

Newfield Township Board

3890 198<sup>th</sup>

Hesperia, Michigan 49421

May 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

The May meeting was called to order by our Supervisor, Joan David. The pledge was stated and a roll call of attendance was taken. The following members were present: Wayne Ferris, Micah Johnson, Mary Hopkins, Joan David and Nancy Conley.

Joan David made a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of #3 under new business, Cemetery tree removal. Nancy Conley seconded the motion carried.

Mary Hopkins approved the minutes from the April 15<sup>th</sup>, meeting. Micah Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

No public Comments on agenda items.

Nancy Conley made a motion to pay the bills for the month. Checks #15763-15790 along with several EFTS for a total of \$24,165.97. Wayne Ferris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mary Hopkins gave the Treasurers report. Deposits for the month of April were \$33,301.81, with the total bills at \$21,628.52, for a total Cash available of \$268,734.00.

Nancy shared with the board a follow up letter from our MML Insurance. Dave Sperry is the Senior Loss Control Consultant and was here going over claims from our township to our MML insurance on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. He sent a printout showing our claims file since 1-1-2022. There were 4 claims, 2 with dollar amounts reserved. Three were filed against us by James Draper. One in 3-28-2023 on Violation of Freedom of information act, he lost but the court/lawyer fees amounted to \$5720.00 for the insurance co. Mr. Draper filed one on 9-7-2023 over land use. The insurance company did not take this on and was sent to our lawyers at Parmenter Law. On 9-26-2024 Mr. Draper filed in Federal District Court in Grand Rapids a claim on Violation of Civil Rights. This still is an open case but the insurance company has so far spent \$130,000 in court costs and legal fees.

On 10-24-2024 Newfield Township submitted to the insurance company a property damage case with vandalism to a street. Although they did not act upon this, their information was referred to the Oceana County Prosecutor's Office in Hart along with the investigation by the Oceana Sheriff's Dept and the filing from the Oceana County Road Commission. 7 individuals were found guilty of the road damage and ordered to pay restitution to the Road Commission.

Nancy also read correspondence from Jim Busch of Busch Oil Co. As of July 1, 2025 they will be closing the Hesperia Pacific Pride location due to age and upgrades required.

Nancy also gave the board information from the Michigan Township Association of a One Year Subscription that provides online learning for your entire township. There are several levels to choose from. This could be a savings for board members and employees on our webinar learning courses. She is

asking the board members to consider the amounts of training they might do during the year, and if this would better suit our needs.

Old Business – none

New Business-

Mary Hopkins made a Resolution #5/20/25, to approve the addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an approved investment option. Nancy Conley seconded the resolution. Upon a roll call vote it is therefore resolved Newfield Township approves the Michigan Class Investment Pool as an authorized investment institution, and authorizes the Treasurer to complete the necessary paperwork to enroll in the pool. The roll call vote went as follows: Mary Hopkins-yes, Micah Johnson-yes, Wayne Ferris-yes, Joan David-yes, Nancy Conley-yes. The resolution passed.

Joan David made a motion seconded by Micah Johnson to no longer use a Debit Card through Shelby State Bank and apply for and use a Credit Card. The board will begin the process. The motion carried.

The recent storm left 1/3 of a tree down in the West Cemetery. Joan presented 3 bids and Wayne Ferris made a motion to go with Good Deeds Tree Company, with a stipin to cover fuel etc.. This company is insured and offered to do it for no cost because of the Memorial Day weekend coming up. The board also decided to have Joan check and see if the whole tree needs to be taken out for safety reasons. If so she can make that decision.

Reports –MTA – Our local MTA will meet next Wednesday at 6:00 at Benona Township.

Planning Comm- Steve spoke that last Tuesday they went over Ordinances again presented by McKenna. Steve had contacted McKenna as the Planning Comm. Has not been very happy with the wrap up covering Ordinances. This is a service they owe us on the Contract over the update of our Master Plan.

Cemetery – We would like to thank the Girl Scouts and families and friends for placing the almost 500 flags on the West and Catholic Cemeteries. Dennis thanked the board for the new weed eater purchased this last month from Rothbury Hardware. Dennis placed the serviceman flags on Gale Cemetery.

Zoning-Steve handed out his monthly report. He also presented an update on the Cell Tower progress on the property at 192<sup>nd</sup> road and Gale Road. This will be located on the Wm. Myers property. The company is processing the paperwork and will have it to the Planning Commission hopefully at their July meeting. Wayne asked about the particulars of the tower according to our ordinance. Steve also reminded everyone about the clean up day May 31<sup>st</sup> for our township. 4 large dumpsters will be brought in by Uganskis out of Muskegon to the township hall. The time is 8 till 1 or earlier if the dumpsters fill. Mike Mayo will again be available to crush and pack down refuse.

There were several public comments.

Board Discussion – Joan appreciates the board s participation at the Planning Commission meetings .

Micah Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Hopkins. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Nancy L. Conley

Newfield Township Clerk