

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

**Roll Call:**

Council Members Present: President McCann Trustees: Cook, Gale, Harper, Peterson, Cavendish and via Zoom Ager was in attendance

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton, Clerk/Zoning Administrator-Scott, Community Liaison/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk-Edmondson, and Harbor Master- Bill Rosemurgy

**Moment of Silence:**

President McCann asked for a moment of silence to remember William Collins.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve the February 9, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. **Motion Carried.**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve the February 22, 2023 special meeting minutes as amended. **Motion Carried.**

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

Trustee Cavendish asked for the discussion item 8.C M201 Jurisdiction removed from the agenda.

President McCann asked to add 9. D Council meeting date to action items.

**Correspondence:**

Amy Spitznagel- correspondence on 206 North Rose Street, rezoning.

Rick Gans- Intergovernmental Agreement, information.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Reports:**

- A. **Liaison-** Liaison Edmondson reported that she had sent a letter to all the STR's reminding them of the annual registration requirement. Edmondson reported 33 registrations.
- B. **Clerk** – Clerk Scott provided a financial report for the month of February in agreement with the Treasurer/Deputy Clerk.
- C. **Treasurer/Deputy Clerk** – Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Edmondson submitted a written report in agreement with the Clerk.
- D. **DPW-** DPW Superintendent Holton reported the following;
  - The new Plow Truck should be completely built by the end of the month. The truck will then go to Boyne Truck and Trailer to be outfitted.
  - The DPW purchased a small salt/sander spreader to use on the sidewalks.
  - The Streetlight that was damaged by a snowplow truck has been ordered, and the Clerk sent all information to insurance.

- E. **Employee Relations** – the committee reported the following;
- continues to work on the ZA job description
  - DPW Superintendent will be the first employee review at the next March meeting.
  - The committee is recommending hiring of a Village Manager instead of filling the soon to be vacant Community Liaison position.
- F. **Finance**- Finance Chair Jane Gale provided minutes from the March 8, 2023 meeting were provided. Gale noted that the committee’s priority starting next month is to create a budget timeline.
- G. **Infrastructure**- Committee Chair Laura Cavendish provided a report from the February 22, 2023 meeting. Cavendish noted that the committee will be reviewing the water rates, looking for a funding source for the Rose Street Culvert project and starting a CIP for identified projects on the horizon.
- H. **Waterfront**- Waterfront Chair Hugh Cook provided minutes from their February 21, 2023 meeting. Harbor Master Bill Rosemugy provided a written report and noted that his staff is all coming back from last year.
- I. **Planning Commission**: Planning Commission meeting minutes from the February 15, 2023 meeting were provided. PC Chair Nicole Arbury provided an annual report of the Planning Commission activities to the Council. The report included the Board member terms, Arbury noted that her term was up and that she and Daniel Caudill were not seeking another term. Arbury offered to stay on for a few months until her seat could be filled.  
The Council had a brief discussion about posting the vacancies on the Planning Commission.
- **Zoning Administrator**  
Scott provided a report of her activities for the month of February.
- J. **Parks and Trails**: Parks and Trails did not meet.
- K. **NLTUA**: NLTUA Chair McCann reported that he and the Leelanau Township Supervisor Rick Cross met with Jennifer Hodges, P.E. a grant writer from Gordie Fraser’s office and discussed possible funding options. McCann noted that Jennifer Hodges was one of the few grant writers to procure a Sparks grant for local communities.

**Ongoing Business:**

**A. Plat Amendment:**

President McCann **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Gale to approve funds up to \$20,000 for the plat amendment continuation. **Discussion:** Trustee Harper stated that he thinks it would be a mistake to continue paying for the plat amendment. President McCann stated that there had been many mistakes in the past, therefore he would like to see these mistakes corrected by continuing the plat amendment process. Trustee Harper rebuttable that the Highway by User statue MCL 221.20 is all that is necessary.

**Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (3) President McCann, Trustees Gale, Cook  
Nays (3) Trustees Harper, Cavendish, and Peterson. **Motion Failed.**

**Discussion Items:**

**A. Budget Ordinance:**

Trustee Cavendish asked the Council to consider adopting a Budget Ordinance. Finance Committee Chair Gale noted that the committee has made it a priority to create a timeline for the budgeting process.

## B. Grant Writer Assistance:

Trustee Cavendish noted that both the Township and the NLTUA had procured a grant writer and suggested that the Council do the same for the many projects outlined in the CIP. The Council agreed by consensus to contact Gordie Fraser's office to seek a grant writer.

## C. Traffic Control at Bay/Nagonaba/Rose:

President McCann reported that Jay and Diane Homan owners of 102 Bay Street have concerns with the traffic speed and pedestrian crossing at the entrance of the Marina. The Board discussed the options of a 4-way stop and removable speed bumps. Street Administrator Chris Holton suggested more police presence would help.

## D. Re-Zoning Pier Group Property

Trustee Gale read from the village ordinance 99, stating that all powers, duties and responsibilities of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and Michigan Zoning Enabling Act shall be established to the Planning Commission.

Trustee Harper would like to see the property re-zoned to C-1 Core Commercial. Zoning Administrator Scott explained the process of rezoning, and suggested that the Spitznagle's apply for a Special Use Permit with a possible Variance request for any dimensional requirements.

## E. Village Manager Position:

The Employee Relations Committee provided a draft job description for a Village Manager position and asked for all input/suggestions for changes to be turned by March 15, 2023. The Council agreed by consensus to hiring a Village Manager vs Village Administrator.

President McCann mentioned the need to possibly hire an interim Village Manager until the position could be filled. McCann noted that Elk Rapids has an interim manager and that he would find out the details.

## F. Anishinaabe History Project:

Community Liaison Edmondson provided drawings of the proposed Anishinaabe Art. The Council agreed by consensus to support the placement of the art in the greenspace north of the marina parking lot.

## **Action Items:**

### **A. Resolution to allow Golf Carts on M201 (25 mph zone):**

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported** by Trustee Cook to adopt Resolution 2023-02 a resolution to apply to M-DOT for a golf cart corridor under M-DOT guidelines for the Village of Northport, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (4) Nays (2) Trustees Gale and Cook.

**Resolution Adopted.**

## **B. Adopt Rule Changes to Rules of Procedure:**

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Peterson to adopt Resolution 2023-03 a resolution to amend the Village Councils Rules of Procedure Section B.3 Agenda Distribution.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (6) Nays (0) **Resolution Adopted.**

## **C. Short Term Rental (STR) Task Force:**

The Council would like to create a task force committee for STR's with 5 members. Trustee Ager will draft the mission/charge statement for the Council to consider at the next regular meeting.

## **D. April Regular Council meeting date:**

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to schedule the regular Council meeting in April on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (6) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

## **Payment of Bills:**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve payment of the bills for the month of February when funds become available in the amount of \$730,858.13 **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (6) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried**

## **Public Comments:**

Anne Harper- disappointed with the motion to authorize more funding for the plat amendment.

Yvonne Nordstrand- commented on how much her guests enjoyed the tree and decorations this year.

## **Council Comments:**

**Trustee Harper-** commented that the motion for the additional 20k funding for the plat amendment.

**Trustee Ager-** had questions on the plat amendment process.

**Trustee Cavendish-** commented on the need for better microphones.

**Trustee Gale-** commented on where the finance committee had found the additional funding for the plat amendment, which was detailed in her report.

## **Adjournment:**

Trustee Cook **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cavendish to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Motion Carried.

Several Citizens attended via zoom.

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



