

Newfield Township Board

3890 198th Ave.

Hesperia, Michigan 49421

February 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Joan David called the meeting to order.

A roll call was called with the following members present: John Clark, Rick Roberson, Amanda Hunter, Joan David, and Nancy Conley.

Joan David made a motion, seconded by Amanda Hunter, to add Zoning Administrator training to number 11 in New Business and Approve bills to letter I. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the January 2023 Board Minutes. John Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments on action items only.

Amanda gave the Treasures report. The total deposits for the month of January were \$40,260.62 with bills of \$16,276.67 for a total cash available \$864,859.76.

Correspondence – Nancy went over the data on the May 2, 2023 election. The election is for Shelby Public Schools and only affects the Newfield Township residents in the old Ferry School District. You will be receiving your AV application and you will be voting at Ferry Township Hall. I will be available at the Newfield Township Hall the Sat. before the election from 8-4 for registration and same day voting and the day of the election for registration and same day voting from 7 a.m. -8p.m. Any questions please call me.

The board received two letters from Steve Talbott.

Supervisor Report

Joan met with the National Honor Society from Hesperia Schools to go over possible work projects for them to do to earn community hours.

Joan met with the Sheriffs in Hart to go over the Blight policies in our township.

Joan met with the Road Commission to go over what roads we will be working on this summer and the Brining contract.

Nancy and Joan met with the auditor to go over several questions on the budget items coming up.

Joan would like to announce that Bob Eichenberg has won Outstanding Firefighter of the Year for our area and has been nominated to the state level.

New Business

Nancy made a motion to raise the election inspector pay from \$13.00 to \$15.00 per hour, and from \$15.00 to \$18.00 for election chairperson pay. This will take effect in the new fiscal year. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter made a motion seconded by John Clark to start paying deputies in the new fiscal year \$15.00 per hour up to \$1500.00 per year. This would also cover trainings and that would be included in the \$1500.00 per year. The motion carried.

Nancy made a motion seconded by Amanda to pay \$15.00 per hour for any education training and will replace the previous \$50.00 stipend. This will also start with the new fiscal year. The motion carried.

Amanda made a motion, seconded by John Clark to raise the fire board wages to \$75.00 per meeting . The motion carried.

Joan made a motion, and Amanda Hunter seconded it, to suspend Republic Waste Services and go with American Classic Dumpsters. We have been having a lot of problems with Republic since they took over. American Classic quoted us a price of \$38.00 for 2 tips a month. There is a one time set up fee of \$70.00. The motion carried.

Keelin Vance is interested in a Hesperia Community Garden. She gave a presentation and gave a handout to board members. She would like to see it somewhere in Newfield Township. It would consist of raised beds and they would take care of watering and weeding and maintaining. Several questions were asked. The board is concerned about liability on public properties. The board will check into a few things and will revisit this next month.

Michael Jansma our IT Consultant checked into possibly using Spectrum for our phone and internet if it was available. He presented a lot of data that could save us money on those services as well as faster speeds. The board decided to table this and revisit it next month.

Amanda made a motion to approve the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines for this year for the BOR to follow. Rick Roberson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Nancy presented the contract and letter for the Household Hazardous waste disposal program through the Mason-Lake Conservation District. They are requesting \$685.60 based on a formula of 1714 people x .40/person. It is a very good program but unfortunately is not well used by our residents. Nancy made a motion to send them \$100.00 for their program. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

The Planning Commission made two recommendations to the township board based on the information they obtained from two separate hearings. The first is a recommendation of McKenna Consultants to help us update our Master Plan . Joan David made a motion to go with McKenna and Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark – yes, Rick Roberson – yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Joan David- yes, Nancy Conley – yes. The motion carried.

The second recommendation was to approve the proposed site plan for Hi Cloud on M-20 as presented. With a special use permit this 40 acres , formally Beckman Gravel Pit has been used for 23 years as a Commercial Mining . If purchased by Hi-Cloud and the site plan approved by the board, then they would have to apply for a Special Use Permit then a Building Permit to build at 12,000 to 15,000 square foot building. They have outgrown the current building because 2 labs have been installed and are using the majority of the space. All of the additional acreage would be fenced. It is currently in need of cleanup

and Hi Cloud would pay to have this property cleaned up to make it buildable and farmable. Amanda Hunter made a motion to not approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission and it was seconded by John Clark. A roll call vote was called: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-no, Amanda Hunter-yes, Joan David-no, Nancy Conley-no. The motion did not pass. Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission and Nancy Conley seconded it. A roll call vote was called: John Clark-no, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-no, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to approve a virtual Zoning Administrator Training Class for our Zoning Administrator, Steve Micklin. The class will be March 21st, and the cost will be \$115.00. Amanda asked if the village would be willing to pay ½ of the class because Steve is now their Zoning Administrator at the village. Mike Farber, President of the Village council was here and agreed to paying ½. The motion was seconded by Rick Roberson. The motion carried.

Nancy Conley made a motion to pay the bills as presented with an EFT of \$1844.20 and checks numbered 14785-14825 for a total of \$23,878.14. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Reports:

MTA – The next meeting will be on the last Wednesday in March, 29th at 6:00p.m. at the Benona Township hall.

Zoning – Steve Micklin handed out his report. He reported on 2 properties that are in violation and the process being taken.

There were several Public Comments.

Rick Roberson made a motion seconded by Joan David to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Newfield Township Clerk

Nancy Conley