

Newfield Township Board

3890 198th Ave.

Hesperia, MI 49421

April 15, 2025- 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by our Supervisor, Joan David. The pledge was stated. A roll was taken of the board present for the meeting as follows: Wayne Ferris, Micah Johnson, Mary Hopkins, Nancy Conley and Joan David.

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

Micah Johnson made a motion to approve the March 18th meeting minutes. Mary Hopkins seconded it. The motion carried.

Public Comments on Action Items- none

Mary Hopkins made a motion to approve the bills check number 15732-15762 with the addition of 3 EFT bills for a total of \$21,628.52. Nancy Conley seconded it. The motion carried.

Mary Hopkins gave her treasurers report. The total deposits for the month of March were \$1060.00. The total disbursements for the month were \$84,675.60. The total cash available is \$348,201.35.

Correspondence:

Nancy presented our L-0437 from the County for the State Tax Comm. Assessment Roll Certification for 2025.

Joan congratulated Steve Micklin on his completion of classes earning his Zoning Admin. Certificate from MSU.

New Business –

Nancy placed an overview from the Michigan Municipal League Insurance for you all to look over. Please review the amounts listed on the liability etc.. and get back to me as I have to send a signed agreement before May 1st.

Nancy made a motion to accept UHY as the accounting firm to handle our audit this year. Wayne Ferris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hi Clouds owner, Endri Cali, has filed to modify their current SUP to allow for the placement of cannabis plants on the additional property they bought in 2023. The property is currently being used for a storage facility with a pole barn and fencing already installed under a SUP issued in Sept. of 2023. They do not seek to add plants to their current permitted amount, they merely wish to spread the plants. This property while in the R-1 district, was previously used for a sand and gravel pit under a SUP issued to JRB CUZ Enterprises LLC(Beckman Brothers Excavating) in 2007.

Endri answered several questions from the board. His main goal is to spread the current plantings further apart to increase air flow between plants, for better growth, less molding and hopefully less smell as the plants are not rubbing against each other.

Nancy Conley made a motion to approve the modified Special Use Permit as submitted by Hi-Cloud. Joan David seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: Mary Hopkins – yes, Micah Johnson – no, Wayne Ferris – no, Nancy Conley – yes, Joan David -yes. The motion carried.

Joan reviewed the County Drain Commissions revised update. The boundaries have been adjusted and several who had been paying on drains will not longer pay, and several who have not paid before will be paying on existing drains. Newfield Township will be paying the following: Newfield #1 Drain -\$1,294.99 over a 3 year assessment period will be paying 431.66 per year. Newfield #2 Drain- \$1616.73 over a 2 year assessment period will be paying\$ 808.37 per year, and Clark Drain- \$1562.57 over a 2 year assessment period will be paying \$781.29 per year.

Joan was contacted by the Boy Scouts that they would like to build fires in the fireplace in the scout cabin. They would like the chimney checked and cleaned. Nancy is going to check with Mike Rosema about it.

Joan presented an updated estimate from the Oceana County Road Commission on the two roads we had approved to have fixed last month plus 4 more. They had previously quoted a total for the 6 roads of \$397,903.22 and have come back with a total of \$198,951.63. In discussion, the roads would have a chip seal, this would entail 3 sections of 204th—Baker Road to Yonker, Yonker Road to W/O Pierce Rd, and Village limits to Baker Rd. Also included would be Grant Road, 192nd to Loop Road, and Gale Road from Buchanan Rd to 192nd.Also included is a chip seal on Loop Road from 192nd to the Twp. line. Joan made a motion to go with the proposal on the six roads, Wayne Ferris seconded it. A roll call vote went as follows: Wayne Ferris – yes, Micah Johnson – yes, Mary Hopkins-yes, Nancy Conley - yes, Joan David – yes. The motion carried.

Joan read a letter we had received from the Oceana Sheriffs dept. requesting to partner with us in a 90 day trial of the Flock Safety program in our township. Flock Safety is a company that deploys license plate recognition cameras throughout our township to help deter, reduce and solve crime. These are not video cameras, and only record still images of vehicles. At the end of the 90 day trial our township can decide if they want to proceed on a more permanent basis. They will install the equipment and if we do not want it they will take the equipment down. If we decide to go ahead the cost would be \$3,650.00 per camera. If you would like to continue after year one, the annual cost is \$3,000.00 per camera. No other cost. This includes installation, cellular service, batteries. Etc... We will be presented with the data collected during the 90 days and we will have 45 days to decide if we want to participate. Wayne made a motion seconded by Mary Hopkins to participate in the 90 day program. The motion carried 4 to 1.

Dennis told the board that the Stihl Weed trimmer that has been in the township, for many years has quit working. He took it apart and he says it is beyond repair. He found one at Rothbury Hardware. Nancy made a motion for Dennis to purchase a new one for not more than \$1,000.00. Micah Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Reports-

MTA- The county MTA will meet in Benona Township on May 26 th.

Planning Comm- Will be working on revising the ordinances. The suggested ordinances from McKenna went from 82 to 158. The Planning commission will review the next 3 sections before the next meeting in May. Steve contacted McKenna about the added pages.

Cemetery – Dennis had 2 Saturday burials this last month and placed 2 headstones bases. He cleaned up at Hi Tower Lake and Gale cemetery.

Zoning – Steve handed out his report. He commented on the 3 citations that were issued. One property owner met with the appointed board and 2 failed to respond. They will be issued citations and pending court dates.

Public Comments- There were several folks commenting.

Board Discussion – Joan responded to several questions that were asked. Those included a question about the BOR procedures. Wayne learned some things at the conference he attended including the use of golf carts on our roads for 30 miles an hour or less.

Another concern was the use of short term rentals and so called Wedding Barns. In other townships people are renting the barns and making them a concert venue and busing people in .

There was also a question about the poor road at the entrance into Logans Lane and if the township could do something about it. Joan explained she had asked about it at and the Road Commission in Hart and when they looked at it they decided they needed an engineer to look at it. They said they would get back to Joan.

In answer to a question on the blight on Brenlor. The representatives of the board met with him and went over what they expected done and he has until May 19th to get it cleaned up.

Micah Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Wayne Ferris seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Conley

Newfield Township Clerk