

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

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent Members: None

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve the April 7, 2022 meeting minutes with corrections. **Discussion:** Trustee Ager asked for the date of the trail cleanup added to the discussion. **Motion Carried.**

President Wetherbee stated that he would not be asking for approval of the April 14, 2022 Special meeting minutes.

Trustee Harper had concerns with the Special April 14, 2022 meeting minutes and asked the President for a special meeting.

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

Trustee Cook asked for the discussion of Citizen of the Year be added to the agenda as an Action item.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Scott noted that she was in receipt of a FOIA request.

**Public Comment:**

**Joe Defores, Leelanau Community Energy-** Commented that the LCE made a commitment to paying for the electric car charging stations in the Village's municipal parking lot for 2 years, but due to Covid and less cars traveling, they extended their commitment for one more year (2021). Defores noted that the LCE paid \$294 this past year which was the highest year and use out of the total 3 years.

**"Bolt" Race Approval, Sawyer Scott:**

Sawyer Scott asked the Council for permission to hold the "Bolt" race on Saturday September 3, 2022 at 11 am. Scott made a commitment to raise a minimum of \$1,000 to donate to the Northport Area Heritage Association. Scott also announced that he is working on a documentary of the 1987 State Basketball Championship win for Northport.

**Resolution to approve a Land Division Request by Kevin and Georgia Abbey:**

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

**WHEREAS;** a Land Division is governed by the Land Division Act, Act 288 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1967, and

**WHEREAS;** the Village of Northport has adopted Ordinance 131 of 2021 and Ordinance that regulates the Division of Land to be governed by the Village Council, and

**WHEREAS;** the proposed "Lot Division" meets the requirements of the Village Zoning and Land Division Ordinance and Act 288 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1967,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** that the Village Council has reviewed the Land Division request, and approves the division of Lot 176 from Lots 194 & 195 according to the surveys and legal descriptions provided for parcel #042-350-194-00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas (7) Nays (2)

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

### **ZBA Meeting for Abbey and Timm Sahs Variance Request:**

The Village Council convened into the Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing meeting at 7:24 pm, for a variance request from Kevin and Georgia Abbey and Timm Sahs. (See separate minutes)

### **Reports:**

- A. **Liaison-** Community Liaison Cindy Edmondson reported on the following;
  - 1. The biennial Village Clean-up Day is scheduled for June 18, 2022.
  - 2. The NLTUA is having an open house and tours of the Treatment Plant facility on May 18, 2022 from 10 am-2pm.
- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott provided a financial report for the month of April in agreement with the Treasurer. Clerk Scott also reported that the Village had received the GLRI grant with the Watershed Center in the amount of \$513K for stormwater runoff projects. Scott noted that the quarterly ARPA reporting requirement for the Village was completed.
- C. **Treasurer** – Treasurer Kallie Craker prepared the April Financial report with the Clerk and were in agreement. Craker noted that the Tax Roll was complete and that she was ready for the upcoming tax season.
- D. **DPW-** DPW Superintendent Chris Holton provided a written report of the DPW activities for the month of April. Holton highlighted that the Hydrant Flushing was scheduled for Wednesday May 18, 2022 and reminded residents not to do laundry.
  - 1. **Employee Relations** – Chairman Steve Wetherbee reported that the Committee was working on a performance review form and plan to hold quarterly meetings with staff to review performances.
  - 2. **Finance-** Finance Chair Jane Gale provided minutes from April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 11, 2022 meetings. Gale reported that the Finance Committee was in the process of reviewing village ordinances.
  - 3. **Infrastructure-** Infrastructure Chair Hugh Cook provided minutes from the April 20, 2022. Cook noted that the shields for the LED streetlights received a favorable response. The Committee reported that they are reviewing water rate increases and will have a final proposal for next month.
  - 4. **Waterfront-** Waterfront Chair Tom Gremel provided minutes from the April 19, 2022 committee meeting. Harbor Master, Bill Rosemurgy reported that opening day of the Marina was Saturday May 15. Rosemurgy also reported that they had been very successful at removing the geese from the waterfront parks.
  - 5. **Planning Commission:** minutes from the April 20, 2022 Planning Commission meeting were provided. Trustee Gale reported that the Board was in the process of reviewing all documents pertaining to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street development, and that a presentation was given by Amy Spitznagle for the former Pier Group Building.
  - 6. **Zoning Administrator:** Scott provided a report of her activities for the month of April.
  - 7. **Parks and Trails:** Chair Chris McCann provided minutes from the April 18, 2022 meeting. McCann noted that the clean-up of the Village's public parks and trails with the Northport School was very successful.

## Discussion Items:

### Thank you to Bob Newell and Planning Commission for Arbor Day Event:

President Wetherbee thanked Bob Newell and the Planning Commission for a successful Arbor Day tree planting event, that was held on Friday April 29, 2022 at the Northport Public School.

### Elimination of Marina call box:

Harbor Master Bill Rosemurgy explained that the village has a 911 call box that has never been used. Rosemurgy discussed the monthly cost of the telephone and the need for the phone with the Council. Trustee Cook would like to see the box remain and suggested checking with a different phone carrier to lower the monthly cost.

### Slip for the schooner Perception:

Bill Rosemurgy asked the Council for permission to offer the schooner Perception free dockage on the wall in the marina. Rosemurgy explained that the schooner is a non-profit and offered sailing experiences to America's Gold Star families (i.e., military loss through active duty). The Council agreed to allow Harbor Master Rosemurgy to work out the details and decision of free dockage in the marina.

### Releaf Michigan matching grant for fall 2022

President Wetherbee announced that the village had received a Releaf Michigan grant for 20 trees. The Village commitment for the grant is considered as "Work in Kind".

### Vending Ordinance #100-2010 amendment:

Trustee Ager Moved, Supported by Trustee Gale to approve the amendments to the Vending Ordinance #100-2010 as submitted. **Discussion:** Trustee Ager questioned if the village needed to limit the number of Vendors allowed on public property. Clerk Scott replied that the village had only 1- annual vendor and 3- daily vendors for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July last year.

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

### Future Disposition of M-201, including golf cart use:

DPW Superintendent Chris Holton told the Village Council to proceed with great caution when considering taking over the 1.47 miles of M-201. Holton noted that the culvert was original and constructed in 1940, and suggested getting an independent study.

Trustee Harper outlined the benefits to taking ownership of the 1.47 miles including; controlling the speed limit, increase in gas tax revenues from the State and permitting golf carts.

The Village Council had a discussion about allowing golf carts on M-201. The council agreed to consider allowing golf carts on M-201 as an action item at their next regular meeting. Trustee Harper will provide a resolution to provide to the state.

### Possible upgrade of lighting on the marina north break wall:

Trustee Harper suggested that the village should consider purchasing Ballard lights for the north wall in the marina, since the \$17K approval for the new circuit on the main dock was not needed. Clerk Scott reminded the Council that the marina was waiting to hear about approval of the waterways grant application for the marina parking lot. Scott suggested that new lights for the north wall be considered during the project.

Parking and public restroom sign:

Planning Commission member Laura Cavendish presented a map identifying parking and public restrooms. The maps would be placed on sandwich style boards in three designated areas in the village at a cost of \$528.37.

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Ager to approve the expenditure of \$528.37 for the purchase of the maps and boards.

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

**Action Items:**

**Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Grant Resolution:**

Clerk Scott provided the Council with a resolution and explained that the Street Administrator would like to seek a Category B Grant with the State of Michigan for an overlay paving project for sections of W. Third Street and E. Third Street. These grants are typically 50% and only given to communities with a population less than 10,000. The Infrastructure Committee will discuss the projects and cost estimates.

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to adopt the resolution identifying the Village's intent to apply for a Category B grant for an Overlay Project on West and East Third Street. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**Hire new DPW member:**

President Wetherbee recommended hiring Josh Rutila for the position of DPW at an hourly rate of \$24. Wetherbee noted that Mr. Rutila's approval was contingent on allowing him to be gone for up to 2 weeks unpaid for the first year. Rutila would like to use the time to visit family in Mexico.

Trustee Cook Moved, Supported by Trustee Gremel to approve the hiring of Josh Rutila at an hourly rate of \$24. **Discussion:** The Council agreed that Mr. Rutila could take the two-week time needed without pay as requested. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

**Approve Road End Signs:**

The Parks and Trails Committee made the following recommendation for sign language.

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Ager to approve the following language to be established at the public road ends.

This road end allows quiet access to the water. It does not allow parties, large gatherings, or overnight boat storage.

By county ordinance, pets are permitted if tethered on a six-foot, hand-held leash.

Hours: Sunrise to 10:00 PM.

Please respect the privacy and property of neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Discussion:** Trustee Gale thanked the Committee for the great work. **Motion Carried.**

**Citizen of the Year:**

Trustee Cook nominated Steve Wetherbee as the Citizen of the year.

Trustee Cook Moved, Supported by Trustee Gremel to approve Steve Wetherbee Citizen of the year. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (6) Nays (0) Abstained (1) President Wetherbee **Motion Carried**

**Approve Craig Pepple Easement Language:**

The Village's Legal Counsel provided necessary language to allow for an easement on their Third Street property for Mr. Pepple.

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve the easement language provided by legal Counsel. **Motion Carried.**

**Payment of Bills:**

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve payment of the bills for the month of April when funds become available in the amount of \$106,970.55

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

**Public Comments:**

**Fred Steffens- Commented** that it was very hard to hear the Council on the zoom meeting. Steffens also commented on a certain Trustee who continues to engage in negative, controversial discussions. Steffens asked the village president to put a stop to it.

**Council Comments:**

Trustee Harper- commented on the number of calls and text messages sent to President Wetherbee with no response. Harper also commented on his differing opinion regarding a "Conflict of Interest" on the Plat amendment work.

**Adjournment:**

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm

Several Citizens attended via zoom.

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