

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Gale to approve the August 24, 2020 Special meeting minutes with corrections. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (6) Nays (0) Absent: (1) Trustee Stoffel **Motion Carried.** (Note: Present and Absent Council members was corrected)

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Cook to approve the August 6, 2020 Regular meeting minutes. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (6) Nays (0) Absent: (1) Trustee Stoffel **Motion Carried.**

Note: Trustee Stoffel joined the meeting around 7:10 pm.

Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):

President Wetherbee added discussion of Levy property survey to the agenda. Trustee Myers added a follow-up discussion about the tree trimming in the Village.

Correspondence:

None

Public Comment:

Campbell McLeod- commented about the recycling/trash receptacles, Dark Sky Committee and the need for mapping for the Nagonaba Trail.

Lynn Enyart- commented about the Welcome to Northport sign appearing to take a partisan position in the upcoming election. Enyart suggested eliminating all election signs or removing the Northport sign until after the election.

Barbara Weber- commented on the lease arrangement she has with the Village of Northport for over 25 years for the sign.

Tom Weber- Thanked Trustee Myers for adding the tree trimming update to the agenda. Weber complimented Trustee Gale for the new Parklet at the Trail Head, and mentioned his request for adding the monthly reports to the village website.

John Hedgecock- requested that the Village of Northport sign be removed until after the election.

Reports:

- A. **Liaison-** Community Liaison Cindy Edmondson reported that the rules for golf carts and map had been posted at several location. Edmondson also reported on a meeting held with Doug Deyoung from Consumers Energy where it was decided to map out the street lights and choose a few “test sites” for turning off the lights for 2 weeks as a trial before completely decommissioning them.

- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott provided a financial report for the month of September noting that the Treasurer was still reconciling the taxes collected.
- C. **Treasurer** – None
- D. **DPW**- Superintendent Chris Holton provided a written report to the Council. Highlights of the report included;
1. New Curbing installed on the north side of the marina parking lot by Jay and Diane Homan.
 2. A request has been made to have the lights on the north side of the marina shielded.
 3. Hydrant Flushing is scheduled for October 21, discoloration of water to be expected.
 4. Closing of South Beach Bathroom is expected by the end of October.
- D. **Employee Relations** – None
- E. **Finance**- Finance Chair Jane Gale reported that the committee was reviewing budget amendments and agreed to table the discussion/review of the Vendor Ordinance until after the election. Gale stated that the discussion/review of the Vendor Ordinance would remain on the committee’s agenda. Minutes from the Finance Committee meetings held on September 9th and 30th were provided.
- F. **Infrastructure**- Infrastructure Chair Hugh Cook provided minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting. Cook appointed members to the Ad-Hoc Street Light Committee consisting of Jane Gale, Tom Gremel, Kathy Frerichs, Anne Harper, Tom Weber and Hugh Cook. The Committee plans to review all the street lights in the village and make recommendations on removal or the need for shields to be added.
- G. **Waterfront**- Harbor Master Susan Holtz provided a written report to the Council of activities at the marina.
Waterfront Chair Tom Gremel reported that the committee has reviewed a list of marina repairs/project prepared by the Harbor Master and that the DPW are busy getting the bubblers ready for the upcoming winter months.
- H. **Planning Commission**: The Planning Commission representative Jane Gale reported that an Ad-hoc Committee consisting of 3 members from the Planning Commission was formed to review language for Short Term Rentals.
Zoning Administrator Report:
Zoning Administrator Bill Fuller provided a written report of his activities for the month of September. Trustee Harper raised questions regarding a complaint on a baked goods stand on Shabwasung Street. Fuller responded that he was reviewing the definitions of a “Home Occupation”. Fuller also discussed an upcoming property division for Sherry Edwards that will also require a variance for the rear yard setbacks.
Minutes from the September 16th, 2020 Planning Commission were provided.
- I. **Parks and Trails**: Parks and Trails Chair Mike Stoffel reported on options for keeping the geese off the beaches. Solutions included putting up a monofilament line, or applying goose scam at \$130 per application. Stoffel also supported a proposed Northport Senior project on the Nagonaba Trail.

Discussion Items:

Commercial slip request by Will Harper:

Trustee Harper explained that he would like the same opportunity that Mr. Spears was offered and is formally requesting a commercial slip for his boat rental business. Harper is requesting slip 102 and says that his clients don’t use the amenities typically offered with a seasonal slip and that he is willing to pay double the seasonal slip rates. President Wetherbee said that the Waterfront Committee will determine if Harper should get the commercial slip and make a recommendation at the next regular Council meeting.

Marina Paint Color:

Trustee Harper suggested a patina earth rust tone for the marina and feels that it is a good color that will hide any deuteriation. President Wetherbee asked the Council to let either the Waterfront Committee members or himself know what their thoughts are on a color for the marina.

Textured rubber duck deterrent mat for launch ramp:

Trustee Stoffel explained that there are 36” square mats that are made of a hard nylon rubber that would deter the ducks at the launch ramp.

Northport’s Halloween Policy:

The Council agreed by consensus to cancel this years Hotdog party and would talk to the school and follow their lead on trick or treating. Trustee Cook reported that after 27 years the Fire department will not be opening up its building for a party also.

Northport Village Office Sign:

President Wetherbee stated that he feels that the Village Office sign is outdated and disproportionate with the building and should be fixed or replaced before next summer. Wetherbee asked the Council to consider the options for a discussion at the next regular Council meeting.

Village employee performance review:

President Wetherbee explained that he would be emailing the Council a document to make comments about village employees. President Wetherbee asked the Council to answer any of the questions and say anything that they would like.

Citizen of the Year Plaque:

Trustee Cook nominated Bill Collins as the Citizen of the year stating that he has been an exemplary for the Village. President Wetherbee concurred and supported Trustee Cooks nomination for Bill Collins, and stated that he has selflessly help the Village without asking for any credit at all.

Trustee Harper felt that Bill Collins exemplary to the Village would be better recognized as the Citizen of the decade rather than the year. Harper then followed up with support John and Lisa DeGroot for all their work on the Visitors Center.

Trustee Gale reminded the Council that the Planning Commission wanted to recognize Bill Collins service to the village with a memorial plaque.

Trustee Stoffel nominated Steve Wetherbee stating that he has taught at the school and volunteered countless times.

The Council agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Political signs adjacent to Northport limit signs:

Trustee Harper stated that he has thanked Barbara Weber for allowing the village to put its sign on her property, but that he also empathizes with people who see it as an endorsement for a political party that they might not agree with. Harper feels that it would be very expensive to move/relocate the sign and that negotiating the terms of the license would most likely not result in and changes. Harper didn’t feel that the current Council should decide what to do, and he also stated that he would not be in favor of moving the sign.

Survey of the Levy Property:

John Korr from JFK Land Surveying reported that the village had payed for a boundary survey of the Levy property during the purchase. However, the survey was never recorded with the County and after searching the office a copy was never found.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Cook to approve the hire of JFK Land Surveying contingent upon the Levy's agreement to split the costs of the boundary survey.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Motion Carried.

Tree Trimming:

President Wetherbee explained that he and DPW Superintendent Chris Holton had walked the village with the arborist looking at every tree prior to the utility trimming. Wetherbee made it clear that the village had no control over what was trimmed or cut.

Trustee Myers suggested a tree trimming program so that the village could avoid the drastic cutting in the future.

It was agreed that preserving more mature trees in the future should be a goal. The route to achieve this goal has not yet been defined. Chris Holton suggested contacting ReLeaf Michigan for grant opportunities to develop the villages to help achieve these goals.

Action Items:

Approve Machin Engineering as Construction manager for marina project:

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Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Gale to approve the PSA with Machin Engineering in the amount of \$16,500.

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Approve Gosling Czubak's proposal to complete Phase II ESA at 7th Street:

The Finance Committee recommends the approval of the Phase II ESA with Gosling Czubak in the amount of \$13,500.

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve the Phase II ESA with Gosling Czubak in the amount of \$13,500. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

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

Public Comments:

Pam Steffens- commented about the street light on 4th Street and the need to keep it.

Anne Harper- wanted an update on the light shields, her request for no more LEDs installed by Consumers Energy, and whether the village had begun to receive the reduced rate on the LEDs that have been placed so far.

Council Comments:

Hugh Cook- Thanked Trustee Myers and Stoffel for their time serving on the Council.
Will Harper-Thanked Trustee Myers and Stoffel and expressed his appreciation for their service on the Council.
Mike Stoffel- Thanked the Council and Staff who he served with over the past 4 years.

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Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Gremel to adjourn the meeting.
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The meeting was moved to adjourn at 9:36 pm

Several Citizens attended via phone.

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The meeting was moved to adjourn at 9:36 pm

Several Citizens attended via phone.

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