

Newfield Township Board
3890 198th Ave.
Hesperia, Michigan 49421
854-4702
November 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

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

Nancy Conley made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of #7 under New Business , titled Budget Amendment. Joan David seconded it. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion, seconded by John Clark to approve the October 17,2023 meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Public Comments on Action Items Only- There were no comments.

Amanda Hunter gave the Treasurers Report for the month of October. Deposits were \$38,597.03 with disbursements of \$199,686.68 with a total cash available of \$ 582,166.81.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the bills as submitted, checks # 15105- 15159 with several EFTs for a total of \$38,180.56. Amanda Hunter seconded it. The motion carried.

Nancy received several items of correspondence:

Nancy reviewed the article on Newfield Township in the November MTA magazine. She contacted them and found out we can reprint the article on our Township website.

Nancy received two FOIA requests : James Draper and Meg Pittman from FOIA Professional Services.

The bill from the Oceana County Drain Commissioner was for clearing the drain that runs from Carl Nielsen's field, across into Greenwood Township, and on to the river. Because it runs through two townships and Electrical Company property the bill was prorated.

We received a copy of the F-65 report from our Auditor that was submitted on our behalf to the State of Michigan.

We received an update from the State of Michigan – EGLE on the property on Gressley Road owned by Jim McMillan.

We received an up date from our Assessor , Barbie Eaton , on the Disabled Veteran Exemption changes.

Melanie from the County Clerks office sent an update on the early voting process. Some of the new equipment came in. The county will be sending out notices to all registered voters in our county about the early voting site at the county building in Hart for the Presidential Primary.

Joan David gave her Supervisors report. The court case filed against the township by Mr. Draper is still on going.

Joan stated the results of the November 7th elections showed all 3 millages passed.

The fireboard report showed there were 20 runs, 1 being a car fire otherwise the rest were all medical or accidents.

We are looking for roads to work on for next year. With Cannabis money we can work on 3 sections of 204th Avenue and a portion of Pierce Road. We can use budgeted money for 164th Avenue. We are looking at a bond or grant for Buchanan Road.

The township tree lighting will be Friday, Dec. 8 from 6 – 8 p.m. with cookies, hot cocoa, coffee, ornament contest, lighting of the tree, a visit from Santa Claus(bring your camera) . We will also have items for families to take to enhance their Christmas this year, such as stocking stuffers, gift items, quilts and pillow cases. If anyone is interested in donating cookies, items to give away, hot cocoa. etc ...please let Joan know.

Old Business

Joan David read Michael Jansma's Technology report as he was absent from the meeting. He stated the Ubiquiti View Port is installed and working. He is asking the board to purchase an Ubiquiti Pro 24 Port POE Switch that would cost approximately \$691.00. He is working on a request for a view count on the website from May 2023 to the present. He has started working on updating the Technology Policy. Joan David made a motion to purchase the Ubiquiti Pro 24 Port from Amazon for no more than \$700.00. Amanda seconded the motion. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Nany Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

New Business

Joan has been having issues with her Cemetery Laptop. After some discussion Amanda suggested Joan have Michael put the cemetery software on her Supervisors Laptop. Joan will talk to him about it.

Joan David made a motion to pay V & V Assessing for the new GIS imaging, in the amount of \$1500.00, that was taken last Spring. Amanda Hunter seconded it with an addition of the funds to come from ARPA funds. After a short discussion a roll vote was taken. John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

There is a tree falling in Oxbow that is hung up on another tree. Joan received estimates to have it removed and the area cleaned up. Assassination Tree Service , 9014 E. M20,Hesperia, MI presented an estimate of \$1500.00. Robert Smith, of Hesperia, gave us an estimate of \$800.00. Dennis David our Sexton gave an estimate of \$500.00 to take it down and clean up the mess. After a discussion on insurance coverage, Amanda Hunter made a motion that the work be awarded to Dennis David. John Clark seconded it. A roll call vote was as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David- yes. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter made a motion to accept the contract from American Classic for two Dump Days in 2024, with the change of 2 to 3 dumpsters for the September date. The dump days will be the Saturday after Memorial Day and the Saturday after Labor Day. John Clark seconded it. A roll call vote went as

follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter – yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

Joan asked the Zoning Administrator to give his report on the renewal of the Cannabis Grow Permits for the year. His report by grow is as follows:

Oceana Gardens 1 – No changes and no violations. All paperwork is in and fees paid for 15 Class C permits and 1 processing for a total of \$80,000.00. Joan made a motion to renew the permits and Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-no, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried 4 to 1.

Oceana Gardens 2- No changes and no violations. All paperwork is in and fees paid for 18 Class C permits for \$90,000.00. Joan made a motion to renew the permits and Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follow: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-no, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes, The motion carried 4 to 1.

True North- No changes and no violations. All paperwork is in and fees paid for 6 Class C and 2 excess permits for a total of \$40,000.00. Joan made a motion to renew the permits and Rick Roberson seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-No, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David -yes. The motion carried 4 to 1.

Hi-Cloud- No changes and no violations. All paperwork is in and fees paid for 14 Class, 1 excess, 1 processing for \$80,000.00. Discussion followed concerning the vegetation on the front side facing 20. Rick Martin stated that the original trees that were planted were in compliance with the Townships ordinance, but they died. Hi-Cloud worked with Rick on putting in a berm and then planting 5 to 6 ft. tall trees. The trees dying were not his fault. It took longer to get the new trees planted between the berm being put in and the trees planted during planting time. Rick said he was never issued a citation, and worked with Rick on the vegetation problem. John Clark asked Rick what the new building was being used for they just put up. Rick stated that it was just getting electricity in it last week and there was nothing in it when he was last there. Joan made a motion to renew the permits and Rick Roberson seconded it Amanda wanted it noted that she believed a public hearing was needed before approval. . A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-no, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried 4 to 1.

Nancy made a motion to retract the ads that were placed in the Oceana Herald Journal approving the Ordinances that were passed at the October meeting for the ORV ordinance and the Blight, Junk Vehicle and Public Safety. The language was not right. Amanda Hunter seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

Amanda Hunter made a motion by Resolution to rescind the Resolution that passed in October for the approval of the ORV and Blight, Junk Vehicle and Public Safety ordinances. Nancy Conley seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter -yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

After some discussion a workshop was suggested to go over line by line the Blight, Junk Vehicle and Public Safety Ordinance. There are misspelled words, and things that need to be clarified. Upon checking with MTA , Mike and Amanda found that we need to readdress the ORV ordinance and the proper

procedures even though we didn't change the wording. We agreed to a workshop on December 5th 2023 at 1:00 p.m. here at the hall. Amanda Hunter made a motion to have a board workshop, seconded by Joan David to have the workshop. A roll call vote went as follow: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Nancy Conley-yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

Nancy Conley made a motion to move with a Budget Amendment \$9,000.00 from unallocated to the following lines : \$2,000.00 to Parks and Recreation Dept # 751,\$ 5,000.00 to Township Board Dept #101 and \$2,000 to Resident Services Dept #705. Amanda Hunter seconded the motion. A roll call vote went as follows: John Clark-yes, Rick Roberson-yes, Amanda Hunter-yes, Nancy Conley -yes, Joan David-yes. The motion carried.

Reports:

MTA—It will meet Wednesday, November 29th, at Greenwood Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be furnished.

Planning Comm.- On Nov. 9th the Planning Commission set the meeting dates for the year 2024. Because of the required meeting dates for the Master Plan the Planning Comm. decided to go with the following dates:

January 9th, Feb. 13, March 12, April 9th, May 14, June 11, July -NONE, August 13, September 10, October 8th November 12th and Dec. 10th.

Cannabis Enforcer- Rick reported that the grows are done with their harvest. He will start making his fall harvest inspections wrap up the week after Thanksgiving.

Cemetery- Dennis had two burials. He is now making the bases for the stones instead of getting them from Muskegon Vault. He has finished 6 and they are working fine, even a little thicker then the ones he had been using.

Zoning- Steve handed out his report to the board.

Public Comments- There were several.

Board Discussions- Amanda did a recap on the new auditor. He will be sending us 2 contracts for the new year. He talked to us about several things to address in the new year.

John Clark asked about the debit card and how we are handling that. Amanda stated she would still like to get a credit card. Amanda also explained how the accounts were divided between Choice One and Shelby State Bank.

Amanda made a motion to adjourn seconded by Rick Roberson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Nancy L. Conley

Newfield Township Clerk