

Newfield Township Board

3890 198th Ave.

Hesperia, Michigan 49421

November 19, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by our Supervisor, Joan David.

A roll call was taken of the Board Members with the following present: Wayne Ferris, Mary Hopkins, Joan David, Rick Roberson and Nancy Conley.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Wayne Ferris. The motion carried.

Rick Roberson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2024. Wayne Ferris seconded it. The motion carried.

Nancy Conley made a motion to move \$1,000 from our unallocated account to our Roads line. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Mary Hopkins made a motion to approve the payment of bills, check # 15561 thru 15600 with an EFT for a total of \$39,771.69. Rick Roberson seconded it. The motion carried.

Mary gave her treasurers report. She shows deposits of \$58,821.03, with expenses of 15,000, for a total cash available of \$148,268.84.

Correspondence:

Nancy presented the report from the County Clerk for the Certification of the November 2024 Election by the Board of Canvassers of Oceana County.

Old Business

Steve gave an update on the Solar and Wind Ordinance. He suggests we approach it when the process begins to rewrite our Ordinances after the Master Plan is adopted.

Michael Jansma our IT coordinator presented information on the cost of cell phones for use by the Board for Township business, along with phones for the IT coordinator/Planning Comm. Chair and the Zoning Admin. Nancy stated that before she could vote on this proposal she would like to see quotes and the report in writing. After hearing his presentation Nancy Conley made a motion to table the vote on this until the December meeting when the board could look over the proposal. Wayne Ferris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business

Joan had given the board information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption from the county and State Government to review. Rick Roberson made a motion to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution # 11-192024. Wayne Ferris seconded the motion. A roll call vote went as follows: Rick Roberson – yes, Mary Hopkins – yes, Wayne Ferris – yes, Nancy Conley – yes, and Joan David – yes. The motion carried.

The Planning Commission at their last meeting, Tuesday November 12, 2024, voted 4 to 0 to recommend to the Township board the approval of the master plan with changes. The changes have been made, the final draft has been submitted by McKenna, the draft has been sent and distributed to the Board members, and we are ready to proceed. Joan David made a motion to accept the recommendation with a second by Rick Roberson. Discussion followed with several questions from Wayne. After answering several questions we agreed to the adaption with the extraction on page 59 of using "soft edges" and replace with a Special Use Permit. Ethan from McKenna will make the adjustment and send us a clean copy. A roll call vote went as follows: Rick Roberson – yes, Wayne Ferris – yes, Mary Hopkins – yes, Nancy Conley – yes, and Joan David – yes. The motion carried 5 to 0.

Joan presented to the board a training for the Zoning Administrator in Feb. presented by MSU Extension office. Steve had talked to the Village about sharing costs because Steve also is their Zoning Administrator. The village has agreed to pay half of the cost of the seminar. There are several on line classes that participants have to do in order to attend the seminar. Joan David made a motion for Steve to attend the seminar with the village paying half of the costs. Mary Hopkins seconded it. The motion carried.

Upon conferring with our auditor he suggested that we talk to BSA about linking Nancys BSA program to Mary's. Thus illuminating a duplicate program that we have been paying \$30.00 per month for. Not only will this save time but money. Joan made a motion and Rick Roberson seconded it. We will see if BSA is willing to come up and do some training with us on our programs. The motion carried.

Joan David made a motion to close all accounts at Choice One and move them back to Shelby State Bank. Mary is going to check with the County Treasurer about investing those funds and future funds to the Michigan Class investment program. The county has been using this and it has been very successful. Mary Hopkins seconded it. The motion passed with a roll call vote: Mary Hopkins – yes, Nancy Conley – yes, Rick Roberson – yes, Wayne Ferris – yes, and Joan David – yes.

Joan David made a motion to approve sending our new officials to a training in Muskegon for new board members just elected. The training will take place December 10th. Nancy Conley seconded the motion. The motion carried. The following new board members are approved to attend, Mary Hopkins, Wayne Ferris and Micah Johnson. As in the past we will pay for the class and mileage to and from Muskegon.

Joan David made a motion to accept and presented the Board Meeting dates for the year 2025. The dates will fall on the third Tuesday of each month. Rick Roberson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Nancy will send the dates to be published to the Oceana Echo along with the meeting dates for 2025 for the Planning Commission.

Reports

MTA – Our county MTA will meet December 4th at Otto Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. Joan will be with the State MTA in Lansing on December 5th and 6th.

Planning Commission – Michael gave a report on the past meeting of the Planning Commission. He also wanted to thank Rick Roberson for his time spent on the Planning Commission representing the board during his past terms.

Cemetery

Dennis David gave his report on the cemeteries. He had 4 burials this past month along with removing the old flags from the Veterans graves. He has spent a goodly amount of time removing leaves. Also preparing for winter the water lines have been blown out.

Zoning – Steve presented his report. He also reported on the progress being made on several Blight problems. Joan , Nancy and Steve are looking at two more problem properties that we will be tackling this next month. Steve also stated he has been busy with Land Splits.

Public Comments- There were several Public Comments.

Board Discussion- Joan has handed out a form to nominate an outstanding Board member for MTA.

Joan also thanked Rick for his outstanding job on the board over the last 12 years, along with his time served on the Planning Commission . We are having Cupcakes and Coffee to celebrate his years after the meeting.

Make sure to read the new Newsletter that will be included in your Winter Tax Bills.

Rick Roberson made a motion seconded by Wayne Ferris to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. . The motion carried.

After the meeting adjourned Nancy Conley swore in all the members for the oath of office for the next 4-year terms. Joan had sworn Nancy in before the meeting.

Nancy Conley

Newfield Township Clerk