

Newfield Township Board
3890 198th Ave.
Hesperia, Michigan 49421
December 20 ,2022—7:00p.m.

The meeting was called to order by our Supervisor, Joan David. The pledge was stated. The roll call of board members was as follows: Rick Roberson, John Clark, Amanda Hunter, Joan David and Nancy Conley. All members were present.

Amanda made a motion to approve the agenda with clarification of Article 22, added to Number 10 of new business. Also adding electrical at the hall as Number 14. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the November 15, 2022 minutes. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Nancy Conley made a motion to approve a Budget Amendment for \$3,000 from Unallocated to Cemetery line and \$6,000 from Unallocated to Building Inspector. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter made a motion to approve paying the bills, Checks # 14732 – 14757 including two EFTs totaling \$2925.86 , for a grand total of \$17,578.30. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter gave the treasurers report. As of November 30th we showed \$162,944.57 in deposits with bills totaling \$24,700.50 for a total cash available \$720.486.21.

Correspondence:

Nancy had several pieces of correspondence to share. She read a letter from the Michigan Secretary of State congratulating her on a successful Nov. 8th election. An email from a Newfield Township resident, Randy Kinsey, volunteering to build a little Book Building to be placed near the township hall. A request went out in the December newsletter. A request from another resident Summer Little who has an abundance of books we could use for the Book Building. A report from Senator Bumstead on bills presented to the Michigan congress and the progress on those bills.

Amanda Hunter received two letters from Steve Talbott regarding information he received on a FOIA request and a violation of the townships acting on FOIA procedures.

Supervisors Report:

Joan reported that 200 turkeys were given out on November 19th 2022 at the township hall to any Newfield Township residents who requested one. The turkeys were purchased by Oceana Gardens, a local business on 186th Avenue. This is the second year they have donated turkeys to Newfield Township residents. The turkeys were purchased at Ed's Grocery in Hesperia at the going retail price. A local couple along with their friends and neighbors donated enough food to complete the Thanksgiving meal for 50 of the families. The board would like to thank not only Oceana Gardens, also Rick and Jill Winchel and their friends for their kindness shown to our residents.

On December 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. the township residents sponsored a Tree Lighting ceremony at the Township hall. Santa and his elf arrived and distributed donated candy canes. After the tree was lit everyone came inside the hall for Hot Chocolate, and cookies. The 5th grade class at Hesperia Middle School made ornaments for the tree in a judged contest. The winners were announced, and prizes of donated gift cards were distributed. 1st place was Jordyn Nurmi, 2nd place was Airyn Bolles and 3rd place was Autumn Milliron. Each child present received a gift bag of goodies. All participants in the contest also received a gift bag. There were two tables of new or nearly new items that were free for kids and parents to take and use for Christmas or if needed. Items ranged from socks to hats and mittens to toys. These items were donated by Dennis and Joan David, Hugh and Nancy Conley and Elizabeth Johnson from Fannas Mercantile. We also had two adults enter the contest. Pam Booher was the winner of the adult contest. We then proceeded out to the tree to place the ornaments on the tree.

We would like to thank the following residents and businesses for the following donations: Hot Chocolate – Hesperia Mobil , Cookies – Teep Spaulding, Cookies – Marlene Willis, Coffee and Cookies- Hugh and Nancy Conley, Napkins and Cups- Steve and Brenda Rosencrans, Gift Bags & Gift Cards- Oceana Gardens.

New Business:

Mark Kraus from the Newaygo County Tourism Board for Economic Development presented us with information and explanation of what his organization is doing not only in Newaygo County but in particular in the Hesperia Area. Since the river and tourism go hand in hand he showed maps etc.. that have been made to up our visabiilty in the area. Information will be displayed in our enclosed bulletin board by the first door of the hall. He will keep us informed of all activities.

Joan David made a motion to accept Jennifer Sherburns resignation from our Planning Commission. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to return to a five member Planning Commission Board instead of the recent 7. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan had received two written applications of interest for the seat on the Planning Commission being vacated by Jennifer Sherburn. The letters were from Michael Jansma and James Draper. Joan made a motion to appoint Michael Jansma to the Planning Commission to complete the term of office vacated by Jennifer Sherburn. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan made a motion to hire Michael Jansma as an IT person for our township at \$25.00 per hour. His duties will include any computer and internet decisions along with managing our website. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Because of some new guidelines from the state concerning Board of Review members, we need to reappoint our members and they must be trained and certified this next year. Joan made a motion to appoint Darlene Homrich, Marlene Willis, Mary Hopkins and Tom Meoak. Nancy Conley seconded it. The motion carried. The BOR training will take place February 16th from 1-4 at the Golden Township. Joan is required to be, as Supervisor, on the BOR so she will be attending the training also. The cost will be \$25.00 per person for a total of \$125.00.

Joan David made a motion to remove Amanda Hunter from her duties of Office Assistant. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried 4 -1 with Amanda Hunter abstaining.

Joan David made a motion to approve Judy Prus as Office Assistant. She will be paid \$15.00 per hour. Her duties will mainly be assisting the Clerk in organizing the files in the storage room as needed. Rick Roberson seconded it. The description will be revised to show she will receive No key to the building, No computer and she will not be expected to update or work on the website. The motion carried 3 – 2.

Joan made a motion to approve and set the meeting dates for the 2023 year for the Newfield Township Board. The meetings will take place on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried. Nancy will notify the Oceana Herald Journal.

Upon talking to Mr. Rozgowski from Parmenter Law about the renewal of Cannabis permits, Amanda presented 3 items we should clarify before the renewal takes place. The board needs to interpret the ordinance and define how and who approves the renewal permits. This could be taken either way (ZA or Board), but likely how our current ordinance is written leans towards the zoning administrator approving them without approval from the board. Amanda Hunter made a motion to clarify Article 22 by having the board vote on the renewal of Cannabis permits if they apply before the deadline and comply without a public hearing. John Clark seconded it. The roll call vote as follows: Rick Roberson-yes, John Clark – yes, Amanda Hunter- yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried.

2. Another clarification needed on suggestion from the lawyer was when the applications need to be in by. Our ordinance states that renewal applications must be in 60 days before the expiration (November 1)AND that renewals need to be in by November 30th in order to ensure renewal on January 1st. Amanda Hunter made a motion that this year the completed applications needed to be in by November 30th as the due date. This would take effect for this year only and the ordinance will be reviewed this coming year. A roll call vote as follows: Rick Roberson- yes, John Clark – yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Joan David – yes, Nancy Conley – yes. The motion carried.

3. Another clarification needed on suggestion from the lawyer was what happens when facilities apply after the date we select in #2, but before their permit officially expires (December 31st). Amanda Hunter made a motion, seconded by John Clark to clarify if they apply by November 30th but meet renewal qualifications before December 31st it could cause a possible delay in the board approval. A roll call vote as follows: Rick Roberson – yes, John Clark –yes, Amanda Hunter – yes, Nancy Conley –yes, Joan David – yes. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to approve the renewal of the following Cannabis Grow facilities: Oceana Gardens 1 & 2, True North, & Hi Cloud LLC. Rick Roberson seconded it . A roll call vote as follows: Rick Roberson – yes, John Clark – yes, Amanda Hunter – no, Nancy Conley – yes, and Joan David – yes. The motion carried 4-1.

Amanda Hunter made a motion that the board along with our new IT person look at replacing the computers and printers in the office. We are having many problems with the rebuilt ones we purchased a few years ago. Amanda stated that they would be purchased with Cannabis permit money. Nancy suggested a cap of \$10,000 be set. John Clark seconded it. Motion carried.

Joan David made a motion we go with a 2 times per year Brining contract with the County for the 2023 year. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan stated the county is looking into, if they have the support of the 16 townships, a possible Road Millage to be voted on by the residents of the county. They are asking for our support to begin the process of starting this procedure. She made a motion to show support. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried. We would still have the final say on what roads were fixed in our township. The motion carried.

We have had some recent problems with electrical outlets in the hall and office. Dennis had Randy Daniels, a certified electrician, look at the damage in the outlets. Several were not up to code and grounded properly. Amanda Hunter made a motion to have Dennis and Mr. Daniels make the proper repairs and reimburse them for their materials and pay them an hourly wage of \$15.00 per hour for repairs. They will also inspect the other outlets for problems. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Reports:

MTA – Will meet the last Wednesday in January, at the Crystal Twp. Hall at 6:00 p.m. At this meeting the members will be discussing Blight issues in our townships.

Planning Comm.- They will meet January 12th, 2023 The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. They have received 2 bids for the Master Plan and rewriting the ordinances.

Dennis removed all the flags from the Veterans Graves and leaf removal this fall.

Zoning - Steve handed out his report. He said we have received over 30 permits this year.

Public Comments – none

Board Discussion –

Nancy went over the cost of the election for Nov 8. As it stands the total cost is at \$3346.22. She once again would like to thank all the workers and volunteers who helped make it a success.

Nancy Conley made a motion to adjourn. Rick Roberson seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy L. Conley

Newfield Township Clerk