

Newfield Township

3890 198th Ave.

Hesperia, MI 49421

September 19, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

231-854-4702

The meeting was called to order by our Supervisor Joan David. A roll call was taken with the following board members present: John Clark, Amanda Hunter, Rick Roberson, Joan David, and Nancy Conley.

Nancy Conley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter made a motion to approve the August 15, 2023 minutes. John Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Clark made a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes from September 7, 2023. Rick Roberson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments on action Items only.

Nancy Conley made a motion to amend the Budget for \$20,000.00 for our Road Improvement line from the unallocated line. Amanda Hunter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Nancy Conley made a motion to approve the bills as presented with checks from #15026 – 15073 including 7 EFTs for a total of \$392,977.57. Rick Roberson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter gave her treasurers report thru August 31, 2023. Total deposits in August were \$41,268.09 with total withdrawals of \$39,838.24 for a total Cash available of \$871,981.37.

Correspondence:

A safety complaint was read.

A letter that got mixed in with tax payments was presented that should have been presented at the Special Meeting, September 7, 2023.

Joan stated Nancy was served with papers by Steve Talbott, on behalf of Jim Draper, for a lawsuit that has been filed in Circuit Court, Oceana County against Newfield Township. Nancy has sent it on to our Insurance Co and John Schrier our township lawyer.

Old Business

Amanda brought back more information on the Text my Gov. company. The offer she brought back was for \$2,000.00 the first year and a \$1,000.00 set up fee. Amanda Hunter made a motion to pursue the offer. Rick Roberson seconded it. After much discussion a roll call vote was taken: John Clark-no, Amanda Hunter- yes, Joan David—no, Rick Roberson-yes, Nancy Conley-no. The motion failed 3 to 2.

Nancy gave an update on the Recycle Center progress. She started by thanking everyone involved in the project and all of their hard work. Dennis David spent the better part of a full day unloading the dumpsters off a semi , 2 at a time, then waiting for the truck to go and come back from Newaygo with each load. Joan David and Michael Jansma worked on ordering, setting up , and placing the locks ,along with Dennis in placing the signage. We did a soft opening Monday the 18th and it went well. We were open from 8-4.

When you bring in your recyclables we take down the date and time of each individual and which township he or she resides in or the village.

We are receiving the names and phone numbers for interested volunteers. Each volunteer will have a 4 digit code for the locks. All of that is run through and registered in our computer system keeping track of the person and time each is used.

Nancy is working on a calendar of scheduled volunteers and their duties.

The Recycle hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 8-4 and Saturdays from 8- noon.

New Business:

We received one sealed bid that Joan opened at the meeting. It was from Mike Anderson, Supervisor from Denver Township. The bid was for \$10.00. Mike was awarded the bid and can look after the meeting at which desk he wishes to purchase.

Dennis David has noticed around the bottom of the Scout Cabin at Ox Bow Park the boards are badly deteriorating. Dennis asked Rick Martin to take a look see and he confirmed the damage along with bare wires being exposed. Joan checked with several contractors asking that they take a look and come back with a bid. She only received 3 bids back. The following bids for the work were received : \$3175.00- Mike Rosema, Diamond Fours Construction-\$2978.00 and Martin Construction \$ 2500.00. Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the project awarding the bid to Martin Construction. Joan David seconded it. A discussion followed with concerns to how the board seeks bids. In the discussion it was asked that we in the future, place an ad in the local paper asking for bids on a given project. The Hi Lites along with the Herald Journal was suggested. A roll call vote went as stated: Rick Roberson-yes, John Clark-No, Amanda Hunter- no, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried 3 to 2 votes. The funding for this project will come from ARPA funds we have received from the government.

With the bad shape of the existing cement sidewalk in front of our hall, Joan contacted several contractors for their opinions and bids. Because we had the asphalt poured as to line up with the continuation of the sidewalk to come along the whole south side of the parking lot , this is a combination of removing and adding to the present sidewalk. The following bids were received on the project : John Yates -\$6650.00, Martin Construction-\$5375.00 and \$4682.00 – Mike Rosema Masonry. Joan David made a motion to go with Mike Rosema Masonry to remove the existing sidewalk and replace and add to it. Rick Roberson seconded the motion. The project will be funded with our ARPA funds. Once again discussion followed on not placing the project/bids in the local paper. A roll call vote was as follows: Amanda Hunter-no, Joan David-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, John Clark-no, Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried 3 to 2.

Joan presented options on striping the parking lot. One option is to have the Oceana County Road Commission do it. Joan and Michael Jansma have offered to do it for \$15.00 per hour each with the option of purchasing the needed paint and such at the Hesperia Hardware for \$612.68, or from Uline for \$533.00. Joan suggested to table this until next month when she can get a quote from the Oceana County Road Commission.

Amanda Hunter has been talking with several firms for quotes on auditing for our Township. She has received a couple of quotes that run anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. She will get back with us next month on this.

Nancy and Michael contacted John at Parmeter Law in Muskegon to review the Policies we are looking at for our hall and parking lot. Nancy will forward what we have received back to the board members for review.

Joan brought up for discussion the replacement of Michael Jansmas and Steve Micklins desks in the office. She suggested we buy new to match the other desks recently purchased with ARPA funds. Discussion followed. This was tabled for next meeting.

Nancy received and shared with the board the contract with American Classic for the Recycling Center. She made a motion to go with the contract. Rick Roberson seconded it. In the discussion that followed was the question on a 5 year contract, and the interpretation of the tipping billing. Nancy will talk to them about a 2 year contract and a clarification of the tipping fees. A roll call vote was as follows: Rick Roberson-yes, John Clark-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Joan David-yes, and Nancy Conley-yes. The motion carried 5-0. Nancy will report back to the board as soon as she contacts American Classic. Nancy also mentioned that the Village of Hesperia voted to contribute \$1800.00 for the first year to American Classic to be placed towards our Recycle Bill with them. To satisfy their auditor, American Classic will bill them for the \$1800.00 for the first year and they will pay American Classic who will in turn credit our account.

Nancy had talked to Rob Forbes who has been taking care of our snow removal here at the hall for the past several years. He came out and checked on the location of the Recycle Center and whether he could take on the added plowing. She received a bid back from him for \$70.00 per service with the understanding that he would keep the lot plowed for the days the Recycle center is open along with our regular meeting days. Nancy made a motion to hire Rob Forbes for our plowing. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Reports-

Joan reminded us that the County MTA will meet on September 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Golden Township hall in Mears.

Planning Commission – Steve reminded us the first public input session for our Master Plan will be Thurs. September 21st from 6-8 p.m. here at the hall. Refreshments will be served including pizza from Angelos and Riccardos.

The second session will be Saturday, September 30th from 1 to 4 p.m. here at the hall. Refreshments will be served.

Steve also reminded us about the survey concerning the public input on the Master Plan, can be found on line on our Township website. A hard copy of the survey can be found at the township hall and the Hesperia Public Library also.

Cemetery- Dennis reported one cremation burial. He also has been doing a lot of trimming and mowing in anticipation of fall and winter.

Zoning – Steve stated 4 permits were issued last month, with 2 issued this month. He is averaging 3 calls a day from folks with question. He also has been working on the ordinances and has sent John Schrier all the information he has requested on the update.

Public Comments-

Several comments were made.

Supervisors Report

I want to make a comment about a recent ad in the paper. The ad that reminded people to pay their taxes even though it was after the due date.

We did have changes, big changes, at the hall. We put in a new parking lot for less than \$40,000, a new digital sign, new office furniture and new interior paint. Everything was paid for with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds we received from the state because of COVID. Funds that we have a limited time to use and what we use it for. If not used by a certain time then it needs to be returned to the state. All board members approved these purchases. The township also purchased all new computers and monitors which were purchased with cannabis money approved by all members of the board.

We also have our Recycle Center done and up and running . All thanks to Nancy for working so hard at writing a grant for it.

Now with sidewalks being put in we should be set for many years. It's been 25 years since we have and anything new or improved other than the roof. I have to say that I am happy that the board took advantage of the free money we received so we could make these improvements without using any taxpayer money.

As far as all the road improvements that we did, we used Cannabis money to put in a new road on 176th Ave., repaved Baker Road and chip and sealed Yonker road and part of 186th Ave. We also paved Lakeview Road, 166th Ave. , Hightower Lake Rd. did some gravel upgrade on 172nd and Zimmer Roads along with 2 brinings of our gravel roads with budgeted money. That's 9 roads this year that have been done and grading and brining of many miles of gravel roads.

Yes planning commission members are appointed by the Supervisor as according to the state of Michigan is part of the Supervisors job. I have chosen both men and women, I have chosen people that have different backgrounds and knowledge in different areas. I have chosen people that have shown interest and I have sought out individuals that I feel will give a good insight on the township. Each planning commission member researches, asks questions, and goes above and beyond what they need to do with no proding from me or anyone else. These individuals are very capable and intelligent and I in no way have ever tried to steer them in any one direction or another. They are intelligent enough to

make their own decisions on anything placed before them and by the comment made by the person know as Newfield Township Precinct Delegate they may think that you are stating otherwise.

Board Discussion

Amanda asked about the speeding question from a resident on Buchanan from an earlier meeting. He had suggested maybe a speed bump. Joan checked with Hart and that is illegal. Speed regulations come from Hart.

Nancy and Joan told of an update on the Autistic Children road signs out on Zimmer Road. Joan ordered the signs, finally got the poles and now we are waiting for 176th to be finished paving so we can place the signs.

Joan will check on why several roads were not brined.

John asked about progress on Fish Road closure. Joan has contacted several people as well as Hart and is waiting to hear back on how to proceed.

John also asked about the progress on the possible relocation of the Baseball fields in our township. The folks who own the land in question along with Joan are checking on how the Insurance coverage works along with a couple of other questions. She is still working on it and will report more on it at the next meeting.

Amanda Hunter made a motion that any required postings that are sent to the Oceana Herald be duplicated in the HiLites since the majority of residents don't get the Herald but do get the HiLites. We do not have to put all of our advertisements in the Herald, but any publications that are required to go in the Herald should be duplicated in the HiLites. John Clark Seconded it. The motion carried.

Amanda made a motion to adjourn the meeting , seconded by John Clark. The motion carried with an adjournment at 8:54 p.m.

Nancy L. Conley

Newfield Township Clerk