

Newfield Township Board

3890 198th Ave.

Hesperia, MI 49421

August 17, 2021

7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by our supervisor Joan David. The pledge was stated. A roll call was taken and the following were present John Clark, Tami Ballantyne, Rick Roberson, Joan David and Nancy Conley. All were present.

Public Comments: James Draper had several questions for the board. He passed out several pictures, an overview of the grow on 20 and questioned the parcel being entirely classified as Commercial. Steve explained that upon questioning several assessors that when a parcel is classified Commercial the whole parcel is considered that. We do not have strip assessing along 20. Mr. Draper feels some of the grow is on a part classified as residential. Mr. Draper stated he is on a mission to close all grows in Newfield Township, the State of Michigan etc.

Al Seng complimented Joan and Dennis David on the condition of the cemetery. Al would like us to take bids on gravel we are using in our township from Newfield Township gravel suppliers. He stated he felt the workmanship on Hawley, by the Oceana County Road Commission is not the best.

Lenny Brauer from Hi Tower Lake issued a complaint on the condition of the road around Hi Tower Lake.

Tami made a motion to approve the agenda. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the July minutes. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Tami made a motion to pay the bills Checks # 14217 – 14242 including an EFT for 1,966.86 for a total of \$33,386.92. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Tami gave a treasurers report ending 7-31-2021. Total deposits are \$4,087.24 with total of \$24,217.83 in withdrawals for a total cash available \$473,427.52.

Correspondence- We had a letter on West Michigan Broadband.

The Oceana County Board of Commissioners is sponsoring a design a flag for the county. All entries are due October 20th, 2021.

Steve noted that in the MTA magazine on page 21, there is an article on the COVID fund and possible use of funds when received.

There is a town meeting on Wednesday August 18 at the High School Cafeteria from 6:30-8:30p.m. It is open to the public.

Unfinished Business:

Nancy gave an update on the FOIA request.

Tami talked with Brian Flannery who will be investigating placing towers where needed throughout Newfield Township. The Planning Commission will be looking into the high speed fiber optics that Great Lakes Energy and Frontier will be offering. They are including NCats in this meeting.

Steve checked into a lawyer to review the New Marijuana Ordinance. Two that he contacted had a conflict of interest. Upon his recommendation Tami made a motion to hire Scott Roberts from Scott Roberts Incorporated to review the ordinance. It will be approx. \$1200-\$1500 with an additional \$500.00 for written letter on the suggested use of funds. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Nancy L. Conley made a motion to hire the office of John Schrier as our Blight enforcement lawyer. His fee is \$165.00 per hour for the lawyer fee and \$90.00 per hour for a paralegal. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried. Steve will be referring 5 or 6 cases with infractions to him.

Steve set down with Joan and Nancy and together they came up with a list of Budget expenses and revenue for our 2021 Marijuana grow activities. Steve tidied it up and gave it to the Board to review. The board can review and add input and have it in place when the new year rolls around.

Dennis Davis our sexton is going to put together a budget to begin the process of raising the sinking headstones in the old part of the West Cemetery. He will need to hire help with the maneuvering but can use the loader on the front of the tractor. Al Seng suggested to look into a cement that raises as it dries, and Nancy Conley suggested contacting Hart Cemetery on how they do it. It is her understanding that they do a few every year.

A clarification on the process of submitting splits for the township was needed. The beginning contact/ the split paperwork with the \$50.00 per split will be sent to our Assessor Barbie Eaton. If she has questions she will follow up with Steve Micklin our Zoning Administrator. This is the procedure Barbie uses in her other townships.

Joan will be receiving quotes from Reeth/Riley for a resurfacing of the parking lot at the Fire Barn. She would like to also have them quote a price on filling the cracks etc. on our Parking Lot. She will check and bring information back next meeting.

Nancy Conley made a motion for Joan David to purchase the software, Microsoft Publisher for approx. \$89.00 to \$130.00. John Clark seconded it. Joan would like to publish a newsletter to go into the tax bills twice a year and be available at area businesses the rest of the year for the public. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Nancy would like permission to look into the cost of a recycle center here at the Township Hall. She will report back next month on the particulars. She will be contacting Mark from Cart-Right recycling in Fremont.

An interest was raised in possibly having a food truck or a food distribution site here at the Township. We contacted True North. They gave us the information on contacting Feed American West Michigan in Grand Rapids for possible information. There is currently 3 sites in use right now in Oceana County. Two in the Shelby area and one in Pentwater. Joan will report back next meeting on her findings.

Robert Eichenberg from the Hesperia Fire Dept. is requesting equipment from the Township on a possible use of the COVID monies we are in line to be receiving in the future. He would like 2 mobile

radio units and 8 portable radio units for a total cost of \$23,223.28. Tami Ballantyne made a motion to use monies made available to us from Applications and Permits paid by the Marijuana Owners in our township. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried. The money will be moved as a Budget Amendment to Resident Services.

Committee reports

Parks – Lenny Brauer informed us that Randy and Karen Hren have donated a picnic table to be used at the Hi-Tower Park. The board would like to thank the Hrens for their generous donation. Lenny placed it and secured it. Dennis David is going to look at the boat launch at both Hi Tower and Blodgett for possible needed gravel.

Zoning- Steve passed out his report showing activities for the past month in his dept. He noted that there will be a hearing by the DNR and White River Watershed on Wednesday, the 18th at the Village Hall at 6:30. Two properties in Newfield Township will be reviewed. Steve will be attending.

Steve also reminded us about the Fall Clean Up for our township on September 11, from 8-1 or until the dumpsters are full. Mike Mayo will again be crushing for us. We can always use volunteers. The three Marijuana grows will be sending workers to help unload as they did in the spring.

Rick Roberson made a motion to adjourn. Tami Ballantyne seconded it. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Nancy L. Conley

Newfield Township Clerk