

NORVELL TOWNSHIP
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Regular Meeting-February 8, 2023

Present:

William Sutherland, Supervisor, Jeff Oswalt, Clerk, Deserre Sauers, Treasurer, Matt Dame, Trustee, Andrew Haystead, Trustee, Norvell Township, Jackson County

The Regular Meeting of the Norvell Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Bill Sutherland at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Clerk Oswalt, seconded by Trustee Dame to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Dame gave a verbal report on the last Planning Commission meeting, the remainder of the Consent Agenda was in hard copy format. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.*

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

None

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jackson County Sheriff Gary Schutte

Jackson County Sheriff Gary Schutte spoke to the board, explaining the after-effects of the milage loss in November of 2022, the measures taken by the deputies regarding the recent death by overdose of a jail inmate, new uniforms for sheriff deputies, allowing deputies to grow and wear facial hair, and information on accidents and shootings in the area during the last year.

Brooklyn Ford Dam Removal Update – Trustee Andrew Haystead

Trustee Haystead spoke, stating he had attended a meeting regarding the Brooklyn Ford Dam Removal, led by Chris Freiburger of Niswander Environmental LLC. It was stated at the meeting that the dam removal should not in any way cause any change in water flow or water levels in Norvell Township. Trustee Haystead has asked Mr. Freiburger to attend the March Norvell Township Board meeting to answer any questions the board may have.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to approve payment of unpaid bills totaling \$8,294.14, paid bills totaling \$1,371.19, and payroll totaling \$16,173.98. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Poverty Guidelines and Asset Test – Resolution 2023-03

Supervisor Sutherland explained the adoption of poverty guidelines and asset test is normally done annually. The township's assessor suggested the board pass a non-date specific resolution tied to a metric that updates annually. Working with the township attorney and assessor, the existing guidelines and asset test have been created for board approval. Approval of this resolution will mean the board no longer needs to adopt an annual poverty guideline and asset test, and will only need a new resolution if either the asset test or poverty guidelines are changed. *A motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Trustee Haystead to approve Resolution 2023-03, Poverty Guidelines and Asset Test, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

River Raisin Watershed Council Annual Dues

Supervisor Sutherland spoke to the issue, reminding board members that 96% of Norvell Townships acreage is situated within the River Raisin watershed, and the Councils mission aligns with the vision stated in the township's existing Master Plan. The dues would be \$290.00 this year. Dave Lamb has agreed to continue as Norvell Townships delegate, with Sylvia Kay agreeing to serve as alternate. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to approve payment of \$290.00 in annual dues to the River Raisin Watershed Council, and also approve Dave Lamb as Norvell Township's delegate, with Sylvia Kay as alternate. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

Amendment of Wamplers Lake Weed Control SAD

Supervisor Sutherland informed the board he had received correspondence from Restorative Lake Services regarding an increase in the administration fees for managing weed control on Wamplers Lake, from \$6,500 per year to \$8,000 per year. The Wamplers Lake Property Owners Association would like the increase to be paid from the already collected assessment, which would change the percentages paid to be 25% from WLPOA, and 75% Special Assessment District. The current percentages rate is 30.77% WLPOA, and 69.24% Special Assessment District. If the current percentages are maintained, the cost breakdown would be \$2,461.40 WLPOA, and \$5,538.60 for assessed properties (through the Special Assessment). Discussion followed. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Clerk Oswald to approve the 2023 contract with Restorative Lake Services for the Wamplers Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment District, at an increased cost from \$6,500 to \$8,000 per year, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

Request for a partial refund for Master Plan services provided by Carlisle Wortman

Trustee Dame spoke, explaining he is requesting Carlisle Wortman be contacted to request a partial refund of the monies paid to date due to the many errors on the draft copy of the Master Plan that had been received by the Township Board and Planning Commission. Discussion followed. *A motion was made by Trustee Dame, seconded by Trustee Haystead to approve requesting a partial refund of monies paid to date due to the many errors in the draft copy of the township's proposed*

Page 3
Norvell Township Board
February 8, 2023

Master Plan. Motion failed, on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Dame. Nays: Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, & Haystead.

Resolution 2023-02 – Supervisor as Point of Contact

Supervisor Sutherland spoke, explaining the reasoning behind Resolution 2023-02, Authorizing the Township Supervisor as the Point of Contact for governmental agencies, companies with which the township has contracts/agreements, including auditing and legal firms, and any vendors or potential vendors. Discussion followed, with board members questioning whether the resolution had been vetted by the township attorney, requesting minor word changes, and the need for the document. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to adopt Resolution 2023-02, Township Supervisor as Point of Contact, with minor word changes, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, and Haystead. Nays: Dame.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christie Wilinski – questioned the proposed building renovation at 300 Mill, and mentioned blight issues.

Andrew Haystead, trustee-mentioned a Napoleon Township board meeting on February 26th 2023 regarding the solar powered license plate reader cameras issue.

Jan Corwin – questioned who to refer calls/questions regarding the Brooklyn Dam

Lynn Waldecker – questioned the need for renovations and moving of the township hall to 300 Mill and mentioned blight issues.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Oswald,
Norvell Township Clerk

Garnet Francis,
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary