Trustee's Report to the Village Planning Commission
June 2024

The regular meeting of the Village Council was held on June 13. 2024.

Clerk Scott submitted the monthly bill sheets and cash reconciliation statement. She noted the annual July 4 Firework donation letter was mailed. Donations totalling $100 were received at the 175th Northport Anniversary event. A band has been secured to play prior to the display.

Treasurer Simons will have tax statements out by the end of the month.

DPW Superintendent Holton provided a written report. Highlights include:

- In conjunction with the Township, will apply dust control on several of our gravel roads Wednesday,June 12th.
- Assisted with the construction and completion of the new rain gardens that were installed by NCS contracting,with input from the Watershed Center Rep. Sarah U'Ren and Kate Bailey from Drummond-Carpenter.
- Cleaned up the stream / ditch on the south side of 4th street. A RFP has been sent out for bids on the restructuring of the north side of E. 4th. St. drainage. The design and permitting are already approved.
- Met with demo contractor at the old Leelanau Memorial Hospital In preparation for the demolition of the buildings in the upcoming weeks. DPW will be on site for the overview of terminating of theMunicipal utilities.
- Met with representatives from the Leelanau Energy group,concerning the follow up of removal of the wind turbine tower.Details and plans will be shared in upcoming weeks

The Harbormaster provided a written report that included the following items:

- Blessing of the Fleet: Northport's 175th birthday celebration kicked off with a very nice ceremony at the Pavilion on June 11th. We held a "Blessing of the Fleet" ceremony and then individually blessed 20 boats in the Marina.
- Boat Traffic: Boat traffic is down pretty substantially to start the season. Other area marinas are down as well.

- 10 boats from the Grand Traverse Yacht Club held a race to Northport on June 8 and 10 charter boats from Great Lakes Sailing in Traverse City. It was a pretty busy weekend.
- Swimming Buoys: The wind and waves and weather have not been conducive to installing the swimming buoys yet this summer.
- Goose Control: The geese are back.There are just a couple of families, but one of them has somewhere between 12 and 15 goslings. These geese are truly stubborn.
- Incidents: On Tuesday, June 11 we had a minor gas spill at the Marina. My best estimate is that it was maybe a cup of gasoline. The source remains a mystery.

Manager Dyer provided a written report highlighting several items for discussion and/or action. Other updates include:

- Progress continues for a potential 7th Street land swap with theTownship. Appraisals of the parcels in question are underway,
- Staging of equipment has, or will shortly, begin at the old hospital site. By 6/15/24. High Street will be closed in both directions at the demolition site. Through 7/15/24 most of the activity will be confined to the interior. The hard surface exterior demolition will begin after that date and is expected to be completed by 8/15/24. The trucking route will use M-22, North on West St., East on Nagonaba, and South on High Street to the site. These dates are subject to change, but the project must be completed by 8/30/24.
- The Township Board voted not to pursue a joint trash pickup program at this time. There were some questions similar to those discussed at our meeting. The council instructed the manager to pursue an affordable option and bring a report to the next meeting.
- Inquiries regarding the use of village property, particularly the marina pavilion,by political parties have arisen. A municipality cannot regulate the content of speech, however,time, place and manner regulations are permissible (placement of signs, interference with other events, exclusive use). Further discussion may be warranted.
- Several village residents who would like the Council to consider adoption of a village nuisance ordinance,which would include provisions concerning visual lighting trespass, allowing enforcement of zoning ordinances. The Leelanau Township nuisance ordinance was provided as a template for village use.

- The childcare facility on High Street, owned by the village and leased to the Northport Public School, has a new sub-lessee. The intent is to have an operating childcare facility by the start of the school year.
- The social district map is being finalized.

Finance Committee minutes from May were provided. The committee met one day prior to the council meeting and made minor corrections/adjustments to the budget and supporting documents.

Infrastructure report will be provided by Chair Cavendish.

Minutes from the May Planning Commission meeting were provided.

NLTUA minutes, including audit results, were provided. The authority continues to follow recommendations from the consultant.

The following items were discussed by the Trustees:

- The trustees agreed with the Manager's recommendation to pursue the creation of a joint planning commission with the Township and place plans for a housing authority on hold. The planning commission will receive routine updates on progress.
- There was a robust discussion of the Planning Commission's request for input from the Village Council on proposed zoning ordinance amendments. Mr. Dyer believes he has clear direction 1) to address concerns about setbacks for garages vs. structures that will be occupied; 2) allow current residential housing in the C-1 Core Commercial District to be considered confirming to allow renovation and improvements; 3) modify the language in the proposed zoning ordinance amendment to include residential lighting while a nuisance ordinance is being pursued; and 4) remove the requirement for a special land use permit for ADUs and align/clarify definition of "transient housing."
- The remaining discussion items were tabled until June in order to conduct the Budget Hearing and address remaining action items.

The following actions were taken by the Trustees:

- A Budget Hearing was conducted. There were no comments from the public. The 2024-25 Budget, including the Permit and Fee Schedule and

Staffing Allocation Schedule, was approved by a vote of 6 - 0 with Trustee Scott absent. The Trustees also unanimously approved budget amendments to fund: 1) Playground Equipment at Marina Park, 2) Striping of Major and Local Streets and the Marina Parking Lot; and 3) Village Office Parking Lot Sealing and Striping.

- Scheduled a public hearing for a change of use from commercial to residential at the property at 109 Rose/Bay Street to take place concurrently with the July 11 Village Council meeting.
- Accepted and approved the Planning Commission 2023 Annual Report.
- Approved President McCann's appointment of John Woomer for a second 3-year term to the Planning Commission and the appointment of Hugh Scott to fill the vacancy position. One vacancy remains, following the resignation of Chair Arbury.
- Approved the Braman Bolt event to take place August 31, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
- Approved President McCann's suggestion to recognize Andy Thomas and Gloria Milliken Thomas as Citizens of the Year.

Prepared by Jane Gale