

NORVELL TOWNSHIP
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Regular Meeting-April 12, 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

Supervisor Sutherland asked for an addition to the agenda of Resignation of Katrina Reamer from the Planning Commission, Item 11i. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public spoke, commenting of the poor condition of local roads, blight issues, and questioning the status of the 300 Mill Road improvement issue. Trustee Dame also spoke, informing the audience of where ARPA Funds came from and how it can be spent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 Regular Board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Supervisor Sutherland to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

County Commissioner Phil Duckham was in attendance, and reported on county issues.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Sheriff Jay Truchan reported on the Norvell Township issues he handled during the month of March 2023.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to pay the following bills: Unpaid bills totaling \$13,320.29, Paid bills totaling \$25,201.46, and payroll totaling \$12,792.66. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Ahrens Park Light Bids

Supervisor Sutherland informed the board this is a follow-up to township resolution 2022-21 approved in November of 2022, when an application for a Risk Management Grant thru the Michigan Township Participating Plan was submitted. The township was awarded a grant of \$2,500.00 for the installation of a light at Ahrens Park for security purposes. An updated RFP was issued, with 3 responses. This project must be completed and the request for reimbursement

submitted before August of 2023. Discussion followed regarding the bids submitted. *A motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Supervisor Sutherland to approve the bid submitted by Tec Electric \$7,296.00, contingent upon the inclusion of conduit at the site. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing-Use of ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to open the Public Hearing for the discussion of the Use of ARPA Funds. Motion carried.

Several members of the audience spoke, mainly commenting again on the poor condition of local roads, with Sweezy Lake Road and Lakeview Drive being mentioned. One resident questioned the need for or value of disaster warning sirens.

Board members responded to comments and questions from residents.

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to close the Public Hearing for the discussion of the Use of ARPA Funds. Motion carried.

Approval of Resignation of Charles “Buck” Alar – Planning Commission

Supervisor Sutherland informed the board that Charles “Buck” Alar had submitted a written letter of resignation from the Planning Commission, effective immediately, citing personal reasons. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to approve the resignation of Charles “Buck” Alar from the Planning Commission, effective immediately. Motion carried.*

Approval of Appointment of Amelia Kukla – Planning Commission

Supervisor Sutherland explained the process by which he interviewed and is now recommending approval of Amelia Kukla to fill the remainder of Charles “Buck” Alar’s term on the Planning Commission. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the appointment of Amelia Kukla to the Planning Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2023. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

Approval of Appointment of Wayne Appleyard – Board of Zoning Appeals

Supervisor Sutherland explained the process by which he interviewed and is now recommending the approval of Wayne Appleyard to the Board of Zoning Appeals, effective immediately and for a 3-year term to end December 31, 2026. *A motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Trustee Haystead to approve the appointment of Wayne Appleyard to the Board of Zoning Appeals, effective immediately, for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswald, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

Approval of Appointment of Janice Johns -Board of Review, Alternate

Supervisor Sutherland explained the need to appoint an alternate to the Board of Review and further explained the process by which the candidate, Janice Johns was interviewed. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the appointment of Janice Johns to the Board of Review as an alternate, for a 2-year term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried.*

Resolution 22-11 Sale of Hardcastle Road Property (000-20-26-300-001-03)

Supervisor Sutherland asked the board to approve removing Resolution 22-11 from being tabled. *A motion was made by Sutherland, seconded by Haystead to approve removing Resolution 22-11, Sale of Hardcastle Road Property from being tabled. Motion carried.*

Supervisor Sutherland then informed the board this issue is back from being tabled because it has been determined that the property is not needed as a potential site for disaster sirens. He further informed the board that the only monies gained by the township from the sale of the property will be a reimbursement of the original purchase price of the property and any costs incurred while the township owned the property, for example, property taxes and any legal fees spent. A short discussion followed. *A motion was made by Sutherland, seconded by Haystead to approve the sale of the Hardcastle Road property (ID No. 000-20-26-300-001-03), as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None*

Approval of Fire Contract with Cambridge Township

Supervisor Sutherland stated the fire contract with Cambridge Township is up for renewal and he and Clerk Oswalt met with officials from Cambridge Township after getting no response to a request for bids for fire protection from Manchester, Columbia and Sand Lake Fire Departments. Clerk Oswalt stated they had a very good meeting, with the Cambridge Township Fire Chief explaining how the proposed costs for their services was determined. The proposed contract is for 3 years, with a 5% increase each year. For the 2023-24 fiscal year the costs will be \$83,400.00, 2024-25 costs will be \$87,600.00 and 2025-26 costs will be \$91,980.00; Coverage will be for Norvell Township sections 13,14,15,16,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,33,34,35,and 36. The contract may be re-negotiated or terminated by written notice, and an itemized listing of all fire and rescue runs made into Norvell Township will be submitted monthly. Both Supervisor Sutherland and Clerk Oswalt feel the proposal is fair and recommend approval. A short discussion followed. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the 3-year renewal contract with Cambridge Township for fire protection for the sections of Norvell Township stated in the agreement, at an annual cost of \$83,400.00 for the 2023-24 fiscal year, and 5% increases for the following two years, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.*

Approval of Legal Action Regarding Illegal Storage of Boats

Supervisor Sutherland spoke to the issue regarding the illegal storage of boats at the corner of Wamplers Lake Road and Hardcastle Road due to zoning issues. The owner of the property (Mr. Roumell) met with the township's zoning administrator in January of 2023 and discussed options for getting compliance with the township's zoning ordinance. Mr. Roumell has not yet met with the Planning Commission to discuss the creation of a special use for boat storage in a C-2 zoning. After discussion with legal counsel, the next step will be to file suit in circuit court. Today, Mr. Roumell came into the township hall and spoke to the zoning administrator and supervisor regarding the issue. Because of that meeting and the potential legal costs of taking the issue to court, Supervisor Sutherland is recommending this issue be postponed until the May 10, 2023 board meeting to give Mr. Roumell an opportunity to attempt a resolution. A short discussion

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followed. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Haystead to postpone this issue until the May 10, 2023 Township board meeting. Motion carried.*

Approval of Resignation of Katrina Reamer – Planning Commission

Supervisor Sutherland announced he had received a resignation letter from Katrina Reamer, and asked the board for a vote to approve the request. He also stated he had a replacement in mind but had not been able to reach him to confirm his availability to serve. *A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to approve the resignation of Katrina Reamer from the Planning Commission, effective immediately. Motion carried.*

PUBLIC/BOARD COMMENT

A resident asked the board to consider approving a noxious weed ordinance.

A resident asked the board to consider approving a police power ordinance.

Trustee Dame questioned the board notification of the budget work session on April 14th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Oswalt,
Norvell Township Clerk

Garnet Francis,
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary