

Newfield Township Board

3890 198th Avenue

Hesperia, Michigan 49421

231-854-4702

April 18th, 2023

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

Amanda Hunter made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition of items number 8 Recycle Center and 9 CD renewal. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the March 21, 2023 board minutes. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Public Comments on Action Items:

Amanda made a motion seconded by John Clark to a Budget Amendment of \$7787.48 to move Covid money for ½ of the amount due on the quote for the Recycle Security fence from the COVID account to Accounts Payable. The motion carried.

Amanda gave the treasurers report. Our accounts show deposits for March is 3,873.39 with checks written for \$15,342.44 for a total cash available of \$880,057.03.

Correspondence:

Amanda introduced a letter from Steve Talbott concerning the money approved last month from the Cannabis fund for Oceana County Sheriffs Dept. request for up to \$120,000.00 for the purchase of radios.

Steve presented a letter from Robert Beckman concerning the time frame of Beckmans JRB Co. and the permit for mining sand and gravel. The permit was received in 2005 and they started processing material in approx.. 2007. They have made dairy sand and gravel since that time.

Old Business:

Joan David made a motion for a resolution #4-18-23-1 to raise the Clerks Wages \$2500.00 plus the 8% across the board that was given to the members last month. Rick Roberson seconded it. The raise was denied last month do to misinformation on voting procedure on raises. The raises are given to the office not the person. Conley could have voted for the Clerks wage thus ending what ended up being a 2 to 2 tie. The raise would put the Clerks salary at \$20,196.00. A roll call vote proceeded as follows: John Clark yes, Rick Roberson -yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The resolution carried.

New Business:

Nancy introduced Lola Harmon Ramsey from American Classic Dumpster Services. Lola helped Nancy write the Recycle Grant from EGLE for our new Recycle Center. The Grant was approved and we are in the process of putting it all together. The grant was written to include The Village of Hesperia, Denver Township, Greenwood Township, and Newfield Township. Lola brought information and product to show us what can be recycled and cannot. The bids are in for the dumpsters so the next thing is waiting for the order to be filled. The dumping fees are much less then originally quoted, because of several factors. Right now they are running \$55.00 to \$65.00 per tip. We are in the process of organizing a committee with representatives from each of the entities to help with the overall decisions.

It was brought to our attention that the motions from last month regarding the increase of wages for the supervisor and the across the board 8% wages should have been done by resolution. Therefore, Joan made a motion to rescind last months motion to increase the Supervisors salary and an 8% across the board. It was seconded by Rick Roberson. Motion carried. Joan David made a resolution #4-18-23-2 to increase the salary of the Supervisor plus the 8% across the board increase , for a total of \$17,280.00. Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: Rick Roberson-yes ,John Clark-yes ,Amanda Hunter-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The resolution passed.

Joan David made a motion to rescind the motion from last month , seconded by Rick Roberson to give the Treasurer an 8% raise. The motion carried. Joan David made a resolution 4-18-23-3 to give the Treasurer an 8% increase in pay. Rick Roberson seconded it. The treasurers total salary will be \$20,196.00. A roll call vote went as follows: Amanda Hunter-yes ,Rick Roberson-yes, John Clark-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes .The resolution carried.

Joan David made a motion to rescind the motion from last month to give the trustees an 8% raise. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried. Joan David made a motion for a resolution #4-18-23-4 to give both Trustee positions an 8% increase that would equal \$162.00 per meeting. Rick Roberson seconded it. Discussion followed. Amanda reported her findings from a small wage study among Newaygo and Oceana County Townships and recommended the board consider changing trustees pay to a monthly basis instead of a meeting-basis. She also recommended an increase in their salary to \$275 per month instead of \$162.00 per meeting. No support to change the resolution was shown. The original resolution passed. A roll call vote was as follows: John Clark-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes ,Rick Roberson-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The resolution carried.

Joan David made a motion for Steve Micklin and Rick Martin to attend an online Zoning class on May 18th,2023. The class costs \$100.00 a piece. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion and John Clark seconded it to approve for the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to attend a BSA Tax training session in Hart. Cost is \$65.00 for the two. The motion carried.

Nancy gave an update on the progress with the Master Plan.

Joan reviewed the estimates from the road commission. The estimates on 164th, Warren and Buchanan were dismissed for this year. Joan is going to check with Hart on possibly making Zimmers gravel repairs for a shorter length and waiting for a new estimate on 166th and Lakeview and HiTower, which are all under 1 estimate. The following estimates were presented. The Parking lot resurfacing for \$5939.00, 176th Avenue for \$211,464.00, and Baker Road east of 200th to 204th for \$103,015.00.

Joan David made a motion to resurface the Parking Lot at the Township Hall for a total of \$5939.00. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The total will be covered by ARPA funds. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to accept the estimate for 176th for \$211,464.00 200th to be done with Cannabis Permit funds. John Clark seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Amanda Hunter-no, Rick Roberson-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried 4 to 1.

Joan David made a motion to accept the estimate for Baker Road east of 200th to 204th for \$103,015.00 to be done with Cannabis Permit funds. Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: Amanda Hunter-no, Rick Roberson-yes, Joan David- yes, John Clark-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried 4 to 1.

The Planning Commission has recommended the Special Use Permit for HiCloud with the conditions that the board would check with a lawyer on our Zoning Ordinance and state law. Joan checked with 2 lawyers on the proposal. A rezoning change could be requested by Hi-Cloud to make it all Commercial Ag. We could grant the Special Use for the 13980 square foot building and the fencing of the property at this time, with no Cannabis Plants planted or stored on this property at this time.

Nancy Conley made a motion to grant the Special Use Permit at this time to Hi-Cloud for the 13,980 foot storage building pole barn and the fencing around the 30 acre property. There will be no Cannabis planted or stored at this time. Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes ,Amanda Hunter-yes. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter made a motion to use Boerman Fencing of Fremont for the fencing around our Recycle Center and to pay them ½ of the amount quoted, \$7787.48. Joan David seconded it. The motion carried.

Because of low interest rates on a CD for \$5,983.29 at Shelby State Bank, Amanda made a motion to cash it in. John Clark seconded it. It is due 4-29-2023. She would like it placed into the General Fund. Nancy had checked with our former treasurer about this and that CD is from a combined amount of monies for Perpetual Care Fund for the cemetery. It is illegal to cash it in and use for anything and only the interest can be used at this time. Amanda presented a change to the motion that this money be rolled into a new CD with a better interest rate. John Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed. Tracy Sumner was at the meeting from Shelby State Bank and will help Amanda on selections available to reinvest the CD.

Amanda Hunter made a motion to approve the bills Check #14855-14889 with an EFT for \$2147.01 for a total of \$35,378.76. John Clark seconded it. The motion carried.

Reports:

MTA – Will meet the last Wednesday in March at Benona Township Hall and the last Wednesday in May at the Elbridge Hall.

Planning Commission – Will meet Thursday, May 11. It is a workshop meeting starting the process of the Master Plan review.

Tech Support- Michael offered an estimate for no more than \$5,000, to place cameras hooked into our system at the hall, at Ox Bow Park. John Clark made a motion to go ahead with the proposal and it was seconded by Rick Roberson. The motion carried.

Cannabis Enforcer- Rick will be starting the regular inspections at the grows next week. He met with Endrit from Hi Cloud over the progress on the berms on the M20 side of his grow. Beckmans will be starting the berm process along with planting 4 to 6 foot trees on the berm. Rick also stated that Andre is paying Beckman Bros \$3,000 per acre to clean up the 30 acres he just purchased from Bob Beckman. That process is to start also.

Cemetery- Dennis has sold 12 plots this month and set 5 Cemetery bases. He has been working on cleaning up brush and trimming and at this date has hauled 14 trailer loads out, and is expecting to do at least 6 more.

Zoning- Steve handed out his Zoning report. He is reviewing our Blight and Safety ordinances.

Public Comments

Board Discussion- Amanda asks that if the Debit card is used for the township to call and let her know ahead of time of the usage.

Amanda was also asked to check into other banks to be used for funds that we have on hand. Gerber Credit Union, Huntington and Choice 1 were suggested.

Joan has tried to get agendas for the meeting out 6 days ahead of the monthly meeting. We are going to ask that all bills and wage reports be in the Thursday morning before the monthly meeting, so Nancy can process them and write checks for payroll and bills. That gives the board members time to process all the reports generated from this process.

Supervisors Report-

Joan reported from the Fire Board Meeting a total of 38 runs were made last month. The new Fire Truck is to be here in May.

Joan reported that she had heard back from 2 of our lawyers that the purchase of radios for the Oceana County Sheriffs Dept that was approved last month is a go. There was some question last month on the idea that it was not legal because they were not within the boundaries of our Township. All is legal and the Sheriff has been instructed by our Supervisor to order the radios for a total of \$120,000.00 and send the bill to us. The bill will be paid out of our Cannabis Permit money.

Joan also reported that the last 12 FOIA requests have taken a total of over 60 hours to fill. This was done by mainly 3 people on our staff.

Steve reminded us that Dump Day will be June 3rd, from 8 a.m. to 1p.m. here at the Township hall.

Joan David made a motion to adjourn. Rick Roberson seconded it. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Nancy Conley

Newfield Township Clerk