

President Wetherbee called the meeting to order via zoom at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: President Wetherbee and Trustees: Ager, Gremel, McCann, Harper, Cook, Gale

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Clerk- Joni Scott, Community Liaison- Cindy Edmondson, Treasurer- Kallie Craker, Harbor Master- Bill Rosemurgy, DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The May 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The May 19, 2021 Special meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):

None

Correspondence:

Emily Modrall- signage project in Leelanau County.

Will Harper- allowing golf carts on M201.

Consumers Energy- reporting system for streetlights that are out.

Public Comment:

Tom Weber, South Shore Drive- Vandalism on the Weber property at the Northport Sign.

Campbell McLeod, High Street- Dark Sky shields for lights at Haserot, the need for a sidewalk at the south entrance to the marina, maps needed for the Northport trail system, Mill Pond dredging, spiders on the docks and piers.

Jeff Dyer, North Shore- questioned why slip 72 at the marina had a rope line with weights strung across it. Harbor Master Bill Rosemurgy responded that it was a temporary situation and that the dock posts are going to be replaced.

Future of Children's Center building:

A Committee from the Leelanau Township Foundation Board, gave a brief history of the Leelanau Children's Center building. B Cruz, a representative from Northwest Education Services explained her back ground, the need for child care and her interest in working with the Leelanau Township Foundation.

Kathy Garthe requested an additional six-month extension of cancelling the lease for the Children's Center building from their original August 2021 date to February 2022. The Committee also requested a member of the Village Council be appointed to their committee to keep a better communication.

Trustee Gremel Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to approve a 6-month extension on the Children's Center lease agreement with Leelanau Township Community Foundation.

Discussion: DPW Superintendent Chris Holton expressed his concern for the deterioration of the building, due to the fact that it is vacant and all utilities have been removed and shut off.

Trustee Gale mentioned available funding mechanism's coming forward in the state senate.

Trustee McCann volunteered to be on the committee.

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

President Wetherbee appointed Chris McCann to the Committee. Trustee Gale offered to fill in for Trustee McCann if needed.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Trustee Cook Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to move into a Public Hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

The ZBA began at 7:30 pm. (see separate minutes)

Reports:

- A. **Liaison-** Community Liaison Cindy Edmondson read the request from Sarah Eggert to hold the Dog Parade on August 14, 2021. The Council agreed by Consensus.
- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott provided a financial report for the month of May 2021 in agreement with the Treasurer. Scott also reported on a meeting with John Korr regarding the vacation process for 2nd Street. Scott noted that the village originally approved the vacation of parts of 2nd Street between Warren and Mill back in 1961 but the paper work wasn't filed until 1970. The Land Division Act was adopted in 1967 and therefore made the paper work filed in 1970 void. The Village is working with JFK surveying and attorney David Bieganowski to complete the proper paper work.
Scott also reported that she had received the final payment of delinquent assessments from the Township Treasurer.
- C. **Treasurer** – Treasurer Kallie Craker provided a financial report in agreement with the Clerk for the month of May. Craker also reported that she has started preparing her 2021 summer tax collection.
- D. **DPW-** DPW Superintendent Chris Holton reported on the following;
 - 1. Dave's Dust Control is scheduled for June 12-24
 - 2. Mulching and trimming on Northport's Trails will begin
 - 3. Yard waste can be taken to the 8th Street on Fridays and Mondays between 1 and 3 pm.
 - 4. Light shields for the marina lights on the North side are being fabricated.
- E. **Employee Relations** – None
- F. **Finance-** Finance Chair Jane Gale provided minutes from committee May 12, 2021 meeting. Highlights included;
 - 1. Reviewed modifications to the Vendor, Peddler and Solicitor Ordinance #100. The Committee proposed an annual fee of \$155 and a \$50 onetime fee.
 - 2. Review of summary bond debt and payment schedules.
- G. **Infrastructure-** Infrastructure Chair Hugh Cook provided minutes from the May 19, 2021 Committee Meeting. The minutes reflected discussions regarding;
 - 1. Leaf and Brush curbside pickup will be discontinued temporarily starting on June 11, 2021 and will resume in the Fall.
 - 2. Leaf and Brush drop off is available from 1-3 pm at the 8th Street DPW on Monday's and Friday's.
 - 3. Marina and Village Office Parking lot resealing to be completed before memorial day weekend.
- H. **Waterfront-** Waterfront Chair Tom Gremel provided minutes from their May 18th, 2021 committee meeting. Harbormaster Bill Rosemurgy provided a written report. Highligts included;
 - 1. New buoys installed at the Marina entrance.

2. Donation of a TV and new Keurig coffee maker.
 3. Docks have all been power washed.
- H. Planning Commission:** Minutes from the May 19, 2021 Planning Commission meeting were provided.
- Interim Zoning Administrator Scott: provided a report of her activities for the month which included; issuing a commercial land use permit, and a new house build on Vincer way.
- I. Parks and Trails:** Parks and Trails Committee Chair Chris McCann provided minutes from the April 17, 2021 meeting. Highlights included; donation of Lions Club benches to be installed along the village trails, driving range netting to be installed by Jerry Spears, Trapper Ron will apply goose deterrent on Haserot and South Beach.

President Wetherbee mentioned that the new trail that traverses across the Levy property is almost complete except for a large ball of barbed wire that sits in the middle of the trail. Wetherbee will spend some time cutting and removing it.

Discussion Items:

Village sign at Northport's southern border:

Tom Weber explained the vandalism that has occurred to his family's property where the Welcome to Northport sign is located. Weber asked the Council to make a public statement supporting the Weber's use and control over the property. Weber suggested putting this statement on the TV, paper and internet.

Trustee Harper expressed the need for the Council to seek an alternative solution for the Village sign and to move away from the controversy. President Wetherbee agreed to assign an Ad-hoc committee of Chris McCann, Susan Ager and himself to talk with Tom Weber about the sign.

Leelanau County's letter to owners of former hospital:

A Violation notice from the Leelanau County Department of Building Safety, for the property located at 211 S. High Street was provided to the Council. The notice cited that the building is considered dangerous to human life or the public welfare. The owners of the property were given 14 days to respond and describe how they plan to secure the perimeter.

Upcoming review of Planning Commission work:

The Planning Commission asked the Council to review articles 1-3 of the proposed Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission has scheduled a workshop meeting for Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 12 pm.

Possible golf cart ordinance for MDOT roadway:

Trustee Harper reported that communities could allow for golf carts to be on the main trunkline (M-201) by writing to MDOT and requesting permission.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to make a proper request to allow golf carts on M-201 in accordance with Michigan State laws where speed limits are 25 mph or less.

Discussion: Street Administrator Chris Holton expressed his concerns with allowing low speed vehicles on a main highway, stating that they don't require seatbelts, turn signals or break lights.

Trustee Cook expressed his concerns with the possibility of more accidents and had also spoke to the local sheriff who agreed.

Trustee Gremel suggested seeking approval first before making a decision on whether or not to allow for golf carts on M-201. Gremel also suggested posting the rules in the local paper.

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

Work Barge for the marina:

Harbor Master Bill Rosemurgy is looking for a small work barge for the marina. At this time he hasn't found one.

Health of the Northport Christmas Tree:

Trustee Ager reported that Josh Deering from Deering's Tree Service assessed the tree and determined that the spruce tree is dying from chronic spruce decline. Which is a condition when a spruce tree dies from the inside – out.

Covid Information banner for the marina park:

It was suggested that the Covid information banner be moved to the Marina pavilion for the summer. Several Council members feel that it is time to take the banner down and that it could send the wrong message and irritate people. The Council agreed that the banner should not be placed on the Marina pavilion since there are weddings and other events scheduled there.

Action Items:

Approve Interim Zoning Administrator hourly pay:

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to approve paying the Interim Zoning Administrator \$26 per hour.

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

Resolution to approve the vehicle and equipment purchase agreement:

Trustee Gale Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to approve Resolution 6-2021 which finalizes the vehicle and equipment purchase agreement

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

Approve Appointment of Dangerous Building Hearing Officer:

President Wetherbee recommended the appointment of Fred Steffens as the Hearing Officer for the Dangerous Buildings Ordinance.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to approve the appointment of Fred Steffens as the Hearing Officer for the Dangerous Buildings Ordinance.

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

Payment of Bills:

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve payment of the bills for the month of May when funds become available in the amount of \$182,883.29

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

Public Comments:

Sherry Edwards, Shabwasung St.- commented that the old hospital building just came back on the market for sale with 11 acres.

Fred Steffens, 4th Street- commented on the Parkside building and possible requirements going forward, such as fencing.

Campbell McLeod, High Street- commented on the need for signs on the crosswalks similar to other communities, questioned about the new leaf and brush pickup schedule and reminded the public of the pop-up vaccination site on June 11 from 9-12.

Tom Weber, South Shore- commented on golf carts being allowed in the public right of way.

Council Comments:

Trustee McCann- Thanked the Weber’s for the use of their property for the Village sign and question what the intentions were (i.e., To keep people off the property, or allow people to take memorable photos in front of the Welcome to Northport sign.)

Trustee Ager- Thanked all the community members and staff for supporting her.

Trustee Cook- commented possibly blocking the south bound lane between 5th and 6th Street during the 4th of July fireworks show.

Clerk Scott- updated the Council on the Thomas Botz memorial sign for 8th Street.

Adjournment:

Trustee Ager Moved, Supported by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 9:45 pm

Several Citizens attended via zoom.

Community Liaison Cindy Edmondson reported 38 attendees

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