

NORVELL TOWNSHIP
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Regular Meeting & Public Hearing March 16, 2022

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

Motion was made by Trustee Dame, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the March 16, 2022 agenda as presented, Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Supervisor Sutherland to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Regular Board meeting and the minutes of the March 2, 2022 Workshop/Special meeting as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Sutherland mentioned the Assessors report will be available in the April 20, 2022 Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

County Commissioner Phil Duckham reported on funding issues at the county level, then informed the board of other issues the county is working on. The board thanked him for his report.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Sherriff Jay Truchan reported on February 2022 police activities for the township, stating he handled 35 complaints, 25 property inspections and 1 arrest. The board thanked him for his report.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

Wamplers Heights Drive Special Assessment District

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to open the Public Hearing for the proposed Wamplers Heights Drive Special Assessment District. Motion carried. Supervisor Sutherland spoke, opening the hearing to public comment from residents of the proposed SAD. Several residents spoke, expressing concerns over drainage issues on and around the street, wondering if that issue could cause early deterioration of the improved road, asking how the SAD works, and the costs to individual properties. A question was also asked regarding having speed bumps on the road. Supervisor Sutherland responded to questions.

Motion was made by Clerk Oswalt, seconded by Trustee Dame to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Resolution #2022-05

Supervisor Sutherland spoke, explaining to the board and audience, Resolution 2022-5, which is the determination to make public improvements in the Wamplers Heights Drive Special Assessment District, approve estimated costs, and prepare the SAD roll. The SAD consists of 88 parcels, will remain in existence for 10 years, and the cost is estimated to be \$158,700.88, or \$1,803.00 per parcel. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Clerk Oswalt, to adopt Resolution #2022-05, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Resolution #2022-06

Supervisor Sutherland spoke stating one resident of the SAD was questioning the lots inclusion into the SAD, explaining this issue would be checked on, and if it was determined that an error had been made, the list of properties would be amended and the costs to the remaining properties in the district would be slightly increased. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to adopt the filing of the roll for the Wamplers Heights Drive Special Assessment District and notice of Public Hearing. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Ahrens Park Rules

Supervisor Sutherland presented an example of the signage for Ahrens Park, containing rules for park usage. Clerk Oswalt spoke to the issue, stating the need for the sign. Treasurer Sauers suggested a slight wording change. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the creation and installation of a sign for Ahrens Park at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Clean-up Day

Supervisor Sutherland presented an example of a ticket to be used as part of the proposed spring clean-up day for Norvell Township, and went on to explain how it would work. He stated its based on how Grass Lake Township handles their clean-up day. Any property owner in Norvell Township can apply for 2 “tickets” which will allow them to take up to 1,000 lbs. of trash per ticket to Modern Waste in Napoleon, whenever they wish to do so. Modern Waste will bill us for the usage of the tickets at a \$70.00 per ton cost. He estimates the cost of the sequentially numbered tickets to be in the \$100 to \$150 dollar range, and the 2021-22 budget for this project is \$5,000. The date to begin this project will be advertised in The Exponent and the townships website. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to approve holding the townships spring clean-up day as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None. Supervisor Sutherland stated he would report back to the board during the set-up process.

NEW BUSINESS

Lawn Mowing Contract

Supervisor Sutherland informed the board he has received four bids for mowing lawns on township owned property. Pricing per mowing ranges from \$618.00 (Saratana Mow & Snow), \$620.00 (Awesome Lawn & Snow), \$900.00 (Perry’s Pinnacle), to \$957.00 (Legacy Lawn Care) which is our current provider. Discussion followed. The owners of Perry’s Pinnacle were in the audience and requested a chance to speak to the board. Permission was granted and they explained they were a fairly new company; they are locally owned and wished a chance to speak with the Supervisor regarding pricing. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to table this issue until the March 30, 2022 Special Meeting/Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Ahrens Park Parking Lot Guard Rail

Supervisor Sutherland presented pictures to the board of the damage being done to Ahrens Park from cars or pickup trucks. He suggested an option to install guard rails around the perimeter of the parking lot to deter further damage. New guard rail & used posts are available through JDOT at a cost of \$8,500.00 for 475’ linear feet, and \$6,500.00 for installation for a total of \$15,000.00. The rail and posts are galvanized steel, which will provide a long life. He has gotten prices from other vendors, which were much higher. Sutherland is asking the board to approve a price of up to \$16,000.00 to allow for any unforeseen expenses. Discussion followed with suggestions for additional guard rails, which the board will investigate in the future. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Clerk Oswalt to approve the expenditure of up to \$16,000.00 to purchase and install galvanized steel guard rails and posts from JDOT for the parking lot at Ahrens Park. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to amend the 2021-22 Budget to add \$16,000.00 to the current CIP budget, for the purchase of the Ahrens Park improvement. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Disposition of Hardcastle Road – Resolution 2022-04

Supervisor Sutherland stated the board has had several discussions regarding the disposition of the Hardcastle property (ID 000-20-26-300-001-03) which a previous board had acquired through a tax foreclosure sale. This item is on the agenda to enable the board to make a final decision as to whether the property is kept and made use of as an additional park with the costs of making it useful and available to the public, or to sell so we are no longer paying property taxes on a vacant parcel. Discussion followed, with Treasurer Sauers stating she is checking on prices for purchasing disaster warning sirens, possibly using ARPA funding, and placing one of the proposed sirens on the Hardcastle property. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to table this issue until a decision is made on the sirens issue. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A township resident questioned whether any Norvell Township paved roads were listed for repairs this year. Supervisor Sutherland responded.

A township resident questioned if major monies are available for road repair.

Dave Lamb, township representative for River Reason Watershed spoke to issues.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve paid bills totaling \$66,357.31, unpaid bills of \$22,833.75 and payroll totaling \$12,113.66. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Oswald,
Township Clerk

Garnet Francis,
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary