

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

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Clerk- Joni Scott, Treasurer- Merilee Scripps, Harbor Master- Susan Holtz and DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Trustee Gale Moved, Supported by Trustee Gremel to approve the September 5, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion Carried.

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

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Myers to move the Medical Marijuana Opt-in Ordinance as an action item instead of a discussion.

Discussion: Trustee Gale stated that she would like to have more information about the ordinance before approving. Trustee Stoffel suggested a legal opinion was needed to clarify some questions he had.

Trustee Harper withdrew his Motion.

**Correspondence:**

Peter and Rebecca Gavrilovich- Letter with concerns with speed limits on 201/Mill Street  
Northport/Omena Chamber of Commerce- Support for Medical and Recreational Marijuana dispensaries.  
Ron Schobel- Rushing to Judgement to establish a marijuana business.

**Public Comment:**

**Peggy Ramsdel-** commented about the Early Childhood millage proposal and the services provided.

**Campbell McLeod, High Street-** commented about the marina and Dark Sky lighting.

**Kevin Murphy, Mill Street-** Supported the Gavrilovich letter and the speeding traffic on 201/Mill

**Bob Newell, Shabwasung Street-** commented about the speeding traffic on Shabwasung Street.

**Alexi-** suggested a 20 mph speed limit throughout the village.

**Fred Thomas, Mill Street-** commented about the speeding traffic on Mill Street.

**Mike Dujanowicz, Shabwasung Street-** commented about the speeding traffic on Shabwasung Street.

**Jamie Mole (MRTMA) Michigan Regulation and Taxation Marihuana Act:**

**Rick Thompson (NORML) National Organization for the Reform of Marihuana Laws**

Speakers Rick Thompson and Jamie Mole advocates for marijuana spoke to the Council and public about the benefits of allowing marijuana dispensaries. questions and comments were heard from; Tom Omeke, Kevin Murphy, Bob Newell, Chris Ernst, Don Bailey, Jeff Helston, Jenny Danaher, Betsy Mallek, Dick Lang, John Forsic, Andy McFarlen, Mimi Heberline, Michael Chetcuti, Hedi Mooney, Mike Sinclair, Tysen Haverberg, Rick Deering, Dave Rose, Kathy Dawkins, Nancy Schuman, Anne Harper, Mike Borkovich.

**Reports:**

- A. **Liaison-** Cynthia Edmondson provided the Council with a written report.
- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott reviewed her written financial report with the Council.
- C. **Treasurer** – Treasurer Scripp’s provided a written report for September. Delinquent taxes sent to the County totaled- \$28,266.41
- D. **DPW-** Superintendant Chris Holton provided a written report.  
Highlights of his report included:
  - 1. Estimate for new loader tires in the amount of \$9328.  
\*Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Cook to authorize the \$9,328 expenditure for new loader tires.  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) Motion Carried.
  - 2. Continued work on shoreline erosion
  - 3. Road work patch repair on 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- D. **Employee Relations** – None

- E. **Finance-** Minutes from the September 10, 2019 Finance Committee meeting were provided. Clerk Scott noted that the regular finance meeting had been rescheduled for a week later Wednesday September 15, 2019 at 10 am.
  - F. **Infrastructure-** Minutes from the September 18, 2019 Infrastructure meeting were provided.
  - G. **Waterfront-** Harbor Master Susan Holtz provided a written report to the Council. Highlights included discussions about:
    1. Meeting with Jim Schiffer, Advantage Electric and Nealis regarding Electrical Audit
    2. The need for security cameras at the marina and public restrooms
    3. Marina Closing on October 15, 2019.
- Minutes from the September 17, 2019 Waterfront Committee meeting were provided.
- H. **Planning Commission:** Highlights from the last Planning Commission meeting on September 18, 2019 meeting included;
    1. Capital Improvement planning is underway for the upcoming budget 2020/2021
    2. A report with options for 7<sup>th</sup> Street DPW property was provided
    3. Off Street parking requirements in the core business district.

Zoning Administrator Bill Fuller provided a written monthly report for review.

## Ongoing Business:

- A. **SAW Grant:** Monchilov Sewer Services, LLC continue their work under the SAW grant cleaning and inspection of the Village storm water drain systems.

## Discussion Items:

### A. Levy Property:

President Wetherbee reported that the appraisal is underway and he will report at the next regular Council meeting.

### B. Review of Attorney Performance:

Trustee Stoffel expressed his concerns with the village attorney responding in adequate time. Clerk Scott explained that the attorney had responded and that the information was considered Attorney/Client Privileged and that she was waiting for direction from the Village President.

### C. Finger Pier Renovations:

President Wetherbee asked the Council to consider allowing Jerry Spears to remove a single finger pier at the marina and have the structure sandblasted for a cost of \$500. The Council had a lengthy discussion and agreed that the marina had much bigger projects to face at this time.

### D. Halloween Festivities:

The Village will serve Hotdogs and Brats on Halloween night from 4-7. The Community Liaison Cindy Edmondson will send out the assignment sheets for the council.

### E. Marijuana Ballot Initiative:

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Gale to move the discussion of the marijuana ballot initiative to the next regular council meeting. **Discussion:** Trustee Stoffel felt that Mr. Oehmke should be allowed to speak about the ballot initiative.  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas (3) Trustees Harper, Myers and Gale Nays (4) **Motion Failed.**

Tom Oehmke suggested that a ballot initiative on whether or not a marijuana dispensary should be allowed in Northport could be put to a vote as early as August of 2020.

## F. Marijuana Opt-in Ordinance:

The Council agreed that they were not ready to vote on a marijuana ordinance until the Village attorney had a chance to review them. The Council agreed to a Special Council meeting on October 17, 2019 at the Fire hall at 7 pm.

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to have both the opt-in medical and recreational ordinances reviewed by the village attorney.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (6) Nays (1) Trustee Stoffel Motion **Carried**.

President Wetherbee asked Clerk Scott to also take the proposed ordinance to opt-out of both from Tom Oehmke and have the village attorney remove all of the opting out of medical marijuana to create a just “opt-out of recreational marijuana ordinance”.

## Action Items:

None

## Payment of Bills:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Myers to approve payment of the bills when funds become available in the amount of \$86,751.42

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

## Public Comments:

**Linda Spears, Fifth Street-** asked when the Council would Vote on the Marijuana ordinance.

**Anne Harper, Fourth Street-** commented about making the ordinances available to the public.

**Kevin Murphy, Mill Street-** commented about opting in to allowing marijuana dispensary's .

**Betsy Mallek, Northport Point-** Commented about the marijuana ordinances.

**Eric Mansey-** commented about the will of the people.

## Council Comments:

Trustee Cook- commented that the Zoning Administrator should be reprimanded regarding his comments about the Around the Corner Food Truck.

Trustee Gale- asked the Trustees the Rules of Procedure for conducting meetings.

Trustee Stoffel asked the Council to keep an open mind and listen to both sides of the marijuana issues without attacking people.

Trustee Harper- made comments about the social media and factual information regarding marijuana.

## Adjournment:

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 10:40 pm

Several Citizens attended.

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