

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
Township Board
Minutes
September 13, 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	Present (Arrived at 7:14 P.M.)
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 Engineer Jacob Rushlow, Tetra Tech
Recording Secretary Lisa Lemble
Members of the community

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Dockett made comments about the bills and the budget.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, that the minutes and bills be adopted as presented.
Motion carried 76—0 on a voice vote.

ADOPT BALANCE OF AGENDA

- ▶ **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

Tawn Beliger, 8365 Earhart Road, spoke about DTE smart meters, the November election, and State and Federal government budgets. A member of the public asked for an accounting of funds spent related to the Van Curler property, suggested finishing some projects before starting others, and asked about property boundary issues mentioned in the Manager's Report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dockett asked for an accounting of funds spent related to the Van Curler property. Fink said he will try to provide this before the end of next week and will post it online.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None. [Westover arrived].

REPORTS

Department Heads

Fire. Wagner reported a FEMA has awarded a \$275,000 grant for firefighter personal equipment, and he announced the department open house.

Police.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto supported, to approve the Provisional State and Local Task Force Agreement between the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Northfield Township Police Department effective October 1, 2015, through September 20, 2017.

Chief Wagner answered questions from Dockett and Chick about the amounts collected and received under this program from the DEA to date.

Motion carried 6—1 on a voice vote, Dockett opposed.

Wastewater Treatment Plant. Hardesty answered a question from Dockett about a sewer connection.

Senior Center. No questions.

Other

Financial. No questions.

Township Manager. The Board and Fink discussed the cost of the Main Street sidewalk project, small fence encroachments on the Van Curler property, and public events to celebrate the purchase of the Van Curler property.

Zoning Board of Appeals. Otto reported that on August 15th a variance was granted for a driveway.

Planning Commission. Chick reported that on September 7th the Commission continued discussions about eliminating the ES zoning district and creating a committee about agricultural land and open space preservation.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

**Acceptance of
Whitmore Lake Road Sewer Assessment District:
6350 Whitmore Lake Road**

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to approve the easement at 6350 Whitmore Lake Road as presented. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

2.

Acceptance of Barker Road Non-Motorized Path Easement: 365 Barker Road

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Otto supported, to approve the Non-motorized Pathway easement for 365 Barker Road as presented. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

3.

Barker Road Non-Motorized Path Construction Bids

Fink noted all but two of the outstanding easements have been obtained and he requested permission to bid out the project. The Board discussed bidding and change order options for including the remaining two properties if easements are obtained.

- ▶ **Motion:** Engstrom moved, Chick supported, to approve Township Manager Fink to put the Barker Road non-motorized path project out to bid. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

4.

Van Curler Property

Fink expressed excitement about the dream of the community of having a lakefront park coming to fruition. He and Township Engineer Jacob Rushlow described a billboard support leg and minor fence encroachments (3-7 feet totaling .08 acres of the 35 acres) on the property and the Board discussed options for addressing or not addressing them.

- ▶ **Motion:** Thomas moved, Otto supported, to authorize the Township Manager and/or legal counsel to proceed with closing in spite of the encroachments brought to the attention of the Board. **Motion carried 6—1 on a voice vote, Dockett opposed.**

5.

Scadin Lake and Branch Drain: Review of Drainage District Boundaries

Fink recalled prior open and closed session Board discussions about this. He said he is opposed to the way State statute is written regarding the power given to the Drain Commissioner and the resulting way drainage districts are created, but this is an old district and the boundaries are being altered. He said there will only be a small cost increase and some benefit to residents, but he believes it is good practice to bring all of these matters to the Board so it can make decisions on each of them.

- ▶ **Motion:** Otto moved, Thomas supported, not to object to the cost for the annual maintenance fee for the Scadin Lake and Branch Drain. **Motion carried 7—0 on a voice vote.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1.

Trail Plan

Fink noted members of the public have talked about having a trail plan for both the rural and hamlet areas, and the Parks and Recreation Plan calls for such a plan to be created. He recommended using an engineering, rather than a planning, firm.

- ▶ **Motion:** Chick moved, Otto supported, that Township Manager Fink should start writing a Request for Proposals and a document to determine how to analyze bids for a trail plan.

Dockett called for a roll call vote.

Motion carried 6—1 on a roll call vote, Dockett opposed.

2.

Pontiac Trail Non-Motorized Path Feasibility Study

Fink referred to the proposal initiated by Salem Township for a non-motorized path along Pontiac Trail from Salem Township through Northfield Township to Ann Arbor. He said this would be about ten times longer than the Barker Road path and will require cooperation among various municipalities. He said the relatively small investment in the study could bear bigger fruit in the future. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda for action.

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Joan Steuer, 760 Six Mile, asked for the Van Curler accounting statement to be made available to the public. Mary Devlin, 9211 Brookside, commented on the Main Street sidewalk.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Engstrom adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

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 October 11, 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/