

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
Township Board
Minutes
October 11, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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	Present
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
Community Center Director Tammy Averill
Township Attorney Brad Maynes
Township Assessor Thomas Monchak
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble
Members of the community

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Minutes**
- **Bills**

Dockett asked for the Minutes to be pulled for discussion.

- ▶ **Motion:** Enstrom moved, Braun supported, that the bills be approved.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

ADOPT BALANCE OF AGENDA

Board members added Minutes as Item 0, Bonus for employees as Item 9, Offer on 75 Barker Road as Item 10, MTT Case as Item 11 (closed session).

Dockett said Item 1 should be removed from the agenda because additional information had not been provided to the Board prior to the meeting. There was discussion about whether a planned presentation should be heard.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, that the balance of the agenda be adopted as amended.

Dockett requested a roll call vote.

Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Tawn Beliger, 8365 Earhart Road, spoke about the Medical Marijuana Act and smart meters. Margaret Riddell, 65141 W. Eight Mile Road, and Craig Warburton, 450 W. Joy Road, commented on the offer to purchase 75 Barker Road.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dockett commented on the proposed sale of 75 Barker Road.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

REPORTS

Police and Fire. Wagner reminded everyone to check batteries in their smoke detectors, invited the public to the Police open house this weekend, and answered questions from Dockett.

Wastewater Treatment Plant and Community Center. No questions.

Financial. No questions.

Township Manager. In answer to questions, Fink said time spent by the Township attorney on the Van Curler property was covered by the retainer, but he will check to make sure. Otto asked that the Board be updated on the work of the Downtown Planning group.

Zoning Board of Appeals. Has not met.

Planning Commission. Has not met.

Parks and Recreation. Thomas referred to the Manager's Report.

AGENDA ITEMS

**0.
Minutes**

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Thomas supported, that the minutes be approved as presented. **Motion carried 5—1 on a voice vote, Dockett opposed.**

**1.
Pontiac Trail Non-Motorized Path
Feasibility Study**

Patrick Judd, Senior Landscape Architect with Stantec, made a brief presentation about a proposed trail along Pontiac Trail which would go through Salem, Northfield and Ann Arbor Townships. He confirmed Ann Arbor

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Township has agreed to pay \$5,000 of the \$15,000 cost of the feasibility study, and Salem has scheduled a vote for November. Dockett objected to spending money on this. Judd answered questions about timing, cost, and location of the trail.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Thomas supported, to approve the \$5,000 contribution towards the feasibility study for the Pontiac Trail Non-Motorized Pathway, subject to Salem Township also approving their contribution. **Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.**

**2.
Resignation of Doug Del Favaron
from the Zoning Board of Appeals**

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Chick supported, to accept the resignation of Doug Del Favero from the Northfield Township Zoning Board of Appeals with regret.

Otto said it has been a pleasure to work with Doug and she has appreciated Del Favero's contributions to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Dockett said Northfield Township will miss Doug and Sandy, noting their considerable contributions to the Township over many years. Fink concurred.

Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Dockett supported, to appoint Gary Wellings, current alternate, as a full member of the Northfield Township Zoning Board of Appeals for the remainder of Del Favero's two year term.

Otto said Wellings has been very knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with on the ZBA.

Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

**3.
Resolution No. 16-552:
Opt Out of Hard Caps for Medical Benefits**

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to approve the Resolution for the Northfield Township Board of Trustees to Opt Out of the Restrictions Mandated by Public Act 152 of 2011 on Public Employer's Payments for Medical Benefits Plan.

Dockett explained that the caps prevent the Township from exceeding certain dollar amounts for employee health care and he believes the Township should stay with those caps.

Motion carried 5—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed. Resolution adopted.

**4.
2017 Health Insurance**

Fink noted that the overall cost of insurance has increased, but the Township's percentage contribution has decreased and the benefits have been reduced compared to the current year.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to approve the current numbers for our health insurance policy HSA accounts, as follows:

	Family	Couple	Single
Silver	\$3,950	\$2,625	\$1,300
Bronze	\$6,200	\$4,150	\$2,070

Dockett requested a roll call vote.

Motion carried 4—1—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed, Otto abstaining.

**5.
Ordinance 16-52: Zoning Ordinance
Amendments Regarding Kennels**

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto supported, to approve an Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of Northfield Township, Michigan, to Amend the Zoning Ordinance Sections 36-510 and 36-533 Text to make Kennels Condition Uses in the Limited Industrial District (LI) and General Industrial District (GI). **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

**6.
Resolution No. 16-551: Investment Policy Update**

Braun explained this adds a bank to the list of approved financial institutions used by the Township.

- ▶ **Motion:** Braun moved, Chick supported, to approve Resolution 16-0551, Investment Policy Update, to remove financial institutions we are no longer involved with, and to complete the list of financial institutions the Township is involved with. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote. Resolution adopted.**

**7.
November Board Meetings**

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Dockett supported, to move the scheduled meeting of November 8, 2016, Board meeting to November 15, 2016. **Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.**

**8.
Medical Marijuana Act**

Fink explained that the State has adopted the Medical Marijuana Facilities Act which will allow local governments to decide whether they will allow certain types of operations. He said the Board will be discussing this further at future meetings. Board members, Wagner, and Fink discussed their current thoughts on the issue.

**9.
Bonuses for Employees**

Braun asked that office staff be given bonuses in recognition of the additional work performed in the absence of the Deputy Treasurer.

- ▶ **Motion:** Braun moved, Thomas supported, to pay a \$300 to four office staff (excluding the Township Manager and Controller) for the extra work performed prior to a temporary employee being hired and during the during tax season.

She said there will be no additional spending because of savings in salary not paid to the Deputy Treasurer. Dockett requested a roll call vote.

Motion carried 5—1 on a voice vote, Dockett opposed.

**10.
Offer on 75 Barker Road**

Fink said the Option to Purchase 75 Barker Road was submitted to the office on October 6th and explained this is Soamer Jamil's attempt to insure adequate parking for customers for his planned reuse of the Driftwood Marina property.

Board members and Fink listened to a presentation from Jamil and his representative, Donald Neville, and discussed the proposal. They expressed concerns about various issues including the length of the option, the testing proposed, property tax issues, whether the property should be sold, what the Township should do to support economic development in the Township, and how the acquisition of the Van Curler property affects those decisions.

- ▶ **Motion:** Thomas moved, Otto supported, that Item 11, MTT Case be moved to the end of the agenda to avoid inconveniencing the public.
Motion carried 6—0 on a voice vote.

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 _____, 2016.

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/

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Tawn Beliger made suggestions regarding the proposed Pontiac Trail Non-Motorized Path. Marlene Chockley, 2665 Five Mile Road, also commented on the path and on downtown parking.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dockett urged everyone to vote and to support local businesses, and he explained his vote on the staff bonus proposal. Chick commented on the proposed Pontiac Trail path and downtown parking. Otto brought up engineering fees billed to the Horseshoe Lake Association, and Fink and Chuck Steuer provided information. Fink called attention to the October 23rd Community Celebration of the purchase of the Van Curler property and invited the public to submit nominations for a Downtown Makeover contest.

AGENDA ITEMS (cont.)

**11.
MTT Case:
The Links of Whitmore Lake
vs. Northfield Township**

- ▶ **Motion:** Thomas moved, Otto supported, that the Board go into closed session to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation pursuant to MCL 15.268(e).
Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.
- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Otto supported, that the Board return to open session.
Motion carried 6—0 on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Engstrom adjourned the meeting at 9:50 P.M.