

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, DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton

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

The November 4, 2021 meeting minutes were accepted as presented with questions regarding Sec. 3. Approval of Agenda/ Amendments/ Additions.

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

President Wetherbee clarified the Maude Court discussion on the agenda, explaining that Trustee Harper would be presenting a possible procedural error for the action taken to develop the Maude Court Road. However, no other decisions would be made.

### **Correspondence:**

**Leelanau Township Community Foundation-** communication regarding the February lease termination date.

**Yarrow Brown, Housing North-** request to pledge funds towards a Housing Ready Program Director for the next three years.

**Amy Sptznagel-** request to rezone the former Pier Group property from CR-1 Commercial Residential to C-1 Core Commercial.

**Tom Oehmke-** request for 7<sup>th</sup> Street Road end language. (Parks and Trails Committee will review)

**Laura Cavendish-** request for a wreath on the Northport Sign. Letter/ research on Council stipends and the need to possibly increase. (Finance Committee will review)

**Bonnie Shiner-** letter opposed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Development.

**Virginia Foley-** letter opposed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Development.

**Daniel Caudill-** 1 letter in support of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Development, and 1 letter in support of letting the Planning Commission take another look at the development.

**Marcia Boynton-** letter regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Street drainage RFP and suggestion of research. (Infrastructure will be reviewing)

**Greg Nobles, Joanne Swanson, Nancy Peterson-** letters all opposing the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Maude Court project.

### **Public Comment:**

**Laura Canvendish-** commented on the YouTube Channel prospective for all village meetings, the need for no meetings to be erased due to lack of bandwidth, 7<sup>th</sup> Street Maude Court development and the need for public input, Marina Parking lot project and questions from the planning commission regarding drainage.

**Campbell McLeod-** commented on the history of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street village property and the need for more public input before developing, and the need for affordable housing. McLeod thanked the DPW for work on the Holiday lights and the Tree.

**John Webber-** commented on the heavy construction on South Shore drive and the deuteriation of the pavement. Webber questioned the webcam on Waukazoo Street and why it was there. Street Administrator Chris Holton explained that the camera was not permitted and was scheduled to be removed. Trustee Harper explained that the camera was his and that he would be taking it down.

**Pam Steffens-** commented on the history of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the \$100k purchase/investment that the Village made.

**Nancy Peterson-** commented on the need for a public forum for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street development with the Planning Commission.

**Judy Fowler-** commented on the need for a public forum for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street development with the Planning Commission. Fowler also expressed the need to clear-up all the confusion and misinformation on the deed for 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Joanne Swanson-** commented about the lack of notification to the public regarding the Maude Court project and the need for a public hearing.

**Fred Steffens-** commented about the history of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street property, and suggested that the village should not be in the developing business.

**Mary Cermak-** expressed her opposition to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Maude Court development and the need to hold a public hearing.

## **Reports:**

- A. **Liaison-** Community Liaison Cindy Edmondson reported on the tree lighting fundraiser raising a total of \$4,100 which included \$346 from the donated Hot chocolate, coffee and cookies that the local kids sold.
- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott provided a financial report for the month of November 2021 in agreement with the Treasurer.
- C. **Treasurer** – Treasurer Kallie Craker provided a revenue report in agreement with the Clerk for the month of November. Craker noted that she had collected \$180 in delinquent personal property taxes.
- D. **DPW-** DPW Superintendent Chris Holton provided a written report on the DPW activities for the month of November. Trustee Ager asked if the request for a wreath and lights on the Village sign could be completed. DPW Superintendent suggested that the request should've come in back in October when the village orders roping and wreaths. Trustee Ager offered to pursue a wreath for the sign.  
Holton noted that the Village may want to consider keeping the public restrooms open through the winter, stating that many citizens use the restrooms regularly and that its not that much work to keep them cleaned.
- E. **Employee Relations** – None
- F. **Finance-** Finance Chair Jane Gale provided minutes from November 10, 2021 meeting. Gale highlighted on options the committee considered for the Maude Court project;
  - 1. No appraisal and proceed with sale
  - 2. Appraisal of proposed 4 lots as surveyed
  - 3. Appraisal of compromise proposed 2 lots
  - 4. Any other option suggested by the majority of TrusteesTrustee Harper questioned the minutes, and made several comments regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Street project and the timeline that represents the project.
- G. **Infrastructure-** Infrastructure Committee Chair Hugh Cook provided minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting. Cook noted that it was important that the gas and power be turned back on at the Children's Center. The Council had a discussion and agreed about the need to get the gas and power turned back on at the Children's Center Building as soon as possible.
- H. **Waterfront-** Waterfront Chair Tom Gremel provided minutes from the November 16, 2021 committee meeting.  
**Harbormaster** Bill Rosemurgy provided a written report of marina activities. Trustee Ager asked Bill Rosemurgy if he would like to continue working as the Harbor Master and questioned his likes and dislikes of the job. Rosemurgy stated that he plans to continue working as the Harbor Master and that he enjoyed his job, although there had been some very hard moments.

- I. **Planning Commission:** minutes from the November 17, 2021 Planning Commission meeting were provided. Gale noted that the Planning Commission had a presentation from John Stimpson from Homestretch affordable housing, and a sub-committee has begun work on a Heritage Tree program to identify special trees in the community.
- J. **Zoning Administrator:** Scott provided a report of her activities for the month of November. Scott also reviewed the rezoning request from Amy Sptiznagel with the Council explaining that approving the request would be considered “Spot Zoning” with is illegal. Scott suggested kicking the request back to the Planning Commission for consideration and possibly amendments to the Master plan with regards to the Future Land Use plan. Scott noted that any amendments to the maps would have to be thoroughly discussed.
- K. **Parks and Trails:** Parks and Trails Committee Chair Chris McCann provided minutes from the November 15, 2021. McCann reported that the Committee worked on updates to the Recreation Plan and reviewed budget items with Clerk Scott.

## **Discussion Items:**

### **Santa’s Helpers:**

President Wetherbee invited council members to help fill 75-100 candy bags for Santa’s visit on December 24, at 6 pm. All interested members should show up on December 16, 2021 at the village office 3 pm.

### **Street Lights:**

President Wetherbee explained that after further discussion with regards to the lack of lighting and the village’s DPW concerns of safety during snow plowing in the winter months and the several complaints from citizen’s it is his recommendation to turn all the street lights back on. Hugh Cook agreed stating that Leelanau Emergency Services would like them back on as well. President Wetherbee will write a letter to Doug Deyoung requesting that all lights be turned back on. Trustee Gale noted that she would let the Dark Sky Committee know about the changes.

Trustee Harper suggested letting private citizen’s donate money towards the purchase of new light fixtures.

### **Driveway access to soccer field easement:**

The Village of Northport is waiting for village legal counsel to draft an agreement and identify and liabilities for a driveway to be constructed and access the village’s soccer field easement off of West Third Street.

### **Maude Court:**

Trustee Harper suggested that there was a procedural error for the Action Item taken on October 7, 2021, approving the construction of Maude Court. Harper stated that according to the Village Council Rules of Procedure, an action item must be a discussion item during a prior meeting before it can become an action.

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to rescind the vote to construct Maude Court Road. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

The Council asked the Village Planning Commission to review the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Development project.

## Housing North Funding Request:

Yarrow Brown, from Housing North explained the proposal for organizations to consider an investment to catalyze funding for a Housing Ready Program Director to work in Leelanau County for the next 3 years. The total needed to fund raise for a full-time position for three years is roughly \$90-\$100k a year. The goal is to have 50% of the position funded by the units of government and 50% funded by philanthropy.

The Village Council questioned how much other communities were investing. Yarrow Brown said that she would be happy to report back after meeting with other organizations.

## Action Items:

### Approve Land Division Ordinance 131-2021:

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gremel to adopt Ordinance 131-2021 and ordinance that regulates Land Division.

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

### Approve Expense of \$8,750 for Wade Trim's work on Zoning Ordinance:

Trustee Gale Moved, Supported by Trustee Gremel to approve the \$8,750 proposal for Tasks 1 & 2 of the Wade Trim's proposal for amendments on the Village Zoning Ordinance of 2006.

Discussion: Zoning Administrator Scott noted that the Planning Commission is considering the remaining tasks 3-6 at a cost of \$23,200. The Finance Committee will be considering budgets in the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year.

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

## Payment of Bills:

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee McCann to approve payment of the bills for the month of December when funds become available in the amount of \$143,128.65

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

## Public Comments:

**Fred Steffens-** questioned if the village belonged to Networks Northwest, and stated that they offered affordable housing discussions and studies.

## Council Comments:

Susan Ager- Thanked Laura Cavendish for all her work with the day of the Tree Lighting event.

Clerk Scott- told the Council that the dedication sign for Thomas Botz was finally done. The staff will schedule a time to hold a memorial celebration with his family.

## 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 9:06 pm  
Several Citizens attended via zoom.

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