

# NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

## Township Board

### Minutes

#### April 26, 2016

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Engstrom at 8350 Main Street.

#### **PLEDGE**

Supervisor Engstrom led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Marilyn Engstrom, Supervisor | Present            |
| Angela Westover, Clerk       | Absent with notice |
| Kathy Braun, Treasurer       | Present            |
| Janet Chick, Trustee         | Present            |
| Wayne Dockett, Trustee       | Present            |
| Jacki Otto, Trustee          | Present            |
| Tracy Thomas, Trustee        | Present            |

Also present:

Township Manager Howard Fink  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent  
Tim Hardesty  
Public Safety Director William Wagner  
Township Engineer Brian Rubel  
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble  
Members of the community

#### **ADOPT AGENDA**

Charitable gaming license was added as item 5, and Van Curler Property Survey was added as item 6.

- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Braun supported, that the balance of the agenda be adopted as presented.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

#### **FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside, Joanne Pierson, 5756 Earhart Road, Tawn Beliger, 8365 Earhart Road, and Craig Warburton, 450 W. Joy Road, commented on tree removal, drain maintenance by the County, comments by other members of the public, plans for the sewage treatment plant storage tank and purchase of parkland, and the millage proposal on the May 4<sup>th</sup> ballot.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

No comments.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fink provided information from MDOT about a proposed traffic circle, noted the office would be closed for a staff lunch on Wednesday, reported on the Board room construction and community garden development, asked for input about soliciting donations from Township vendors for local events. He and Board members responded to some of the comments made during First Call to the Public.

#### **REPORTS**

*Public Safety.* Chief Wagner answered questions from Dockett about response times, the amount owed to the Township by the DEA, and how funds saved on gasoline are being spent.

*Wastewater Treatment and Community Center.*  
No questions.

*Financial.* No questions.

*Township Manager.* Otto thanked Fink for his work in bringing Arvin Sango to the Township, and thanked resigning Parks & Recreation Chair Randy Rush for his work.

*Zoning Board of Appeals.* Did not meet in April.

*Planning Commission.* Chick reported the Commission is working on lake area zoning and how requests should properly be brought to the Commission.

*Parks and Recreation.* Thomas also thanked Randy Rush for his tremendous work with the committee for many years, including on the Bark Park.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **1. Fireworks Permit**

- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, that the 2016 permit for fireworks be approved for Drew Espenashade of Ace Pyro LLC.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

##### **2. Civic Event Application: German Park Open Picnics**

- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Otto supported, that the Civic Event Application for German Park Open Picnics for June 25, July 30, and August 27, 2016, from 4-11 P.M. be approved as presented.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

##### **3. Civic Event Application: Old St. Pat's Old Country Run**

- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Braun supported, that the Civic Event Application for Old St. Pat's Old Country Run on September 3, 2016, be approved as presented.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

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**4.**

**Acceptance of Sewer Assessment Easements:**

- a. 6431 Whitmore Lake Road
- b. 6925 Whitmore Lake Road

- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to accept the permanent non-exclusive easement for public/private utilities at 6431 Whitmore Lake Road as presented. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**
- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to accept the permanent non-exclusive easement for public/private utilities at 6925 Whitmore Lake Road as presented. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

**5.**

**Charitable Gaming License**

- **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to approve the resolution for charitable gaming licenses for the Michigan STEM Scholarships for Women of Whitmore Lake.  
**Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

**6.**

**Van Curler Survey**

- **Motion:** Dockett moved to authorize Fink to have the Van Curler property on the east side of Whitmore Lake surveyed as soon as possible at a cost of up to \$3,000.

Fink and Manes reported that the purchase agreement under consideration requires a stake survey with irons at the corners, and if the Township is unhappy with what is shown from that survey it could back out of the agreement. Engstrom said she agrees with Dockett, but this is premature since the Township does not have legal access to the property at this point.

**Motion died for lack of support.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1.**

**Curtis Property**

The Board discussed whether to allow the old house on this property to remain standing for firefighter training in early spring 2017 or to raze it. It was agreed to allow it to stand.

**2.**

**Van Curler Property**

[See comments under Agenda Item 5].

**3.**

**Equalization Basin**

Fink noted a sewer debt will soon be paid which would give the Township the opportunity to fund an equalization basin without changing the Township's debt service level. He noted this would not be a general fund debt.

The Board and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Hardesty discussed the history of consideration of constructing a basin, the consequences of not having one, including being fined by the DEQ for releases of untreated sewage, the current lack of capacity for wet weather flows, the inability to serve new development without a basin, and the effects on property downstream from the plant in the event of a failure.

It was agreed to put a proposal for next steps on a May agenda.

**4.**

**Zoning Administrator Office Hours**

Fink said development activity is increasing, so he suggested that McKenna Associates provide five hours of zoning administrator office time every two weeks to provide relief for office staff. Dockett objected to this expenditure.

**SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chuck Steuer, Six Mile Road, commented on plans for the Van Curler property, the proposed equalization basin, and the Township requesting donations from its vendors. Craig Warburton commented on zoning administrator office hours, Planning Commission by-laws, and the wastewater treatment plant treatment of rain water. Patrick Tetreau, 8020 S. Kearney Road, Trustee candidate, and Jim Nelson, 7777 Sutton Road, made comments about the equalization basin issue.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dockett commented on the May 4<sup>th</sup> educational millage proposal. Chick commented on the Planning Commission By-Laws.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Engstrom adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

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Submitted by Lisa Lemble.

Corrections to the originally issued minutes are indicated as follows: wording removed is ~~stricken through~~; wording added is underlined.

Approved by the Township Board on May 10, 2016.

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Angela Westover, Clerk

Official minutes of all meetings are available on the Township's website at  
[http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township\\_board\\_of\\_trustees/](http://www.twp-northfield.org/government/township_board_of_trustees/)