

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

**Council Members Present:**

President McCann Trustees: Gale, Cavendish, Harper, Cook, Ager and Conley

**Absent Members:** None

**Staff Present:** Clerk-Scott, Village Manager/Zoning Administrator- Jim Dyer, Treasurer- Diana Simons, DPW Superintendent- Chris Holton, Harbor Master- Bill Rosemurgy

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Trustee Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to approve the April 11, 2024, Regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion Carried.**

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

President McCann **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Conley to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried.**

**Correspondence:**

Joanne Swanson- preserving the 7<sup>th</sup> Street wetlands.  
Patrick Thompson and Kay Pentzien- request for enforcement action.

**Public Comment:**

Sawyer Scott and Karena Hacker- request to hold the Bolt Race on Saturday, August 31, 2024, Labor Day weekend.

Campbel Mcleod- suggested providing monthly updates on the status of the solar arrays being considered for the golf course as part of the Parks and Recreation report. He also expressed gratitude for addressing light pollution at the marina, citing concerns about its impact on stargazing and navigational aids for boaters.

**Staff Reports:**

The Council received written reports from the Clerk, Treasurer, Harbor Master and DPW Superintendent.

**A. Village Manager/Zoning Administrator -**

Village Manager/Zoning Administrator:

Village Manager Jim Dyer provided a report to the Council, offering key updates. Among these updates, Dyer mentioned that the masterplan survey questionnaire had garnered a substantial response, with at least 120 legitimate responses received to date. Although the deadline had passed, Dyer expressed willingness to continue accepting surveys through the following day and early into the subsequent week. He encouraged further participation from individuals who had not yet submitted their surveys, noting that copies were accessible online and in the lobby of the village hall.

**1. Committee Reports:**

**A. Finance Committee:**

Trustee Gale provided a Finance Committee report, indicating that the entire meeting was dedicated to discussing topics related to the upcoming budget discussion. Specifically, they focused on restructuring and expanding infrastructure.

## **B. Infrastructure Committee:**

Trustee Cavendish provided a report on the Infrastructure Committee meeting. They reviewed ongoing projects and priorities listed in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) priorities document, which is available in the Infrastructure Dropbox. The committee is still working on finalizing the sidewalk ordinance and gathering information for the installation of electric vehicle chargers. Additionally, they are exploring options for the cleanup at the wind turbine site, and the water rate study is currently underway. The goal is to complete the water rate study and assess the proposed rates for further discussion.

## **2. Ex-Officio Board Reports:**

### **A. Planning Commission:**

Trustee Gale provided a Planning Commission report, that the Planning Commission had completed an annual report that would be presented to the village council in June. Trustee Cavendish added to the report, mentioning the existence of a timeline for the master plan project. This timeline outlines the steps that will be taken and is accessible on the Planning Commission page or Dropbox. It provides information on the progression of the project and the anticipated timing.

### **B. NLTUA:**

President McCann provided a report on the recent Northport/Leelanau Township Utilities Authority (NLTUA) meeting. During the annual meeting, Mike McMillan was elected chair, President McCann was elected vice chair, Trustee Harper was elected treasurer, and Jim Root was elected secretary. At the regular meeting, they discussed the possibility of a sewer extension on Woolsey Lake Rd, and the Board is exploring various options for the new connection to the system.

## **3. Discussion Items:**

### **A. First Presentation of the 2024-25 Budget:**

Village Manager Jim Dyer presented the 2024-25 budget to the council. He described the financial statements provided in the packet and highlighted key components, including revenues, operating expenses, and salary expenses for each fund. Dyer explained that the budget assumed a 3% increase in salaries across the board and discussed various expenses, such as the replacement of playground equipment at South Park.

He also mentioned upcoming policies, including an asset capitalization policy and a fund balance and cash retention percentage policy, which would help manage the village's finances effectively. Dyer invited questions and feedback from the council to make any necessary adjustments before final approval.

The discussion among the council members focused on understanding the budget presentation and the process for making decisions about capital improvement projects. They raised questions about how funds could be allocated and whether certain projects could be prioritized. Village Manager Jim Dyer explained the importance of developing policies for fund balance and cash retention percentages to guide decision-making. He also emphasized the need for transparency and understanding of the budget to ensure informed decisions. Additionally, there was discussion about the possibility of investing excess funds to generate additional revenue for future projects. Overall, the council members expressed appreciation for the clarity of the budget presentation.

### **B. Seventh Street Property Progress:**

Village Manager Jim Dyer provided an update on the Seventh Street property, explaining and recommending an additional 60 days to explore potential options more options. One possibility involves using a portion of the Seventh Street property in a swap with another property in the village that is subject to a restrictive covenant. The aim would be to swap the covenant for the Seventh Street property and commit it to a conservancy easement, thereby permitting a trail or similar public use while prohibiting development. The 60-day delay is necessary to determine whether the swap and release of the covenant are feasible. The property under consideration for development is less environmentally sensitive and better located, making it favorable for potential development, particularly for attainable housing. This plan has garnered interest from developers and the township, indicating potential benefits from collaboration.

### C. Recommendation Concerning Trash Pickup Program:

Village Manager Jim Dyer recommended revising the trash pickup program due to budget constraints. He explained that the current method of trash collection would exceed the budget by at least \$25,000. Therefore, he recommends not to spend the additional \$20,000 in the current budget year. Instead, he proposed allocating a maximum of \$5,000 in the next budget for a revised trash collection approach. This new method would involve a joint trash collection system where dumpsters are brought in, and residents bring their trash to a designated location for disposal. Initial estimates suggest that up to 10 dumpsters could be acquired for as little as \$6,000. Additionally, Dyer mentioned that he has asked the township to consider contributing \$5,000 towards this initiative, which the village would match, resulting in a working budget of \$10,000 for the dumpster-based trash collection system. Therefore, he recommends not to spend the additional \$20,000 in the current budget year. Instead, he proposed allocating a maximum of \$5,000 in the next budget for a potential joint trash collection program. However, if the township does not contribute, the village will explore other options and make a recommendation accordingly.

## 4. New Business:

### A. Motion to Approve Street Closure Application and Park Usage for Uncaged:

Trustee Ager **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Harper to approve the uncaged event and authorize the use of all necessary village parks and resources from the discretion of the village manager and directing village staff to apply for all necessary street closure permits and take other actions within authorized budget constraints. **Discussion:** Trustee Ager provided background information on the Leelanau Uncaged event, noting that it originated during the village's old visioning days when Andy Thomas and Julian Cook from the band came up with the idea. The event was inspired by composer John Cage's performance at Macalester College in Minnesota, where various performances occurred simultaneously. Andy Thomas attended this event and devised the idea for Uncaged, which has since featured multiple stages and performances.

Ager explained that this year marks the 10th Uncaged event, with some significant changes. Food trucks will be located in a designated parking lot to address concerns raised by restaurant owners. There will also be fewer indoor stages, with the Willowbrook and Union stages removed. However, a new all-dance stage will be introduced in front of Tom's, featuring an official dance platform. This addition is being done in collaboration with the Traverse City Dance Project. Overall, Trustee Ager emphasized the continued support of the village for the event and highlighted the positive changes for this year's edition.

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

### B. Motion to Approve Contract for Tree Light Placement and Storage:

Trustee Harper **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Gale to approve the contract for the tree light placement and storage. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) **Motion Carried.**

## Payment of Bills:

President Gale **Moved, Supported by** Trustee Cook to pay the bills for April in the amount of \$111,322.35 when funds become available. **Roll Call Vote:** Yeas (7) Nays (0) Absent: (0) **Motion Carried.**

## Public Comments:

Joanne Swanson- sought clarification regarding two aspects related to the Seventh Street property. Firstly, she inquires if the proposed swap of the DNR restrictive covenant would apply to the entire parcel discussed over the past two years, rather than just the portion facing Seventh Street. Secondly, she questions whether a formal motion and vote are required to document the decision made at the March meeting, or if it has already been considered sufficiently documented. Swanson acknowledges that Village Manager Jim Dyer may address these questions later.

Campbel McLeod- Commented on the CIP and the process for items on the list.

## **Council Comments:**

Trustee Cavendish shared an important announcement regarding the Northport graduation scheduled for May 31st at 7:00 PM. She highlighted that this year's graduating class is one of the smallest, if not the smallest, in the history of the school. Due to the small size of the class, efforts are being made to maximize public attendance to ensure a memorable celebration for the graduates.

Trustee Cook brought up an important issue regarding the 911 call box being out of service at the waterfront. While there may be differing opinions on its necessity, he personally feels that it's important to consider replacing it. This topic will be discussed further at the waterfront meeting, allowing for a comprehensive discussion and decision-making process.

Trustee Gale expressed gratitude to Clerk Scott for her hard work on the budget, particularly highlighting the effort put into creating a one-page dashboard that provides a comprehensive view of all funds and their status. Gale acknowledged the significant amount of work that went into this task and expressed sincere appreciation for Scott's dedication and effort.

President McCann expressed his initial apprehension about running for president two years ago when approached by members of the council and the community. However, he now feels fully committed to the role and intends to run for president again in the upcoming election. Despite past challenges and doubts, he now finds the job rewarding and enjoyable, thanks to the progress made by the council as a team. McCann emphasized his belief in the power of teamwork, citing his best successes in life as being achieved through collaboration. He expressed gratitude to the council members for their support and looks forward to the upcoming election and the opportunities it may bring.

## **Adjournment:**

Trustee Harper Moved, Supported by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.  
Motion Carried.

Several Citizens attended via Zoom.

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

