

President Wetherbee called the meeting to order via zoom at 1:00 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, Harbor Master- Susan Holtz, DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Gremel to approve the July 30, 2020 Special meeting minutes. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Gremel to approve the August 6, 2020 Regular meeting minutes. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Cook to approve the August 13, 2020 Special meeting minutes with corrections. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

(Note: Spelling of Holwerta was corrected)

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Cook to approve the July 17, 2020 Special meeting minutes. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):

Vendors and Food Trucks was added as a Discussion Item.

Correspondence:

John Weber- Food trucks and Vendor Ordinance not being followed.

Public Comment:

John Weber- commented about the Vendor Ordinance not being correctly followed and the need to possibly revisit to allow for Food Trucks.

Tom Weber- commented about the importance of Council members identifying themselves during a zoom meeting before making a comment, and questioned if there was a code of conduct that all council members could follow.

Reports:

- A. **Liaison-** None
- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott provided a financial report for the month of August.
- C. **Treasurer** – completed the financials for the month of August and will drop a report in the Dropbox.
- D. **DPW-** Superintendent Chris Holton provided a written report to the Council.
- D. **Employee Relations** – None
- E. **Finance-** The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on September 9, 2020 at 10 am. Discussion items will include; 7th Street update on survey and wetland delineation, Budget review and discussion of Capital Bonds.

- F. **Infrastructure-** Infrastructure Chair Hugh Cook provided the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting. Cook welcomed Kathy Frerichs to the Committee. Cook reported that the committee will begin working on a Street Light Master Plan.
- G. **Waterfront-** Harbor Master Susan Holtz provided a written report to the Council of activities at the marina. Holtz also reported that due to lack of staffing the marina will be going to shortened hours of operations starting the weekend after Labor Day.
Waterfront Chair Tom Gremel reported that the committee will be reviewing a request for a short-term rental boat slip in the marina at their next regular meeting. Minutes from the August 18, 2020 committee meeting were provided.
- H. **Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission representative Jane Gale reported that their last regular meeting was an appointment of offices with Kathryn Frerichs- Chair and Chris McCann- Secretary.
Gale also reported on the Planning Commissions public hearing for a Special Use permit to locate a Marihuana Dispensary at 800 Mill Street, which was well attended and approved unanimously since all the requirements had been met. Trustee Cook and Harper commended the Planning Commission for running a very smooth public hearing.
- I. **Parks and Trails:** Parks and Trails did not meet. However, Trapper Ron applied a granular form of Geese scam. The product is 100% organic and costs around \$250 per application. Harbor Master Susan Holtz agreed that the treatment was working.

Discussion Items:

Village Outdoor Lighting Zoning Ordinance:

The Village Zoning Ordinance reads:

Article 3, paragraph 3.17 OUTDOOR LIGHTING. "The outdoor lighting of yards, parking areas, buildings, grounds, signs, private roads, and waters shall be designed and constructed to insure that direct or directly reflected light is confined to the site on which the light is located and lamps and luminaries are hooded to insure that there will be no direct light spilling beyond the boundaries of the site or private road right-of-way."

Trustee Harper explained that the property in question has lighting pointing upward and isn't in the spirit of the Dark Sky Resolution that the Village adopted. Harper noted that he felt it was also a navigational issue and that he was surprised that nobody has driven a boat into the waterfront property.

President Wetherbee asked the Infrastructure Committee to review the ordinance and suggest possible changes.

Possible letter from attorney regarding Village Liability for Park Drive:

Trustee Harper explained that Karl Wizinsky is concerned with traffic on Park Street and therefore will not be renewing the Mitten Brewery lease.

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to ask Village Attorney Ross Hammersley to write a letter indemnifying property owner Karl Wizinsky from any liability on Park Street.

Discussion: Street Administrator Chris Holton cautions the Village that his concerns with liability are with the picnic tables on Nagonaba Street not traffic on Park Street. Trustee Harper would like to help out the Mitten and their negotiations with Karl Wizinsky to save the business. Trustee Stoffel is concerned with the liability for the picnic tables on Nagonaba Street, and was in support of helping the Mitten Brewery business. Trustee Gale thinks that is would be money well spent.

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

Township concerns with NLTUA check-signing policy proposal:

President Wetherbee explained that the Township did not approve the resolution amending the NLTUA's Articles of Incorporation. Wetherbee said that the Townships attorney did not agree with the NLTUA's attorney that office staff could co-sign checks.

Property Maintenance- cabin near wind turbine:

President Wetherbee reported a very small shed/cabin near the wind turbine that has broken windows and has become a hazard. DPW Superintendent Chris Holton will take a look at it and possibly remove it.

Citizen of the Year Plaque:

The Village of Northport has a plaque that recognizes and awards a citizen for service to the village. Clerk Scott suggested that there were many people that have been volunteering time and serving the village and should be recognized. The Council agreed and will suggest names at the next regular Council meeting.

Vendors Ordinance 100:

Clerk Scott explained that she issued a vendor permit to Antojitos to operate their food truck in the village parking lot. Scott noted that the ordinance does state that a special event for a non-profit is required. The Village of Northport has historically issued vendor permits on the 4th of July and during the Tree lighting event. Scott asked the Council to authorize Anojitos food truck to continue until the end of the year given the special circumstances of the "Pandemic" and no special events for the food truck to operate at.

Trustee Gale explained that the Antojitos could be considered under a social district which could allow them to continue operating.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Gale to approve the following resolution;

WHEREAS: House Bill 5781 was approved to create social districts;

WHEREAS: The Village of Northport in an effort to support its local businesses is allowing expanded "common areas" to help establish special social districts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Village of Northport approve Antojitos to park in the village parking lot for the use as a social district.

Discussion: Trustee Stoffel suggested designating an area to allow for food trucks. Trustee Cook clarified that this was just for Antojitos and that anyone else would have to apply separately.

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

The Finance Committee was asked to review ordinance 100 Vendor, Peddler.

Action Items:

Palmer Property Division:

John Palmer provided a survey drawing and legal discription of his two lots on South Shore Drive. The new division would increase the size of Parcel "A" 042-100-027-00. Zoning Administrator Bill Fuller stated that the request met all the requirements of the Village Residential (R2) District.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Myers to approve the property division and combination for parcels 042-100-027-00 and 042-100-028-10 John Palmer.

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

Resolution to authorize issuance of 2020 Capital Improvement Bond:

The Finance Committee recommends the approval of the resolution adopting a Capital Improvement Bond with Huntington Bank for \$305,000 for 10 years at 2.35%. The Funds will be used for the Marina C Dock repairs.

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Harper to adopt the Resolution for the Capital Improvement Bond with Huntington Bank for the Marina C Dock repairs.

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

Approve Purchase of a new water meter reader:

The DPW provided a quote from Etna for a new meter reader in the amount of \$8,500.

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve the purchase of the water meter in the amount of \$8,500. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

Payment of Bills:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Harper to approve payment of the bills for the month of August when funds become available in the amount of \$193,122.05

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

Public Comments:

John Weber- commented on the goose scam, vending in the village and the need to review the ordinance, liability consideration for the seating on the street. Weber also reminded the public that the property where the Village of Northport sign is situated on belongs to his family (Barbara Weber) and the political signs on the property are authorized by them.

Gerald Schatz- thanked the staff for all their hard work during the pandemic.

Tom Weber- commented suggesting the need for Code of Conduct for Council members stating that he was the recipient of false accusations by a public official, the need for amended agendas to be on the website for the public to review and for the village to have an understanding of liabilities.

Council Comments:

Hugh Cook- inquired about continuing the regular meeting time at 7 pm.

Will Harper-commented about his right to freedom of speech and that he did not consider comments he made to be defamatory.

Jane Gale- reported a donation from a private citizen for a solar powered parklet, that will be placed at the trail head at the end of 8th Street.

Adjournment:

Trustee Stoffel Moved, Supported by Trustee Harper to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 8:52 pm

Several Citizens attended via phone.

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