

Newfield Township

3890 198th St.

Hesperia, Michigan 49421

October 19th, 2021, 7:00p.m.

Joan David our Supervisor called the meeting to order. The pledge was stated and a roll call was called. John Clark, Amanda Hunter, Joan David, Rick Roberson, and Nancy L. Conley were all present.

Joan read a fact sheet put together by several Board & Planning Commission members along with our Zoning Administrator. This sheet related to the facts about the Cannabis grows in our Township. It was felt that this was needed due to the unsigned, untruths that are circulating in our township at the present time.

Public Comments:

James Draper from 184th Avenue, brought in 6 letters to distribute. He asked about the violations from the marijuana facilities.

Harold from 192nd made note of the Cannabis smell. He also commented about the many trips County gravel trucks are making from the new gravel pit on 192nd. He was upset with the amount of usage of large trucks on the road.

Steve Rosencrans from 186th made note of the Cannabis farm smell.

Francie Gysen 176 Avenue stated her complaint the land sold near her to Cannabis farmers.

Curtis Temple from Loop Road praised the Cannabis grow he is working for at this present time. He stated a fair wage, good management and good working conditions. This came at a time he was unable to find employment in the area.

Karen Carter Kasankiewicz from 1869 S. 176th on Blodgett Lake, cited the long term residency of her and her late husbands family in the area. She stated further that she was unhappy at the possible sale of land near her home sold for Cannabis farming. She felt that 10 grows in our township were too many for the size of the township.

Bethany Herin, age 16, from 176 Avenue expressed her opinion on Cannabis facilities in the area and the amazement that anyone younger would want to work there.

Steve Talbott from 186 Avenue is interested in what is happening on his road into further expansion of grows at this time. He wanted to know what amount of grows the board is settling as a maximum for the township.

James Gysen questioned how many new permits have been issued on top of the 3 grows that are in operation.

Joan answered several questions that had been asked. She then asked that the citizens that still had questions please stay until after the meeting and we would try to answer them. As this would give the board time to go into the office to retrieve accurate numbers and information needed.

Rick Roberson made a motion, seconded by John Clark to approve the agenda of the meeting. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21st 2021 meeting. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the bills checks #14274 – 14306 which includes an EFT for \$2,001.66 for a total amount of \$38,122.86. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter gave the treasurers activity for the month of September. It showed deposits of \$1541.04, with bills of \$15,665.52 for a total Cash Available of \$488,840.98.

Correspondence-

Nancy received the copy of the F-65 report from our auditor Sara Krantz that was filed with the state. Sara files this every other year, in the year we do not conduct a full audit.

Joan David made a motion seconded by Amanda Hunter to hire Sara Krantz to set up for the township the new chart of accounts required by the state. She is to meet with Nancy next Monday to do this along with how to deal with the COVID money coming in from the state. They will also be reviewing the setup of accounts that we have dealing with the Marijuana revenues and expenses. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion, seconded by Rick Roberson to approve the New Deputy Treasurer, Michelle Bieri. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion seconded by John Clark to hire Kelly Delia to grind the stumps left on the Township property after the trees are removed for a total of \$250.00. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to purchase a new computer monitor from Fremont Computers for our treasurer's desk and a stand from Amazon. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

The Planning Commission recommended to approve a Special Use permit for Steven and Amanda Hunter with the provisions that they will install an 8 ft. high solid uniformed fence and dispose of any and all hazardous waste. They must also remove any junk vehicles in a timely manner. Joan David made a motion to approve this recommendation, and Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote was taken: John Clark yes, Amanda Hunter abstained, Joan David yes, Nancy L. Conley yes, and Rick Roberson yes. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to increase the Planning Commission membership from 5 to 7 members. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to increase the number of meeting of the Planning Commission for the year from 4 to 6 meetings per year. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to require a Vice Chairperson to sit on the board of the Planning Commission. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

The Planning Commission recommended an increase of wages for the following board members: Chairperson \$150.00 per meeting, Vice Chair \$75.00 per meeting except when he/she runs the meeting and then it is \$100.00, Secretary \$100.00 per meeting and all other members \$75.00 per meeting. Joan David made a motion to increase the wages of the Chairperson to \$150.00 per meeting, and Nancy L. Conley seconded it. The motion carried. Joan David made a motion to set the wage for the Vice Chairperson as \$75.00 per meeting unless he or she is taking the Chairs place as it will increase to \$100.00 per meeting. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried. Joan David made a motion to increase the Secretaries wages to \$100.00 per meeting. It was seconded by Amanda Hunter. Motion carried. Joan David made a motion, seconded by John Clark to increase the monthly wage of all other members to \$75.00 per meeting. The motion carried. All amounts of funds will go into effect upon the the New Budget April 1,2022.

Joan David made a motion to appoint Wayne Ferris to the Planning Commission. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to appoint Cathy Herin to the Planning Commission as Secretary. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to appoint Thomas Meoak to the Board of Review. It was seconded by Rick Roberson. The motion carried.

Joan made a motion to appoint Mary Hopkins to the Board of Review. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan would like permission to look into a New sign and signage for the Town Hall. This will be tabled until she gathers more information.

Joan brought up the possibility of hiring an assistant for the Zoning Administrator. This person would help handle Blight and Constable duties. She is going to research this and come back with some figures.

Reports

Cemetery- Dennis reported 5 burials this month so far. The Girl Scouts will be removing the flags at the cemetery after Veterans Day.

Fireboard – They are still looking for Volunteers for the Dept. and First Responders.

Planning Commission- Jennifer will work on dates for next years meetings.

Parks – Len reported on the storage of equipment from the park. He also wanted to thank the group from the Cannabis grow for all their help in cleaning up the Hi Tower park.

Roads- In talking to John Clark we need to revisit the work that was done on 186th this past year. He suggested maybe the use of crushed concrete as the gravel did not hold.

Zoning – Steve handed out his report. 26 permits have been issued so far this year.

As previously stated, Joan and Steve will answer questions that were not answered at the Public Comments. We only ask that you wait your turn and be civil in your approach.

Rick Roberson made a motion to adjourn. John Clark seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Nancy L. Conley

Newfield Township Clerk