

President McCann called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Community Liaison- Cindy Edmondson,

**Approval of Agenda (amendments/additions):** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Correspondence:**

**Ross Hammersley:** Mr. Hammersley sent an email reminding the trustees about the OMA and its electronic policy not to respond to emails sent to all trustees which constitutes a meeting.

**Reports:**

NLTUA Update: [Chris McCann](#) presented the highlights from the February 13th meeting.

- 1) The 2023-24 budget was approved.
- 2) The board approved a contract for \$1200 for a grant writer from Gordie Fraiser to help look for and apply for available grants. Grants now cover repairing and maintaining sewer systems. (Will Harper commented that the Village should look into joining with the NLTUA, library and Township as they employ the grant writer also.)
- 3) The NLTUA is in the process of creating an Intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Northport and the NLTUA. This agreement will be drawn up by Ross Hammersley laying out the terms of the loan for the N Shore project and then given to the NLTUA council Tom Grier for review.
- 4) \$400,000 has been transferred over from the NLTUA to the Village of Northport with the remaining \$350,000 to be utilized for the N Shore repair. Any remaining funds will be transferred back to the Village once the project is complete.

**Ongoing Business:**

Plat Amendment Update:

President McCann reported that mediation has been scheduled for May 24, 2023 beginning at 10 AM. Mr. Beiganowski will facilitate this with a sub-committee created by the council consisting of possibly President McCann, Pro-Tem Cook, DPW Chris Holton, John Korr and office staff who have been paying the bills. There are 3 people who are contesting the amendment. Mr. Beiganowski has scheduled a meeting with each of the 3 parties to see if they can reach an agreement before mediation.

There was discussion about the cost benefit of continuing with the replat considering the limited funds for all projects in the Village. The council decided to table this discussion until Tuesday February 28th when Mr. Beiganowski will be present to help clarify the facts.

## **Discussion Items:**

### **Mill Pond Dam:**

A) Mill Pond Dam- Now on the Infrastructure Committee. Trustee Ager urged the committee to continue with the proposed NP dam evaluation by GEI Consultants.

B) OMA Amendment- Sound recordings- Trustee Cavendish reported the OMA has made mandatory that all meetings be recorded at least auditorily and kept for 1 year minimum. The possibility of a YOUTUBE channel where all videos could be placed in perpetuity was discussed. She also stated that the audio on our meetings is garbled and we should look into a better set up. It was suggested to speak to Kent Holton and get his recommendations for sound recording.

C) Golf Carts on M201-

- Trustee Cook stated he was against opening up M201 to golf carts for the following reasons:

- 1) increased vehicle speeds and large trucks on M201
- 2) people drinking while operating golf carts
- 3) underage drivers driving golf carts

-Trustee Harper stated he was not in favor of illegal use and the laws are there. -Trustee Cavendish suggested increased law enforcement for golf carts if approved on M201. The Village should encourage ticketing for illegal use of golf carts.

D) Rule Change re Agenda Items

1) Trustee Harper would like to return to the General Law Village Act guidelines of allowing agenda additions up until 8 hours before the meeting.

E) 2023-24 Budget Items

1. up to \$15,000 for dam study
2. \$16,000 for marina surveillance cameras
3. There was a lengthy discussion concerning the possible COLA.

Trustee Harper wanted to know what the NLTUA staff are being paid. President McCann said Clerk Scott 15K, DPW Holton 7K and Liaison Edmondson 7K. Harper said he's never seen it in writing.

The consensus was to look at what surrounding municipalities have decided for their employees. Trustee Ager volunteered to call around and get the figures for the February 28th meeting.

4. The council decided they would like a line item for overtime added to the budget for more accountability and transparency.

## **Public Comments:**

**Karl Wizinsky:** Asked 'When the dropbox would have the materials for the February 28, 2023 meeting?'

## **Council Comments:**

**Hugh Cook:** Stated that the members of the council agree to disagree but we're going about the budget in the right way and this is the right thing to do.

**Laura Cavendish:** Can we schedule a review of the audit? She's concerned about compliance with the rules. She wants to know if the Treasurer Job can be combined with the deputy clerk? She would like to see a budget ordinance adopted in the future. She would also like all committee CIP work done in the same format and earlier in the year to streamline the budget process. She asked who is supposed to write the Rec Plan?

**Chris McCann:-** He stated today in the Employee Relations meeting he suggested hiring an Office Manager/Administrator instead of a Community Liaison. The Village President should not manage the day to day operations of the village. We need a Village CEO. The committee has taken several job descriptions and is formulating a new one. At the March meeting the council will need to approve this decision and begin the process to find the best candidate. He also stated the Village may need to have an Interim Office Manager until a suitable replacement can be found.

**Nancy Peterson:** She stated that she is impressed with the committees and all the work the members do. She does feel that the trustees should be paid for each meeting they attend as a member.

### **Adjournment:**

President McCann asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 4:42 pm

Several Citizens attended via zoom.

**Cynthia Edmondson, Liaison Village of Northport**

