

President Wetherbee called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 P.M.

### **Roll Call:**

Council Members Present: President Wetherbee and Trustees: Stoffel, Cook, Gale, Gremel, Myers, Harper

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Clerk- Joni Scott, Community Liaison- Cindy Edmondson, Harbor Master- Susan Holtz

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the February 6, 2020 were accepted with a typo as presented.

The Special meeting minutes from February 19, 2020 were accepted as presented.

### **Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):**

Trustee Cook asked to have the Children's Center request for an extension added to the agenda as a discussion item.

President Wetherbee asked to have the Resolution approving the Liquor License for Northport Gardens, LLC added to the agenda.

### **Correspondence:**

**Ron Schobel-** letter regarding marijuana. (see correspondence attachment)

**Leelanau Township Community Foundation-** request for an extension on lease for the Children's Center.

**Andy and Gloria Thomas-** letter of support for a marijuana dispensary.

**Bruce Viger-** letter of support for a marijuana dispensary.

**Bob Hayden-** letter not in support of a marijuana dispensary.

**Patty Noftz-** request for funding for the Visitor's Center. President Wetherbee asked to have the request added to the agenda as an action item.

### **Public Comment:**

**Barb Conley, Mill Street-**commented on the Covid-19 virus and submitted information to be posted.

**Bob Newell, Shabwasung Street-** commented about street signs that are missing.

### **Presentation by Northport Art Students with teacher Jen Evans:**

Northport Teacher Jen Evans explained her proposal for a beautification project on the Nagonaba Trail. Students; Sofie, Henry and Emily presented their art projects, which consisted of fish, wood peckers and fairy houses made out of fiberglass.

Trustee Stoffel **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve the art beautification project on the Nagonaba Trail. **Motion Carried.**

### **Reports:**

A. **Liaison-** Cynthia Edmondson reported on the Homewood Cottage Association project and the easement required.

5 Year Harbor Plan:

Trustee Stoffel **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve the 5 year Harbor Recreation Plan. **Motion Carried.**

The plan is a necessary addendum to the Village's current Parks and Recreation Plan and required for the submittal of a Waterways Grant Aid application.

- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott reviewed her written financial report with the Council. Scott also provided the Council with a copy of the profit and loss statement from the Northport Creek Golf Course for 2019.
- C. **Treasurer** – None.
- D. **DPW**- None.
- D. **Employee Relations** – None
- E. **Finance**- Minutes from the February 12, 2020 Finance Committee meeting was provided. The Committee made the following recommendations; 1. Add the cyber liability coverage as quoted by Municipal Underwriters of Michigan, Inc., 2. Adopt a \$25 fee for new license applications for a Short Term Rental, 3. Homewood Cottage Association Special Assessment Recommendation for a 7 year term and 2.9% interest rate.

**Cyber Policy:**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve adding the Cyber liability coverage to the village's insurance. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

**Short Term Rental Fee:**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Harper to approve adding a \$25 Short Term Rental Fee to the Fee Schedule for the 2021 fiscal year. **Discussion:** Trustee Stoffel would like to see the fee higher and stated that Short Term Rentals make lots of money during the summer months. Trustee Cook would also like to see the fee much higher and paid annually. Trustee Harper noted that the fee could not arbitrarily be set and would have to compensate the administration time and costs.

**Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (5) Nays (2) Trustees Cook and Stoffel. **Motion Carried.**

**Homewood Cottage Association Special Assessment Terms:**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Myers to approve a 7-year term at a 2.9% interest rate for the Homewood Cottage Association Special Assessment Water project. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

- F. **Infrastructure**- None
- G. **Waterfront**- Harbor Master Susan Holtz provided a written report to the Council. Highlights included discussions about:
  - 1. 45 reservations made for the 2020 season
  - 2. The purchase of 4 new security cameras.
- H. **Planning Commission:** Commissioner Jane Gale provided the Council with a written report from the February 18, 2020 planning commission meeting. Discussions included; The Commission requested the County Building Inspector to inspect a couple blighted structures in the village. 1.- Old Hospital Building and 2.- Pier Group Building. A review of the Parks and Recreation Plan is underway and will be discussed at their March meeting.
- I. **Parks and Trails:** The Parks and Trails Committee will meet on March 16, 2020 and encourages public attendance.

## **Discussion Items:**

### Update on East end of Fourth Street:

President Wetherbee reported that he had a meeting with Mr. Sheets and DPW Superintendent Chris Holton regarding the 4th Street road end separately. Wetherbee explained that that the village would continue to maintain the street and add more rip-rap if needed in the future.

### Preliminary discussion of short-term rentals:

The Council was asked to review the current village Short Term Rental Ordinance 111 and be prepared for a discussion at the next regular council meeting.

### First look at proposed Article 15, Marihuana Facilities and Establishments:

The Council reviewed the proposed zoning language for Marihuana Facilities and Establishments. Discussions included; what the appeal process is for the restrictions, questions over the separation distances for religious institutions and zoning district limitations.

### Recreational Marihuana Ballot Language:

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to adopt the ballot language as follows;

Shall the Village of Northport repeal Village Ordinance No. 125 (the Recreational Marijuana Establishments Ordinance) and replace it with a new ordinance that would completely prohibit recreational marijuana establishments in the Village of Northport as those establishments are defined in the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (Initiated law 1 of 2018).

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (3) Trustee Harper, Gale and Gremel Nays (4) President Wetherbee and Trustees Myers, Stoffel and Cook. **Motion Failed.**

### Leelanau Township Community Foundation request for a one-year extension:

The Leelanau Township Community Foundation is requesting a one-year extension (August 2021) on the lease for the Children's Center building.

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gremel to extend the lease for the Children's Center for one year (August 2021). Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Motion Carried.

## **Action Items:**

### Rules of Procedure:

Trustee Gale **Moved Supported by** Trustee Myers to approve the Rules of Procedure as submitted. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

### Appraisal for Levy Property:

Trustee Cook Moved, Supported by Trustee Stoffel to approve Pete Picard as the appraiser with a not to exceed amount of \$1,000. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

### Approve Liquor License for Northport Gardens, LLC:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gremel to adopt the resolution for the Class C Resort Liquor License. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

## **Payment of Bills:**

Trustee Myers **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve payment of the bills when funds become available in the amount of \$700,247.87

**Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried**

## **Public Comments:**

Gerald Schatz, Mill Street- offered to assist with drafting conflict of interest policy.

Trevor Stillin, 7<sup>th</sup> Street- made comments about church services and the hour that they are open.

Tom MacDonald, Seventh Street- Commented about the hours that a church is open to the public.

Barb Conley, Mill Street- commented about the new Village website and meeting calendar.

Doreen Tyrell, Main Street- commented about the proposed Marijuana zoning language and where the information was disseminated from.

## **Council Comments:**

**Trustee Harper-** apologized for his remark he made regarding hours that churches were open to the public. Harper also felt that the ballot language approval failure was a mistake, and suggested that everyone be prepared to vote at the next meeting. The President agreed and will add the Ballot language to the agenda at the next meeting.

**Clerk Scott-** commented on the Civility Resolution that the Village of Northport adopted.

**Trustee Stoffel-** made comments about emails he had from Trustee Harper.

**Trustee Gale-** commented that the new village website was very user friendly.

## **Adjournment:**

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 8:25 pm

Several Citizens attended.

**Joni I. Scott, Village of Northport  
Clerk**