Request to Remove Trees  
on Township-owned Properties**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, to authorize the Township Manager sign the DTE Tree Removal Agreements for tree removal on the identified Township-owned properties and to retain the woodchips.

There was discussion about whether to retain woodchips, whether some of the trees could be trimmed rather than removed, and whether all of the trees are actually on Township-owned property.

- ▶ **Amended motion:** Chockley moved, Manley supported, to authorize the Township Manager sign the DTE Tree Removal Agreements for tree removal on the identified Township-owned properties.

**Amended motion carried 6—1 on a voice vote, Zelenock opposed.**

**2.  
Engineering Proposal for Aeration System  
at the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Chick supported, that the Engineering Proposal for the Aeration System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant be approved.

Superintendent Willis said he will be looking at the payback period for energy savings, noting that when they considered it previously the payback period would have been 8.5 years.

**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**3.  
Hiring of On-Call Firefighter**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to approve the hiring of Erik Nelhiebel as a Paid on-call firefighter with a starting rate of \$10.50/hour, contingent on passing background check and physical.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**4.  
Emergency Electrical Repairs  
at Community Center**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to affirm the Township Manager’s approval for emergency electrical repairs at the Community Center.

Aynes and Burns explained this is on the agenda because the Township Manager has no authority to contract. There was discussion about whether replacing all of the lighting fixtures was warranted.

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

**5.  
Ordinance 19-64:  
Barking Dogs and Dog Leashes**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Zelenock supported, to pass the Amendment to Chapter 10, Article V: Barking Dogs and Dog Leashes, of the Northfield Township Code of Ordinances.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**6.  
Washtenaw County Road Commission  
Maintenance Agreement Contract 3**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock supported, to approve Washtenaw County Road Commission Maintenance Agreement contract 3.

The Board discussed which of the various projects identified should be included in the contract to use the \$40,000 the Board previously allocated for road work.

**Motion withdrawn.**

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Chockley supported, to approve Washtenaw County Road Commission Maintenance Agreement contract 3, consisting of:
  - \$12,800 for Nollar Road (\$4,300 for North Territorial to Five Mile, and \$8,500 for Five Mile to Seven Mile)
  - \$16,300 for Earhart from Six Mile to Rushton
  - The remainder of \$10,900 for Township-wide limestone work.

**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

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- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to have Mr. Aynes communicate with Carrie Lane homeowners within the next 30 days about having their culvert replaced. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**7.  
Goals and Priorities for Upcoming Fiscal Year  
and Effects of FY 2019/20 Budget**

Aynes reported he received comments from two Board members after the last discussion and made recommendations for moving forward. It was agreed he will send a list of six goals identified by some Board members—with some added by him—to Board members on Thursday. It was agreed Board members should respond to him by Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

In answer to a question from Dockett, Aynes said a purchase proposal for 75 Barker Road will be on the next meeting agenda.

**8.  
2019-20 Fiscal Year Budget  
and any Amendments Prior to Adoption**

Aynes noted the Board has had the proposed budget to review for about three months and a public hearing has been held. He reviewed some of the adjustments that have been made to date.

Related to funding of land acquisition, there was a brief discussion about small parcels in the Summer Homes subdivision being acquired by the Township for park property. It was noted the Parks & Recreation Committee has drafted a letter to lot owners requesting donation of the lots, but it has not been sent.

He recommended that the allocation of funds for the Public Safety Building HVAC work be reduced.

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock supported, to reduce the HVAC study by \$7,500 in the Public Safety rental fund in the budget. **Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

Aynes recommended that the Board put the proposed budget on the next meeting agenda for final approval.

Zelenock noted \$20,000 needs to be added to elections funding. It was noted that Chief Wagner had also requested that \$20,000 be moved from the Police Fund (207) to the Federal NARD Fund (266).

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock supported, to remove \$20,000 for North Village park improvements from the 2019-20 budget. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

It was noted the Code Enforcement Officer does not expect to work the full 30 hours/week approved by the Board.

- ▶ **Motion:** Beliger moved, Zelenock supported, to reduce the hours for the Code Enforcement Officer from “up to 30” to “up to 25.” **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

Chockley noted the General Fund millage of .7756 will generate \$286,701, and revenue sharing is expected to be about \$747,000. She added that all Township millages will be 7.8713, and in 2021 the Public Safety Building millage will be retired.

**9.  
Approve Payment of Open Bills  
(expected check run date 06-12-2019)**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to approve payment of Open Bills (expected check run date 06-12-2019) for a total of \$98,991.96 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**10.  
Accept Check Disbursement Report for Paid Bills  
(check date from 05-10-19 to 06-06-19)**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to Accept Check Disbursement Report for Paid Bills (check date from 05-10-19 to 06-06-19) for a total of \$288,157.15 from all funds in the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) account.

In answer to a question, Aynes said the Public Safety Building usage is metered and the Township pays the bill, but the tenant is charged one REU. At Dockett’s request, Aynes said he will provide information about that.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Otto supported, to accept the consent agenda. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**TRUSTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, to accept the Trustee/Liaison Reports. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

There was discussion about the issue of parcels acquired by the Township for park purposes in Horseshoe Lake having been put back on the tax rolls by the Assessor based on his understanding of Michigan law, and information from the County Treasurer indicating they may be exempt from property taxes.

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- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved Zelenock supported, to direct the Township attorney to determine absolutely the tax status of the parcels owned by the Township in the Horseshoe Lake area.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

**SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

David Gordon made comments about plans for a sewage retention basin and sewer system expansion.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board member discussion included:

- Regarding enforcement of Bark Park rules, Burns said civil infraction tickets can be written after the ordinance that was passed at this meeting takes effect and the rules are posted. Chuck Steuer, 660 Six Mile Road, said the rules will be useless unless police officers can issue tickets. Burns said he will look into that.
- Kiwanis is seeking volunteers for traffic control, for a hoverboard team, and for a clown for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.
- National Fiber Optics on Whitmore Lake Road was welcomed to the Township following the approval of their site plan by the Planning Commission and recommendation of approval to the Board of their conditional use permit.
- People's Express is still waiting for their contribution from the Township approved on 2/28/19.
- A lot of information has been made available to the public (regular Board meeting discussions, information on the website, etc.) about the proposal for a sewer treatment plant retention basin.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chockley moved, Beliger supported, that the meeting be adjourned.  
**Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

The meeting adjourned 9:46 P.M.

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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 June 25, 2019.

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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/)