

NORVELL TOWNSHIP
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corrected

Regular Meeting-April 20, 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 Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Trustee Dame to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3/16/2022 Regular Meeting, 3/30/2022 Special/Public Hearing, & 4/6/2022 Work Session

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the March 30, 2022 Special/Public Hearing Meeting minutes with the correction of removal of the words “per year” under New Business 10A Resolution 2022-08-Confirmation of the Roll of the Wamplers heights SAD for Road Repairs, the addition of “SAD”, under item 9A Public Hearing for the Wamplers Heights Drive Special Assessment District in the March 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the April 6, 2022 Work Session Meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Clerk Oswalt to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

County Commissioner Duckham spoke, informing the board of the status of the Jackson County Court system, the Jackson County Master Plan is done, JDOT is working on pothole repair, and the need for replacement of the Wesley Street Jackson County Jail.

SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT REPORT – Presentation by Captain A. Stewart & Undersheriff C. Simpson

Captain Stewart and Undersheriff Simpson did a slide presentation of the structural problems at the Wesley Street County Jail. The consideration is to ask for additional millage approval (up to 1 mill) on the November 2022 ballot, for monies to be used for a new facility. Board members asked questions and commented on the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Trackside Baseball – Update, Keith & KJ Neibauer

KJ Neibauer spoke, stating the field is ready to play on, and on Saturday they will be doing a final clean out and edge the field, for the usage starting next week. They plan to use the field six days a week. He asked the board to allow them to install a batting cage and thanked the board for

their support and assistance getting the field ready for use. Supervisor Sutherland spoke, mentioning what the board has done so far to improve the park, and the guard rail may be installed as early as next week.

Fire Fund – Discussion

Clerk Oswalt spoke, informing the board of the need to increase the fire assessment to cover the shortfall the township is experiencing for fire protection, and the fact those costs will be increasing. He cited the increase in registered voters in the township, and the increased number of runs both Napoleon and Cambridge are reporting. He also mentioned the poor response rate to the 2020 census, showing a decrease in population for our township, which will result in our state shared revenue being reduced by more than \$20,000.00 per year for the next 10 years. Currently, the shortfall is being covered by General Fund monies, but with our state shared revenues being decreased, he feels the board cannot continue to do so. He is suggesting the board consider raising the fire assessment rate from .82890% to .97%, which would generate enough money to have a small fund balance the first year, break even the second year and have a small deficit the third year which would be covered by the first-year fund balance. The current rate of .82890% costs the taxpayer \$82.89 per \$100,000 of assessed value, and the proposed increase to .97% would increase the cost to taxpayers to \$97.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Disposition of Hardcastle Road Property

Supervisor Sutherland spoke stating this item was on the agenda for the March 16, 2022 Regular Board meeting and tabled with no “come back to the board for a decision date”. He requested a motion to officially table the issue with a “come back” date. Motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Clerk Oswalt to table the Disposition of the Hardcastle Road Property, and bring it back to the board at the June 13, 2022 board meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Inspector Fees

Supervisor Sutherland mentioned having a meeting with the township’s building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspectors in January of 2022. It was determined that Norvell Township’s pay scale for inspections is lower than surrounding townships, and the fees are not equal for the inspectors. He proposes the board approve paying all inspectors except the building inspectors \$65.00 per inspection, and the building inspector to receive \$55.00 per inspection. These fees are paid out of the Construction Code Fund which currently has a surplus balance of over \$51,000. Trustee Haystead informed the board he is related to one of the inspectors and asked if the board wished to have him recuse himself from the vote. A short discussion followed, with the board agreeing he should vote on the issue, because Trustee Haystead was not personally benefiting from the issue. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the increase to \$65.00 per inspection for the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspectors, and \$55.00 per inspection for the building inspector, effective May 1, 2022. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Title Work for 106 Commercial Building

Supervisor Sutherland reminded the board this item had been discussed at the April 6th, 2022 work session meeting, and the need to have a complete title search done on the township building due

to the speculation that if we no longer use the building for township operations, ownership of the building would revert to a previous owner. He has a price of \$250.00 from American Title Company and proposes the board authorize the expenditure to resolve the issue. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Treasurer Sauers, seconded by Supervisor Sutherland to approve having a title search done for 106 Commercial Street, by American Title Company at a cost of \$250.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

Light @ Ahrens Park

Supervisor Sutherland spoke, stating the security light at Ahrens Park had been shot out and the need to repair it. He also suggested that an additional light be mounted on the pavilion. He has gotten a price of \$1,204.00 from Gainsley Electric for both the repair and the additional light at the park. He mentioned he had not gotten additional quotes because Bill Gainsley has done excellent work at a reasonable price for the township in the past and the need to get the work done as soon as possible. Trustee Dame objected to the motion because ~~three bids had not been secured for this project~~ only one was secured for this project and there is a Norvell Township Commercial Electric Company that was not invited to bid on this project. Discussion followed regarding the issue of additional quotes. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve costs of up to \$1,300.00 for the repair of the security light and an additional light on the pavilion at Ahrens Park. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Haystead. Nays – Dame. **Land/Combination 2022-02 – Dardy Court**

Supervisor Sutherland presented land combination/division No. 2022-02 to the board, stating it had been reviewed by the Land Division Committee who recommended approve the boundary line adjustment, contingent upon the relocation or removal of the small shed near the proposed property line of 072-20-28-376-028-00 and the provision of a copy of the ownership deed transfer. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve the boundary line adjustment of 072-20-28-376-028-00, No. 2022-02 with the following contingencies, relocation, or removal of the small shed near the proposed property line and the provision of a copy of the ownership deed transfer. Motion carried.

Norvell Beach Property Resolution 2022-04

Supervisor Sutherland mentioned the board has discussed the issue of ownership of a parcel of property at Norvell Beach, purchased through a tax foreclosure, and whether to try to develop it into a park/kayak launch. Due to costs of improvement, location, and access, he has presented a resolution to authorize the sale of the property. A short discussion followed. Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to adopt resolution 2022-04 authorizing the sale of the Norvell Beach property, ID No. 000-20-04-251-002-05, at a price to be determined by Michigan State Laws regarding the sale of public properties and the current land value of said property. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, Dame, and Haystead. Nays: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Dave Lamb spoke, expressing concerns regarding the overpopulation of beaver in the township, citing the problems caused. Supervisor Sutherland responded to his comments, and a short discussion followed. He then commented on the weed die off in area lakes that has affected both summer and ice fishing. Mr. Ladd also mentioned the River Raisin Watershed Council would

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be meeting next week at Hidden Lakes Garden and thanked Clerk Oswalt for the work being done to clean up of Norvell Cemetery.

Donna Godin spoke, asking the board to address wedding barns restrictions in the township's master plan.

John Hummer spoke, thanking the board for the improvements being made at Ahren's Park.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion was made by Supervisor Sutherland, seconded by Treasurer Sauers to approve paid bills totaling \$26,024.67, unpaid bills totaling \$15,638.89, and payroll totaling \$16,867.66, as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Ayes-Sutherland, Sauers, Oswalt, 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 Oswalt,
Norvell Township Clerk

Garnet Francis,
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary